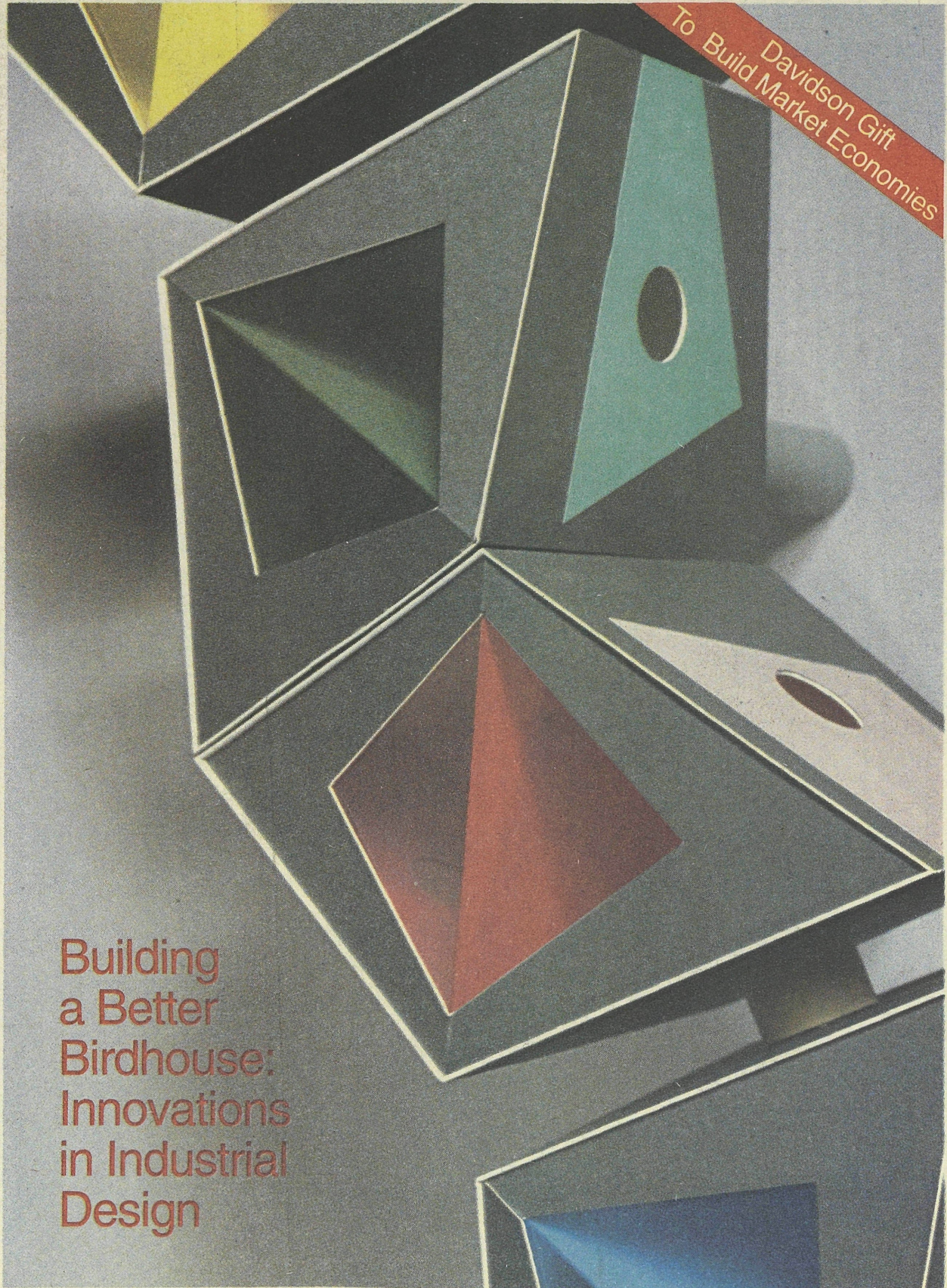


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Michigan Today

The University of Michigan

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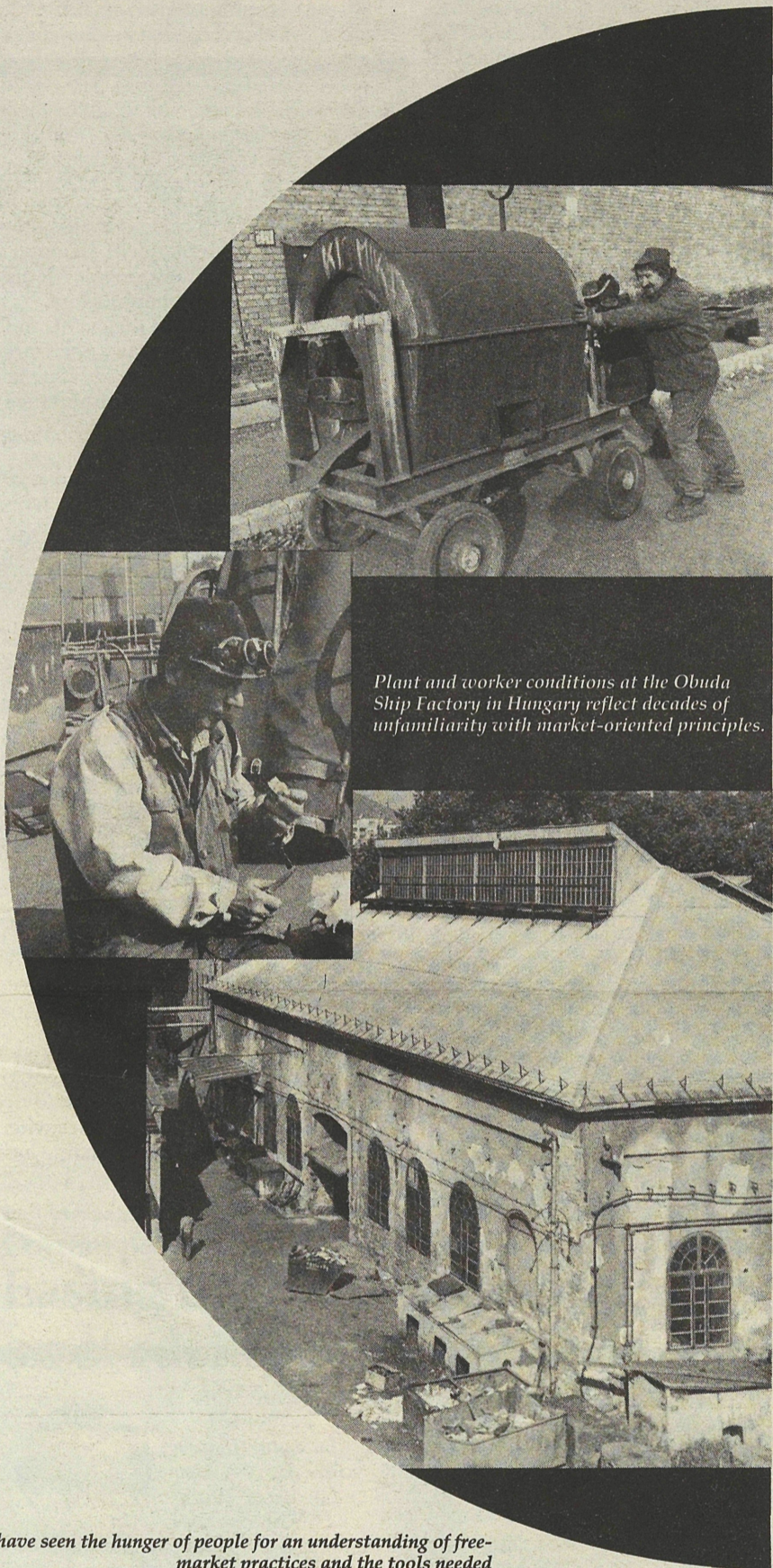


Building
a Better
Birdhouse:
Innovations
in Industrial
Design

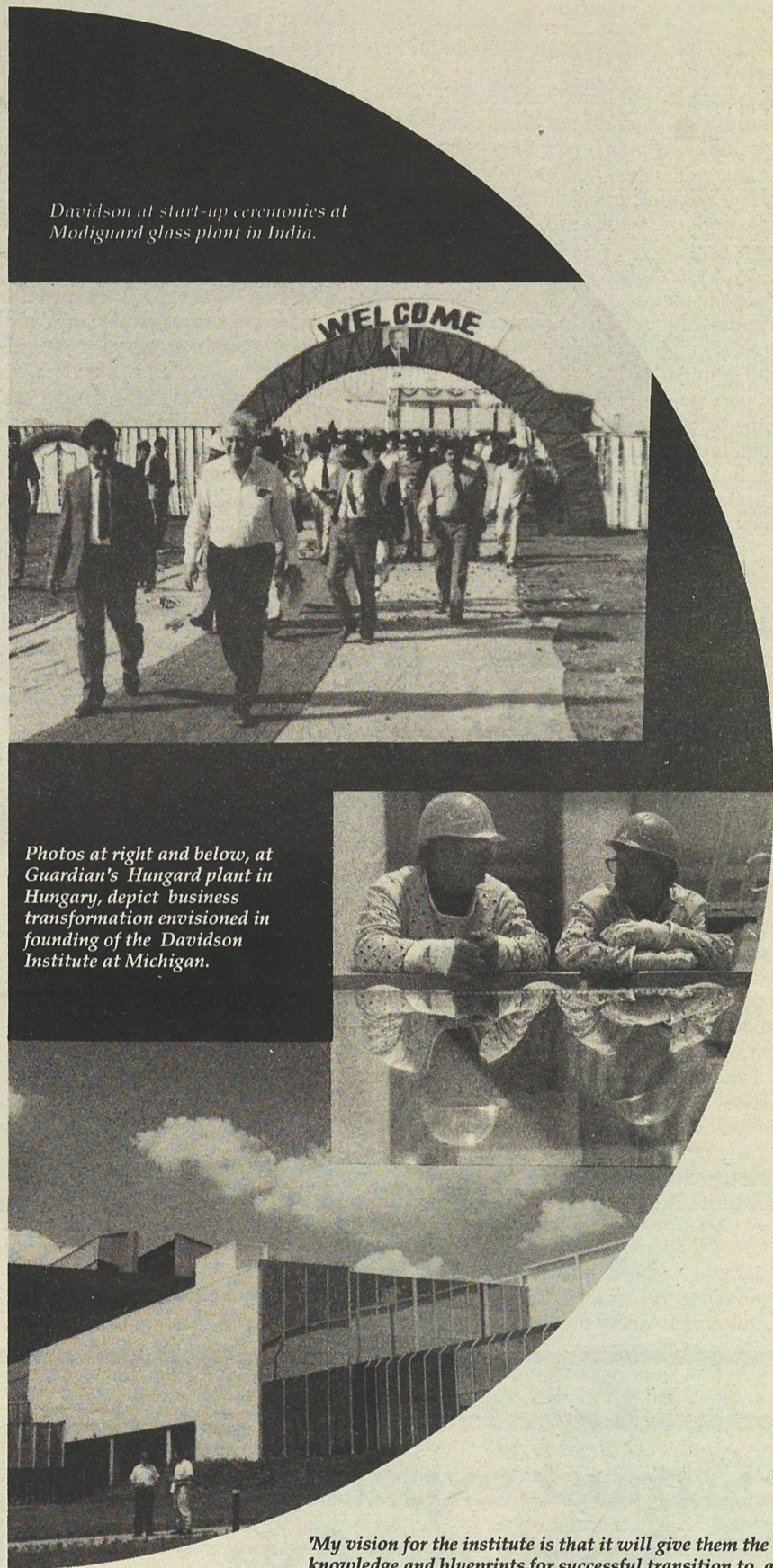
Michigan Today

The University of Michigan

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Plant and worker conditions at the Obuda Ship Factory in Hungary reflect decades of unfamiliarity with market-oriented principles.



Davidson at start-up ceremonies at Modigliani glass plant in India.

Photos at right and below, at Guardian's Hungard plant in Hungary, depict business transformation envisioned in founding of the Davidson Institute at Michigan.

'I have seen the hunger of people for an understanding of free-market practices and the tools needed to build market economies.'

'My vision for the institute is that it will give them the knowledge and blueprints for successful transition to a market economy.'

\$30 million commitment creates a world-class institute at U-M to help develop market economies

SHAPING THE WORLD TO COME

By Kathy Hulik

"We are not just educators, administrators or businessmen, we are co-workers for the cause of economic and social freedom," said William Morse Davidson ('47 BBA) as he announced in April a \$30-million private giving commitment to establish the William Davidson Institute at the University's School of Business Administration.

The institute's primary goal is to help countries make the transition from a command to a free market economy through a program of instruction, faculty and student development and research. It is designed to become the world's leading center on market economies and enterprises, and to have a significant role in influencing world economic development.

Davidson owns the Northville-based glass manufac-

turing company, Guardian Industries Corporation. Since taking over from an uncle in 1957, he has built Guardian from an anemic producer of windshield glass to the fifth-largest glass producer worldwide, with \$1 billion in annual earnings, 8,000 employees and more than 20 plants up or going up in North America, South America, Europe and Asia.

Davidson said he was establishing the institute as a response to the dramatic shift toward free enterprise in several areas of the world.

"As Guardian Industries has grown and spread around the globe, I have seen personally the hunger of people for an understanding of free-market practices and the tools needed to build market economies," Davidson said.

"When we began negotiations for our subsidiary in Hungary over four years ago, I experienced firsthand the desire of key managers for change and their lack of understanding of market-oriented principles. Before we concluded our agreement, we had to educate our Hungarian counterparts on the key elements of business organization, financing and marketing.

"The events since that time—the failure of communism in Russia and Eastern Europe, the movement toward market economies in nations such as India and China—have heightened this need for educational tools and my awareness of it. My vision for the institute is that it will help to forge a path for those responsible for economic change in these emerging markets—that it will give them the knowledge, the

WORLD

methods and the blueprints for a successful transition to a market economy.

"At the same time, what this institute learns from these countries will equip our businesses here at home with the skills needed to enter these new markets and become true global competitors. These newly emerging markets are business frontiers, and our companies need to learn how to successfully enter these markets at an early stage in their transition. What we do today—by act or omission—will shape the world for generations to come."

In acknowledging the commitment on behalf of the University, President James J. Duderstadt said: "This is a creative initiative that responds to one of the most exciting periods in modern history. All over the world, the bells of freedom are ringing, as people reject totalitarian rule and seek to determine their own destiny. But without real enfranchisement, without capital and expertise, this freedom will be short-lived."

Duderstadt added that in fall 1992, the University would "embark on the most ambitious fund-raising campaign ever undertaken by a public university. Undergirding this effort is a commitment to building a foundation of support that allows this institution to shape its own destiny, just as the peoples of the world seek to determine their own future. What better way to begin a campaign of this size and scope than by announcing something so powerful in its vision and so global in its reach. It excites and challenges all of us."

Davidson, 69, who also owns the Detroit Pistons basketball team and metropolitan Detroit's Pine Knob Music Theatre and The Palace sports and entertainment center, said that he hadn't chosen Michigan as the site for the institute simply because it was his *alma mater*.

"It's not the fact that I'm a graduate of the Business School, it's not because I live in the state of Michigan, it's not because I have a close affinity with the University," he stated at a press conference. "We selected the Business School for this particular task because [it has] the No. 1 executive education program in the country."

B. Joseph White, dean of the Business School, said, the Davidson Institute would be "another way the School can make a direct impact on international economic development at this pivotal time in history."

The institute, an independent educational organiza-

tion that will not confer degrees nor grant academic credit, will have three major functions:

Instruction. To fulfill this role, it will initially offer a yearly six-week seminar for 50 senior business leaders, entrepreneurs and government officials from countries with economies in transition. The business people, funded through the institute, will study how a market economy works and how to operate a business successfully in these economies. Current targeted areas include Eastern Europe, the former Soviet republics, India, China and some countries in Africa.

The institute will sponsor Davidson Institute Enterprise Internships for students from Michigan and other universities. The students will receive an intensive course in the history, culture, language and current situation in the country to which they are assigned as interns. Initially, interns will be placed in Poland and the former Soviet republics.

Faculty Development. The institute will award annual fellowships to scholars from UM, other North American universities and countries with developing market economies. Davidson Institute International Faculty Fellows going overseas will complete a course of study similar to that of the student interns. They will then study, teach or be employed in their target country.

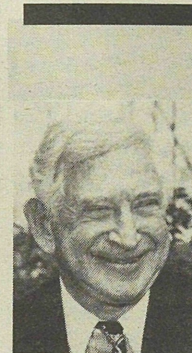
Foreign fellows, who will be in residence at the institute, will study subjects that form the core of a business curriculum—economics, accounting, finance, marketing and corporate strategy.

Research. The institute will fund research projects by North American and foreign faculty fellows, in many cases as a collaborative effort.

Davidson's \$30-million gift, which is spendable, will be given over a 20-year period, in \$1.5 million yearly amounts by Guardian Industries Corporation, which is

owned by Davidson. The gift is directly to the institute, which will partner with the U-M Business School. White will serve as president of the institute.

Kathy Hulik is director of media relations for the School of Business Administration. John Woodford also contributed to this article.



WILLIAM DAVIDSON'S visionary commitment to economic progress drew international, national and local responses. Media throughout Europe reported the event, and U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady flew to

Ann Arbor to underscore the importance of the Davidson Institute to the world's economic future.

"If the fragile democracies and emerging market economies of the former Soviet Union are not nurtured and sustained," Brady said, "it will be far too easy for the world to fall back into the armed camps that have marked this century."

Others on hand for Davidson's announcement made these comments:

- "You're making a gift to the security and freedom of our grandchildren"—Sen. Carl Levin (D-Michigan).

- "It's a very fragile opportunity [to stabilize emergent democracies], and it can be lost. Totalitarianism is not very far over the horizon if we let this opportunity slip away"—Sen. Donald Riegel (D-Michigan).

- "Partnerships will result from this announcement that we can't even envision"—Gov. John Engler (R-Michigan).

- "U-M's business school has long been a bastion of sensible economic analysis, where incentives, property rights and economic liberty are given due regard. The Davidson Institute should also be well-positioned within the Business School to offer the kind of practical business advice that is so badly needed in countries where the only markets worthy of the name have been black markets"

—Editorial, the *Detroit News*.



Levin, Engler, Davidson and White (l-r) at announcement of the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan

Diplomats at Business School:

U.S. must expand trade with Southeast Asia

By Nicole McKinney

Southeast Asia is becoming a major force in world trade, so why is U.S. presence in this area declining in relation to its potential and to the activity of other economic powers?

U.S. presence in Southeast Asian economics is virtually nonexistent despite the wealth of business opportunities in such countries as Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei, two high-ranking U.S. diplomatic officials told an audience at the School of Business Administration in March.

Paul Cleveland, ambassador to Malaysia, and Theodore Villinski, senior commercial officer for the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia visited the School during a national tour with the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Southeast Asia has the fastest-growing economies in the world, Ambassador Cleveland said, and as a result economic issues have overtaken political and military ones as American priorities in the region.

Japan holds the largest foreign investment in ASEAN countries, accounting for 25 percent of the total, and is their biggest trade partner and aid donor, says Linda Y.C. Lim, lecturer in international business at the School of Business Administration.

"The U.S. was once the number one foreign

investor in the region," Lim adds, "and some say that the U.S. is still number one in terms of cumulative interest, but the flow has dropped off in the last few years" to the point that European investment now almost doubles that of the United States.

Both Cleveland and Villinski pointed out that moving into Southeast Asia could be complicated for many U.S. corporations. ASEAN representatives have found that some of the American businesspersons they visited during the tour didn't know where the ASEAN countries are, nor what measures must be taken to begin and maintain business relationships with these countries.

Business in Southeast Asia, both diplomats emphasized, relies greatly on building personal relationships.

"Personal relationships are more apparent, and play a greater role, in Southeast Asian business," said Villinski, who has spent 14 years in Southeast Asian countries including Indonesia, Malaysia and



"Southeast Asian countries don't want to be dependent on one source [Japan]. They want us to come in and create a balance."—Ambassador Paul Cleveland

the Philippines. "Americans are disadvantaged in building these relationships compared with Japanese and European competitors. Corporations need to get to know the people they're dealing with."

American willingness to share ideas and technology is appreciated, as is the American emphasis on providing a good product. But building firm relationships also requires frequent visits by American businesspersons, so that their ASEAN partners connect with the personalities behind the products.

Sending well-formulated written contracts won't do any good in ASEAN countries, Cleveland said, because people there place greater value on face-to-face, verbal understandings as the means of governing a business relationship.

Nicole McKinney '91 of Muskegon, Michigan, is the graduate intern for the Business School's Office of External Relations and the Office of News and Information Services.

The case for direct student loans:

An Opportunity for Improvement

By Laurie Fenlason

As college costs continue to rise, the availability of federal grants and loans is an increasingly significant determinant of whether students and parents—particularly in low- and middle-income families—can meet their education bills.

To ensure access to higher education, regardless of income, several members of Congress, in cooperation with students and administrators at many colleges and universities across the country, are promoting direct student lending as an innovative financial aid measure that could significantly reduce taxpayer costs, increase available monies, deliver funds quickly and efficiently and greatly simplify the student lending process.

Under the current Stafford Loan Program, formerly known as the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, students borrow federal loan monies through local lenders. The loans are guaranteed by state-designated guarantee agencies, reinsured by the federal government, bought and sold by secondary marketers such as Sallie Mae (Student Loan Marketing Association), and serviced by private collection agencies.

Direct lending would eliminate many of these intermediaries, as well as the profits they currently receive from government and student interest subsidies and origination and processing fees. Instead, the federal government, via the Treasury and Education Departments, would deliver funds directly to students via their college or university as it does other forms of aid such as Pell and SEOG grants (see sidebar).

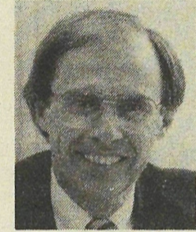
Supporters of direct lending believe—and independent federal

analysts have confirmed—that this change would save about \$1 billion in taxpayer subsidy costs in the first year alone.

Before the end of the summer, the House-Senate conference committee negotiating the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act is expected to send President Bush a bill authorizing a direct student loan demonstration project.

"It has become apparent that simply tinkering with the existing legislation won't do the job," said U-M President James J. Duderstadt, citing bureaucratic and financial inefficiencies and high default rates associated with federal student aid programs. "There's a growing consensus among higher education's advocates that now is the time for fundamental change."

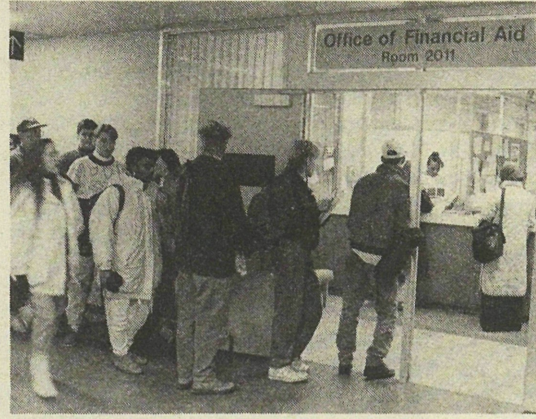
The demonstration project is a scaled-down version of a comprehensive direct lending proposal spearheaded by the legislative affairs committee of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. Duderstadt chaired the committee.



Grotrian

The association's proposal, incorporated into a bill written and introduced in the House by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-New Jersey), would have financed significantly higher loan limits, eliminated origination fees for student loans, and provided for low-cost loan consolidation.

The direct lending demonstration project included by House Education and Labor Committee Chairman William D. Ford (D-Michigan) in the pending reauthorization of the Higher Education Act retains the terms and conditions of the current Stafford Loan program.



Typical lineups outside university financial aid offices have been compared to queues outside shops of the former Soviet Union. The current bank-operated student loan programs are 'mortgaging the mindpower of a generation,' critics say. They contend that direct loans to students would ease the level of debt and simplify the process of delivering funds.

If the demonstration project is authorized, U-M Director of Financial Aid Harvey P. Grotrian said that Michigan would apply to participate in it. Judging from the number of U-M students currently holding Stafford loans, Grotrian estimated that as many as 6,000 students could receive federal direct loans if the Secretary of Education selects U-M for the program, which is to begin in fall 1994.

Grotrian predicted that borrowers under this program would enjoy several benefits, including the follow

- a single application form,
- faster determination of loan eligibility and award amount,
- faster distribution of loan funds, which currently total about \$22 million at Michigan.
- and access to the same amount of loan funds.

Moreover, Grotrian said, since federal direct loans would be administered not by a third party but by each individual campus, U-M borrowers would have ready access to loan servicing and advice through the Office of Financial Aid and would incur fewer late charges and registration hold-ups due to slow delivery of funds.

Grotrian also noted that, upon leaving school, direct loan borrowers would probably have

the option of selecting an income-contingent repayment plan, whereby their rate of repayment would be determined by the level of their earnings, and repayments could be spread over 25 years rather than the customary 10 years. Many believe such a measure would reduce defaults.

Laurie Fenlason is the national information officer in the U-M Washington, D.C., Office.

Current policies under review nationwide Easing the burden of debt on students and families



Butts

The typical student financial aid package consists of grants, loans and a work-study job during the academic term. Over the past 20 years, federal policy has led to a dramatic shift in the balance of loans and grants that students receive, resulting in high indebtedness upon graduation, a phenomenon that some have criticized as "mortgaging the mindpower of a generation."

In 1975-76, according to Jamie Merisotis, executive director of the National Commission on Responsibilities for Financing Postsecondary Education, federal, state and institutional loans made up 17 percent of a typical student aid package, with the remainder supplied by grants and work-study earnings. In 1990-91 the loan figure typically approached 50 percent.

The resulting debt burden, Merisotis noted, discourages many graduates from pursuing careers such as teaching or social work "even when those are the fields for which they are best suited and most needed."

Chaired by former Sen. Paula Hawkins (R-Florida), the Congressionally appointed nine-member commission is charged with examining long-term student aid policy issues. U-M

Associate Vice President for Government Relations Thomas A. Butts, a former deputy assistant secretary for student assistance in the Carter administration and former U-M director of student financial aid, is a member. In a report due in February 1993, the commission is expected to offer recommendations for shaping higher education financing policy to anticipate emerging social and demographic trends.

Under consideration, Butts says, are "fundamental questions," such as:

— To what extent is it still valid to expect parents to provide the first dollars for a child's postsecondary education?

— Should employers be provided tax incentives to support their employees' educational goals?

— How can state and federal programs, such as Pell grants, food stamps and welfare better coordinate to benefit non-traditional students?

"These are practical considerations," Butts observes, "but they go to the heart of much larger questions: Who is the chief beneficiary of a college education, the student or society at large? And among the student and family, and the state and the federal governments, what is the appropriate balance of responsibility for the costs of postsecondary education?"

Current Forms of Student Aid

Federal financial aid for students is authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Authorization Act of 1965. Currently, the most common federal aid are:

- **Pell Grants:** Principally directed toward families earning less than \$30,000, Pell Grants currently provide \$200 to \$2,400 a year to undergraduates deemed eligible under a national need-analysis formula based on income, assets, family size, number of family members in college and other indicators. In 1990-91, U-M students received \$4,461,909 in Pell Grants.

- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG):** Each state receives an allotment of SEOG funds, which participating schools are authorized to distribute to eligible undergraduates in amounts ranging from \$100 to \$4,000 a year. Priority is given to Pell Grant recipients. In 1990-91, U-M students received \$1,547,667 in SEOG grants.

- **College Work Study Program:** Federal funds, distributed by states to participating schools, support 70 percent of students' paychecks in on- and off-campus Work Study jobs; the remaining 30 percent is supplied by the institution. Most Work Study awards go to students with family incomes of \$24,000 or less. In 1990-91, U-M students earned \$2,523,630 through Work Study jobs.

- **Perkins Loans:** Formerly known as National Direct Student Loans, Perkins Loans are a long-term, low-interest alternative to commercial loans; they are designed to give institutions flexibility in tailoring aid packages to meet students' individual needs. Interest, currently at 5 percent, doesn't begin to accrue until graduation, and borrowers have 10 years to repay. Ninety percent of the program's funds come from the federal government, with institutions providing 10 percent.

In 1991-92, the average Perkins Loan totaled \$1,250; approximately 64 percent of loans were made to students in families earning \$24,000 or less. In 1990-91, U-M students borrowed \$7,200,000 in Perkins Loans.

- **Stafford Loans:** formerly known as Guaranteed Student Loans or GSLs, Stafford Loans, are available to the widest spectrum of students, ranging from those in short-term vocational courses to graduate and professional schools. Under this program, first- and second-year undergraduates can borrow up to \$2,625 a year from local banks. The loan limit for third-, fourth- and fifth-year undergraduates is \$4,000. Graduate students can borrow as well. All borrowers pay a 5 percent origination fee. The federal government subsidizes interest on Stafford loans for needy students while they are in school; repayment at the rate of 8 percent begins six months after leaving school, with interest rising to 10 percent in the fifth year of repayment. In 1990-91, U-M students borrowed \$20,280,083 in Stafford Loans.

- **Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) and Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS):** Structured and financed under the Stafford system, PLUS Loans allow parents of undergraduates to borrow up to \$4,000 at a variable interest rate equal to the average 52-week Treasury bill for the preceding year plus 3.25 percent. Repayment of principal and interest generally begins within 60 days of receipt of the loan. The SLS program extends Stafford Loan benefits to independent undergraduate and graduate students at the same variable interest rate as PLUS borrowers. While enrolled, SLS borrowers can opt to repay interest only, or interest and principal, or defer all payments until they leave school. In 1990-91, U-M students and parents borrowed \$5,759,050 under these programs.

TV Anchor Carole Simpson '62 Speaks at Commencement

By John Woodford
Photos by Bob Kalmbach

When Carole Simpson enrolled at Michigan in 1958, she told her counselors that she planned to study journalism. They advised her that she would be wasting her time since Blacks couldn't get jobs in that field. "I thought, 'I'll show you, I'll show you,'" recalled Simpson, who delivered the 1992 Commencement address. "I've never been able to stand someone telling me what I can't do." Today, Simpson is a news anchor for ABC-TV and a familiar figure in more than six million homes each week.

Nevertheless, when she graduated 36 years ago, Simpson was the only one in her class of 60 journalism majors who didn't have a job. So she went back to work at the Chicago Public Library, where she'd been employed off and on since she was 16.

Speaking May 2 to more than 3,000 LS&A seniors, their families and friends in an LS&A Commencement throng of 35,000 in Michigan Stadium, Simpson said that the rioting across the nation in response to the verdict exonerating white policemen for beating Black motorist Rodney King in Los Angeles had compelled her to change her speech.

Simpson recalled that it was not easy to explain to her 11-year-old son, Adam, why the policemen were found not guilty of excessive force, nor to know that someday he might be victimized because of his ethnicity. "I got a sinking feeling in my stomach. I knew there would be a violent reaction. In the past four years I have been in the inner cities of almost every major city in America. I was in south-central Los Angeles a month ago on a car hijacking story. I have heard the frustration, the bitterness, the anger that has been building for a long time. I feared the worst. The same conditions that existed in Watts in 1965 exist today. Race relations have deteriorated to a sorry state."

Simpson told the attentive audience that she wanted to "relate some of my experiences in hopes that you'll understand why a so-called middle-class Black who has supposedly 'made it' can still be angry by the reminder that too many African Americans are still being judged not by the content of their character, as Dr. King dreamed, but by the color of their skin."

She said that at her early job interviews she was told that she had three strikes against her, "that I was a woman, a Negro and had no experience. Nobody wanted to hire me."

Wesley H. Maurer, the chairman of her department and now professor emeritus of journalism, "felt terrible" about her situation, Simpson recalled, and spent the summer lining up an internship. He finally found her a job in the public information office of a Black college, Tuskegee (Alabama) Institute.

"With that, the U-M launched me on my career journey," Simpson said, a

journey that has taken her to 27 countries on five continents. She thanked Michigan for giving her a "fine liberal arts education" and her first radio and television broadcasting experiences. "There is not one course I took here that I have not had to draw on as a reporter," she said to hoots of good-natured skepticism by the graduates.

When she was at the U-M, Simpson was one of only 65 African American undergrads (versus 2,450 today). "It was here at Michigan that I first experienced some of the racism and sexism I would encounter unfortunately all too frequently," Simpson said. "This is no rap on Michigan. It could have happened anywhere and certainly could have been a lot worse."

As one of three Black women in Mosher residence hall, she endured hearing "our house mother called us her 'three Negresses.' It was strange, like being seen as a tigress, an animal, and it angered me. And the white students forced us to segregate ourselves. The white girls took their trays and moved away if we sat down at their table. So we ate together."

Despite such experiences of bigotry, Michigan "helped prepare me for the struggle that I did not know lay ahead," Simpson emphasized. And she has recently "read with great interest reports on the Michigan Mandate," the blueprint for the University's commitment to democratic ideals in education.

Turning to President James J. Duderstadt, the Mandate's principal architect, Simpson said, "I was proud to see in the Mandate that President Duderstadt said that the University recognized the double burden of women of color. Finally, someone said it! I was glad to see that the University recognizes inequities and is trying to address them."

To show her appreciation for her education and the U-M's commitment to equity, Simpson announced that she was establishing a scholarship fund for minority students in journalism, and handed over a start-up check of \$15,000 for the Department of Communication.

"Michigan will be in the forefront of efforts to expand opportunities for all people in our society," Simpson predicted.

Simpson concluded by saying she could easily empathize with those seniors who were graduating without jobs, and encouraged them to "hang in there—there will be a new day."

Reflecting concern for the violent outbreaks earlier in the week, President Duderstadt closed the ceremony by telling the graduates that even though "today, our nation is shamed once again by racial injustice, ethnic conflict and violent civil disorders, you are inheriting the opportunity and the responsibility to help fulfill the promise of democracy in America. I can assure you that there is no more urgent task before you. You're equal to it."

Anthropologist, architect and authors are honored

President James J. Duderstadt delivered the opening remarks at the ceremony for a thousand recipients of master's and doctoral degrees from the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. The affair was held in Hill Auditorium, with 5,000 in attendance.

Duderstadt drew a lesson from the unrest in several U.S. cities. Michigan graduates, he warned, should not attempt to ignore such events or to imagine that they could escape their impact. "Trying to save oneself at the expense of others," he said, "is a dangerous delusion."

"There's only one country, there's only one land, there's only one Constitution," Duderstadt continued, "and only one people, inextricably linked together. The fate of our neighbors, of whatever color or background, will eventually affect our own."

Duderstadt then introduced the four recipients of honorary degrees, saying to the graduates that each honoree "exemplifies the achievements and the values which we hope you'll model your own ambitions upon." Receiving Rackham honors in 1992 were:



Charles W. Moore
'47 Arch., partner in Moore/Andersson Architects of Austin, Texas, and the O'Neil Ford Centennial Chair in Architecture at the University of Texas, Austin, honorary

doctor of architecture. Of his many award-winning designs throughout America and Europe, perhaps the best-known is the Sea Ranch, built north of San Francisco in 1962. This set of condominiums demonstrated the use of environmentally sensitive planning well before ecological preservation and vernacular designs were common.



Toni Morrison, novelist and professor of humanities at Princeton University, honorary doctor of humane letters. Morrison's six major novels, the most recent of which is this year's *Jazz*, are

acclaimed for their psychological and historical explorations of African American life. She has won the National Book Critics Award and the Pulitzer Prize.



Joyce Carol Oates, novelist and professor of humanities at Princeton, and the author of 20 novels and many volumes of short stories, poems, essays, criticism and plays, doctor of humane letters.

Oates has received awards from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Institute of Arts, and won the National Book Award for her novel *them*. Her most recent novel, *Black Water*, was published in May.



Eric R. Wolf, professor of anthropology at the Herbert H. Lehman College and Graduate Center, City University of New York, honorary doctor of laws degree.

Wolf is regarded as one of the world leaders in his discipline for his role in introducing historical methodology into anthropology. His first major book, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, integrated prehistory, ethnohistory and ethnology into an anthropological history of Mexico. His *Europe and the Peoples Without History* provides a vision of imperialism from the perspective of the exploited and has become one of the most-cited books of modern social science.

John H. D'Arms, dean of the graduate school, presided at the ceremony.



Duderstadt, Goldenberg and Simpson. Simpson said she was proud that the University has devised the Michigan Mandate to address inequities that hinder the fuller realization of the principles of American democracy.

Commencement 92

Excerpts of remarks of honorary degree recipients

'My most frequent message to students is to relax enough to open themselves up to other people's visions and dreams, as well as their own. What it means for buildings is a freedom of speech, so that buildings can be special if they're special places—winsome or wily or shy or dazzling or silly. Occasionally maybe even important. Without that freedom, we get buildings that seem to be aspiring to be branch savings and loans, touching nobody's soul. I'd like also today—because it's very special to be getting an honorary degree from one's alma mater—to put in a word for my great-grandfather, George Willard, who was a Regent of the University of Michigan in, I think, 1871. And he, as I'm reminded by the Latin on this degree, introduced to the Regents a resolution in Latin. (He was a farm boy from Battle Creek, but he had learned Latin from his father—and Greek.) He introduced this resolution, and the Regents all voted for it—because it was in Latin—and then he had to let them know that they had just admitted women to the University. It was a very prideful moment, although the Regents were not convinced of that at that moment.'

Charles W. Moore

'While it may be true that the future, your future, is in your hands, the past is also in your hands. Concentrating heavily on changing and managing the future, we don't realize that the past is changeable as well. Of all the adages, the ones about refusing to cry over spilt milk, that life goes on, let the dead past bury its dead—these sayings encourage us to dismiss what has happened, to get on with it and not worry about yesterday or last year or last century. I disagree. History has a flexible side. Of course it can be repeated disastrously, or be reformed in new guises, but it also can be critiqued. It can be analyzed. And artists can reinvent it so that it yields new information about itself and about the present as well as the future. And each time we critique and examine it, it can deliver other information and insight that in fact changes what we know about it. That is the heart of much of the education you have already had here. That is the urgent enterprise these days, when blood and rage bubble together in the streets. My point is, you are not bound by the future, and, more important, you are not bound by the past. The past can be more liberating than the future if you're willing to identify its evasions, its distortions, its lies, and unleash its secrets and its truths. So I want to wish you not only the brightest of futures but also the best of pasts.'

Toni Morrison

'How precious the idea of community is in a world in which traditional values seem continually at risk. On this



James S. Diana (l), president of the faculty senate, and John H. D'Arms, dean of the graduate School, lead Commencement March.

celebratory day, however, we need to recall that the life of the mind, the life of art and the life of civilization itself are not decreed by nature, but are the results of human imagination and ceaseless effort. These precious qualities of life are not permanent but, in fact, precarious. In one generation or, indeed, in a considerably less space of time, they can be irrevocably lost. In this time of national indecision, fragmentation and factionalism, make a conscious effort to enlarge your sympathy. In this time of internal divisions, resist the unthinking instinct to define yourselves in terms of opposition and difference of race, religion and gender. Your effort will not go unheralded or unappreciated.'

Joyce Carol Oates

'I had the privilege while here to take part in an event of some significance, the first teach-in against the war in Vietnam, held at this University on March 24, 1965. I mention it not because of its particular political impact, but because it represents a memorable example of how we can bring knowledge to bear upon issues of great public

significance. The format of the teach-in consisted in holding classes during the day, but then in turning the University into a forum for systematic teaching and discussion of the issues raised by the war after hours and through the night. It involved scholars, government people, experts, students, members of the general public—protagonists and antagonists alike—in a great public discussion in which all were required to marshal knowledge and to compare their modes of analysis. This, too, was the product of a great university and a contribution to participatory democracy. Yet it was also a scientifically informed participatory discussion of great public issues. And this is something that the country greatly needs, now more than ever.'

Eric R. Wolf

'You've been told you're about to go out into the 'real world.' But there is nothing unreal or unimportant about what you've been doing in LS&A. I predict you'll look back on your years here as

the most intensely real and valuable in your lives. You've been expanding your minds and learning how to learn. My charge to you is to find ways to connect what you have learned to the rest of the real world for the rest of your lives.'

Dean Edie N. Goldenberg, of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

David Danziger '92 of Germantown, Tennessee, and R. Shane Green '92 of Jacksonville, Florida, were selected by their classmates to address Commencement from the students' point of view.

'Michigan is the place that has it all—sports, academics, campus and people. The quintessential college setting. I could never have asked for nor received more than I've gotten in my four years on this campus'

Danziger.

'It is dangerous to let others tell you who you are. Our generation has been stereotyped as conservative, materialistic and apathetic. Is this true? We have grown up in a society torn over such

issues as AIDS, abortion, safe sex and capital punishment. Some of us have grown up caring about such social problems. Others are indifferent. We should not stereotype ourselves. Rather, we must reflect on these shared experiences, and try to understand and thoughtfully define our generation'

Green.

Christine Lahti '72 describes 'insecurity, disappointment and blessing' of life in the arts

By Nicole McKinney

"Students ought to hear that a profession in the arts is full of insecurity and disappointment, but it is also incredibly satisfying," said actress Christine Lahti '72. "It's such a blessing to work with something that you like so much."

Lahti, who was the speaker at School of Music Commencement ceremonies for 170 graduates, reads three to four film scripts a week, and admits to being attracted to offbeat and untraditional roles.

"My career has allowed me to take chances," said the star of stage, screen and television movies. "I have learned not to compare my career with anyone else's. I'm one of the few women in my field who've had the opportunity to play both leading and character parts."

Lahti has performed in over a dozen feature films including *The Doctor*, *And Justice For All*, *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* and *Housekeeping*, and received an Oscar nomination in 1984 for *Swing Shift*. Her latest movie, *Leaving Normal*, was released a week before her return to campus.

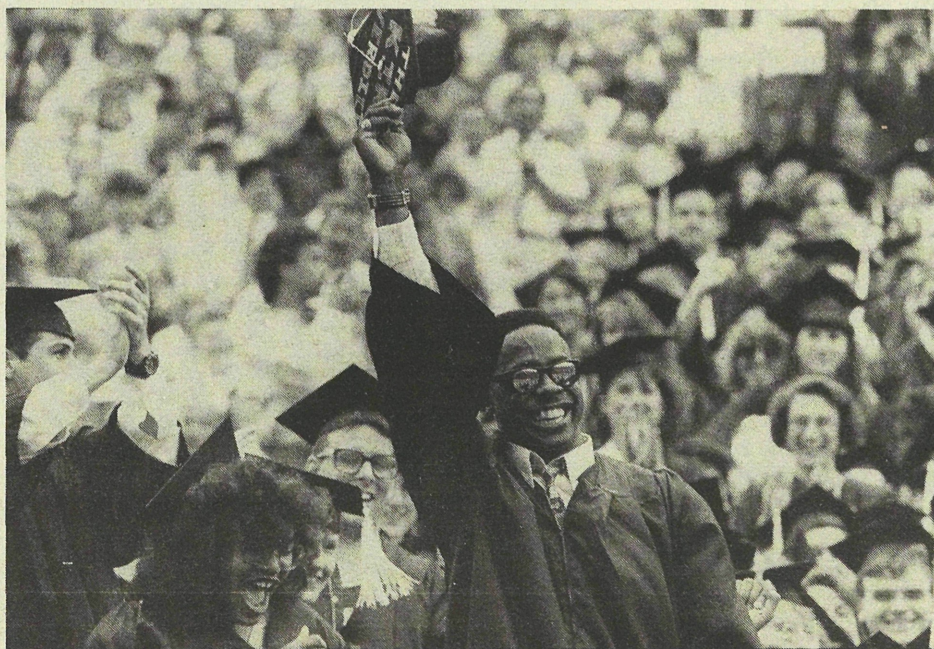
Lahti said she shuns roles that exploit women but feels optimistic about the direction of roles for women in film.

"I wasn't prepared for the sexism that exists in Hollywood," she said. "Now I think that women and men are both dying to see real women in three-dimensional roles, rather than as the girlfriend hanging on the arm of the leading man and other supporting roles."

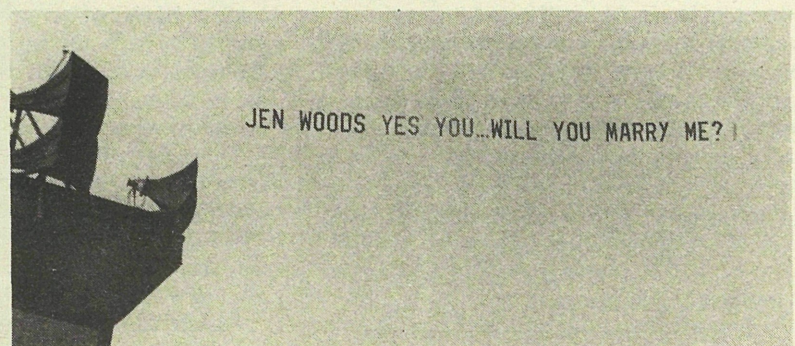
Lahti's extensive Broadway credits include *Little Murders*, for which she received an Obie Award in 1986, and *The Heidi Chronicles*. Her performance in the New York Shakespeare Festival's production of *The Woods* won her a Theatre World Award in 1979.



Lahti



Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard had the words, 'The Rodney King Verdict' written on his cap, while the back of his graduation gown read, 'A Scar for Life.'



Commencement festivities ground to an early halt until Simpson received word via the crowd that, yes, Jen Woods would accept her suitor's high-flying proposal.

By Joan Oleck

One evening last May, the poet and novelist Marge Piercy strode purposefully toward the podium of a New York literary reading honoring the 30th anniversary of *The Michigan Quarterly Review*. Her curly dark shoulder-length hair is loose as usual, her clothing black except for hot pink stockings. She briefly surveys the audience and then, suddenly . . . she disappears.

Four hundred necks crane to find her, but Marge Piercy of the U-M Class of 1957, author of 11 novels and 13 books of poetry, "the outstanding spokeswoman for the '60s generation," according to *Publishers Weekly*, is nowhere to be seen.

Oh, there she is, on her knees behind the podium. Half oblivious to the packed hall, Piercy, who is recovering from a severe eye ailment and finding it hard to focus, sorts through a stack of papers and books. Finally she calls out, "There we are!" and slaps several books onto the lectern. At last she begins to read . . . and stops dead when a camera flashes. "Please! I asked you not to do that," says Piercy, whose eyes are still hypersensitive to light. And then she resumes:

*A woman is not a basket you place
your buns in to keep them warm. Not a brood
hen you can slip duck eggs under.
Not a purse holding the coins of your
descendants till you spend them in wars.
Not a bank where your genes gather interest
and interesting mutations in the tainted
rain, any more than you are. . . .*

(From "Right to life" in the collection *The Moon Is Always Female*, Knopf, 1980.)

After the reading, Piercy is sitting in a New York hotel room describing her proletarian roots, clearly a source of pride for this 55-year-old writer. She grew up near Livernois Avenue and Joy Road in Detroit "when there was still a strong working class with a working-class sensibility." Her father's family were Welsh-American coal miners in Pennsylvania; her mother's were Russian Jews who settled in Cleveland, where Piercy's maternal grandfather was murdered organizing bakery workers.

"The only reason I went to the University of Michigan, which I knew very little about, was that they gave me a scholarship and I wanted to leave home," says Piercy, who was the first member of her family to attend college. She was determined to escape the fate of her childhood girl friends—getting pregnant, shoplifting to make ends meet, working the night shift at a local hospital and, in one case, dying of a heroin overdose at 15. It was a fate she saw as all too likely for a girl born in the Depression year of 1936 to a Westinghouse machinery repairman and his wife.

Writing was the avenue of escape Piercy followed from the start of her academic years right through to a handful of Hopwood awards for her writing and graduation with Phi Beta Kappa honors:

*I got out of those Detroit blocks where the air
eats stone and melts flesh, where jobs
dangle and you jump and jump, where there are
more drugs than books, more ways to die
than ways to live, because I ran fast,
ran hard, and never stopped looking back.*

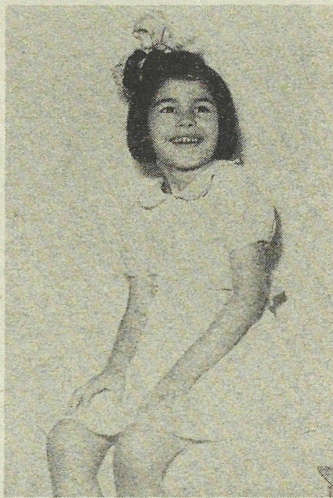
(From "Joy Road and Livernois" in the collection *Available Light*, Knopf, 1988)

Ann Arbor, although only an hour away by car, had been remote to Piercy growing up. She found the campus town a place of "grey and white wooden houses" and of "overarching oaks and maples," as she describes it in *Braided Lives* (1982), her most autobiographical novel; it's about growing up female in the 1950s, years of confusing mores and messages for women. Jill Stuart, Piercy's alter ego, describes the brassiere of the day as "nearer to an armor breastplate" than to lingerie, a device that "holds the breasts apart, forward and out as if setting up a couple of moon-shots." Here was an emblem of the decade's twisted message about women's sexuality: Nice girls don't—but if they do, sex is the only source, of female power.

Jill watches her cousin and best friend, Donna, despair of any avenue except marriage to a woman-hater. Jill, meanwhile, immerses herself in literature and politics and a wide circle of interesting female

Marge Piercy says she lives and writes
in the here-and-now, and that:

'THE PRESENT IS A VERY



Piercy at 5, growing up in Detroit.



Piercy's parents, Bob and Bert, in 1967. Her father grew up in a Pennsylvania coal-mining family. Her mother's father was slain while organizing bakery workers in Cleveland.



Piercy and the novelist Ira Wood at their 1982 wedding.

HARD PLACE'

friends, drinking Chianti in the dorm and tea and coffee at Drake's, reading Sartre and joining up with the campus's fledgling leftist group at about the time the House Un-American Activities Committee was winding down its hunt for Communists in academe. An unwanted pregnancy kills Donna and almost kills Jill, who has been refused a prescription for birth control because she is unmarried and, like Piercy herself, barely survives a self-induced illegal abortion at 18.

"You see class so clearly there," Piercy once told a book reviewer of her urban upbringing. "The indifference of the rich, racism, the strength of different groups, the working class pitted against itself." Ann Arbor showed her a different class consciousness but a class consciousness all the same. From *Braided Lives*:

*Something about me annoys my professors in the
Department of English, even when I am unpolitical and
trying to please. I am the wrong sex, wrong class, wrong
ethnic mixture, wrong size, wrong volume level. . . . Perhaps
they suspect years in advance what I am going to do—write
what they will never admire."*

At Michigan, Piercy rebelled against the rules that required women students to separate themselves from men. She didn't want to be confined to her residence hall from late evening to breakfast time. "I wanted

freedom; I hated hours," she recalls. "By the time I left the dormitories I had accumulated so many hours of AWOL that I had to go before the dorm judiciary, and it was like I was supposed to make up for my absences for the next 10 years!

"I had a lot of confrontation with the Dean of Women's Office," she goes on. "During my sophomore year I organized a group that wanted to be in a women's housing co-op, but there was no room for us in the existing groups in the Inter-Cooperative Council. I was involved in running a co-op that still exists (now it's called Osterweil), and as personnel chairman of the Inter-Cooperative Council, I interfaced with the Office of the Dean of Women. I had huge fights with them because I wouldn't give them racial information about the students who applied to the co-ops.

"Earlier, when I first informed the dean [Deborah Bacon] that I wanted to live in cooperatives, I had told her I had three jobs. She said if I couldn't afford Michigan I ought to go to Wayne State."

Even though she made Phi Beta Kappa her junior year, Piercy says, "It wasn't a real sympathetic environment for students like me back then."

Still, compared with the constraints of Detroit, the campus offered freedom in the form of new ideas, like existentialism ("so different than anything that existed in the U.S. then"), and novel activities, such as those of the then-small but determined group of campus radicals.

"I remember the daughter of the bell ringer [at Burton Tower] was suborned by the FBI to spy on her boyfriend because he was one of the few people in the Communist front group on campus," Piercy says, adding with a laugh that "he gave wonderful parties, and everybody went to them."

Piercy laughs even harder at the suggestion that the model-leftist but slightly lecherous Professor Donaldson in *Braided Lives* was an actual English professor whose identity campus types have been trying to guess for years. "That's a riot! God, people are naive! The reason he's convincing as a character is because he isn't based on any one individual. He's based on a type. Anyone who went to school in political times had a Professor Donaldson."

After graduation in 1957 Piercy got a master's degree at Northwestern and moved to Paris with her first husband, a French particle physicist. "I married the European left, as opposed to the anemic left in America," Piercy has written of that union. "I married my vision of French existentialist cafes. Unfortunately, I also married a very conventional French bourgeois scientist."

When the marriage ended, she moved to Chicago and held part-time jobs while she continued to write. In 1962 she married another scientist and embarked on a decade-long open marriage. These were no-madec years, and she lived in apartments in Cambridge, San Francisco, Boston and New York, heavily involved everywhere in political organizing.

"I always went back to Ann Arbor," she says. "What excited me about Ann Arbor was that when I was living in Boston in '62, I was already upset about the war in Vietnam, but couldn't find anybody else who felt as I did until I met some people in Ann Arbor in '64. So I began to return to see the people who'd started SDS [Students for a Democratic Society]."

But something was going wrong in those hectic years: Piercy and her husband had settled in a big apartment on New York's Upper West Side. They often found themselves putting up as many as a dozen other people—for whom Piercy often found herself cooking alone after rising at dawn to write what would become the novels *Dance the Eagle to Sleep* (1970) and *Small Changes* (1973). And yet her fellow activists were unsympathetic to her art, dismissing writing as an archaic and self-indulgent practice. But as the New Left movement slowly fell apart, Piercy was shifting to the women's movement, where she says she has always found "political support for my writing."

Breaking with the prevailing patriarchal mode that

she encountered even in the activist communities, and recovering from severe bronchitis, Piercy quit smoking and left the factions and fumes of New York in 1971 for Wellfleet, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, where she has remained since.

"Since I don't live in a university town, I'm not in a vacuum," Piercy responds when she is asked about her shift in politics and residence. "I'm not in a place where, because the students come every year, you're lulled into thinking life's always the same. I have contact with people from all economic backgrounds, and so there's no way I'm going to think things are similar. Or have a mindset in which I think, 'Oh, the '60s are coming back, isn't that sweet?' I very much live in the present—and the present that I live in is a very hard place."

In her introduction to her poetry collection, *Circles On the Water* (1982), Piercy calls the notion that politics is not a proper subject for art "a modern heresy."

"The idea that poetry with a conscious rather than an unconscious politics is impermissible or impure," she argues, "is of advantage only to those who like just fine the way things are going. We are social animals and we live with and off and on each other. You would have had great trouble explaining to Sophocles, Virgil, Catullus, Chaucer, Dryden, Wordsworth, Shelley, Arnold, Whitman, Blake or Goethe that poetry refers only to other poetry, and that poets are strange and special people who have no social connections, social interests, social duties."

Piercy's writings throb with social interests: There is *Fly Away Home* (1984), about a comfortably suburban cookbook writer who discovers her husband is a slumlord and pyromaniac; *Going Down Fast* (1969), in which real estate developers and a university make war on a poor neighborhood; *Vida* (1980), about the falling-out of anti-war activists; and *Woman On the Edge of Time* (1976), a science fiction tale about a utopia in the year 2137 in which men and women are equals.

Piercy wanders afield from politics, however. A dedicated gardener, she has written odes to peaches, pole beans and other fruits of her back-yard labors. "A lot of my poems are about being a part of nature, about being simply one other animal in the whole web of living beings," Piercy says. To her this is "feminist ecology" because "it takes us away from a position in which we imagine we have a right to make nature and all other types of life subservient to ourselves. I think a lot of my poetry deals with that, of being aware of oneself as connected to other living beings."

This feeling of oneness extends to the salt marsh and sea environment around the home Piercy shares in Wellfleet with her third husband, novelist Ira Wood.

"I have readers who love my poems about the Cape, about zucchini and lettuce and tomatoes, and simply skip or tune out the poems about an old working-class woman lying in a nursing home or about nuclear power," Piercy has written. "Then I have readers who love the poems they call feminist or political, but question why I wrote about a blue heron or oak trees. I have to confess, for me it is all one vision."

Laurence A. Goldstein, a professor of English and editor of *The Michigan Quarterly Review*, says he admires Piercy most for being "almost unique in her ability to write fiction and poetry equally well," a balancing act many have tried with less success.

"In her fiction," Goldstein continues, "it seems she's

really strong on depicting human relationships in which there's a powerful struggle going on, usually between men and women—the classic subject matter of the novel. The difference between her fiction and poetry is that her poetry is often funny," as in the following lines:

*My friend Penny at twelve, being handed a napkin
the size of an ironing board cover, cried out
Do I have to do this from now 'til I die?
No, said her mother, it stops in middle age.
Good, said Penny, there's something to look forward to.
(From "Something to look forward to," Available Light.)*

Piercy's fiction has remained in the classic, realist tradition developed by Dickens and Eliot, according to Anne C. Herrmann, associate professor of English and of women's studies, and for that reason her novels may be assigned more often in women's studies than in English courses. "She relies on an either/or narrative structure," Herrmann says. "For example in *Small Changes* one main character gets married, the other becomes a lesbian, suggesting that life offers only two options, as in the 19th-century novels in which the man falls in love with a 'bad' woman and marries a 'good' one."

Herrmann strongly praises Piercy for her political impact, however, noting that along with Marilyn French's *The Women's Room* and Erica Jong's *Fear of Flying*, both published in 1973, Piercy's *Small Changes* of the same year is one of the most significant books in the feminist canon. "As we look back over the last 20 years, we're beginning to realize more and more that one of the ways in which the women's movement most transformed consciousness was through the novels women read," Herrmann says. "For middle-class women fiction was probably as important as political activity in developing a feminist community."

Piercy thinks it's time for middle-class women to do more than read. "The situation for women has changed," Piercy says, "and there's a lot of false consciousness, just as there was before the women's movement. A whole lot of women think they can make it, think that they can 'have it all,' especially coming out of the better colleges. You pick them up again as feminists in their 30s when the economic system starts impacting, when the school system starts impacting, when they've been married, divorced and left with a kid. Real wages have dropped so much in my lifetime."

"Very few people think of themselves as working-class anymore; everyone is 'professional' or 'middle-class' but they get working-class wages. And yet they have no working-class solidarity, they have no unions anymore, they have no support. And when they're out of a job, they're screwed."

Last fall Piercy published her 11th novel, *He, She and It* (Alfred A. Knopf, \$22); and this spring, Knopf published her 12th poetry collection, *Mars and Her Children*.

The novel, set in the New England of the future and in medieval Prague, is reminiscent of the *golem* (man-made servant) tales of Prague's Jewish community.

Religion is important to Piercy. She and Wood have helped form a *havurah* ("one of a number of informal, lay Jewish religious groups") called *Am ha-Yam* ("people of the sea").

When Piercy appraises her own writings, she finds that a dominant theme is that "beings have a right to live, a right to their own consciousness, and must acknowledge that they're a part of the web of all living things, in history and in community." But she has summed herself up much more simply: "If I wasn't politically involved," she once said, "I would feel as if I were seeking a free lunch."

Joan Oleck is a free-lance writer who lives in New York City.

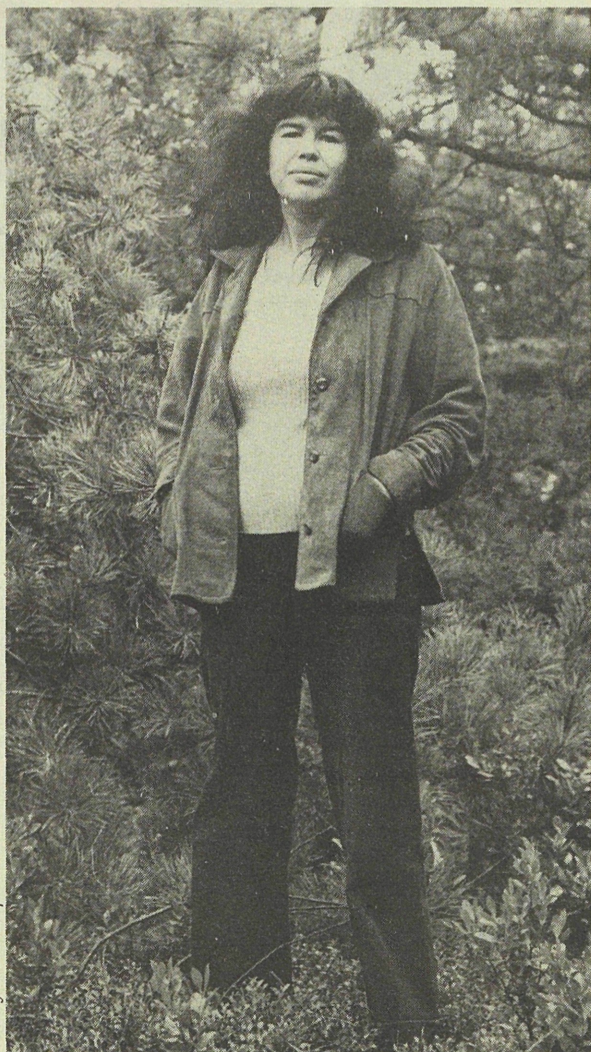
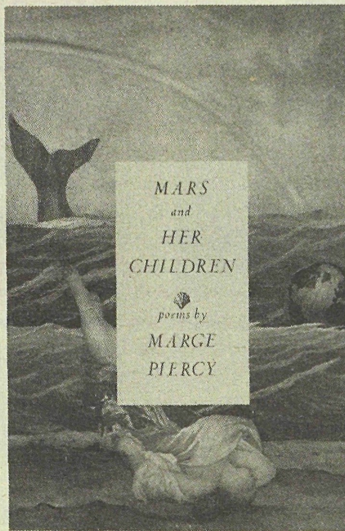


Photo by Robert Shapiro

Piercy



Courtesy Alfred Knopf Publishing

This fall Marge Piercy will hold the DeRoy Distinguished Visiting Professorship at the University of Michigan Honors Program. Students in an honors writing course taught by Nancy Kushigian will read Piercy's fiction in the first part of the course, and then Piercy will come to campus in late October and critique the students' fiction.

"We thought the students would get more out of it if they consider deeply the choices Piercy has made as a writer," says Ruth Scodel, director of the Honors Program and professor of Greek and Latin.

The art of industrial design, where 2 + 2 = 5

BUILDING A BETTER BIRDHOUSE

By Kate Kellogg

Industrial design professor Allen Samuels prizes the student who can add two plus two and get five.

Successful invention and innovation depend on such seemingly impossible equations, Samuels believes. Even if the first attempt doesn't fly, refined versions may eventually fulfill or exceed the designer's original vision.

"Dan Koester, one of my students, is a tall man who realized that children were too short to see into birdhouses," Samuels says, "so he designed a cylindrical structure with a mirror positioned to reflect what was inside. No one else had considered using optics in birdhouse design: He added two and two and got five."

In the School's six-term Industrial Design Program, Samuels and two colleagues, Ronald Sekulski and Alfredo Montalvo, teach students that like any piece of art their work should "deliver an aesthetic message and more," Samuels says. "Since they're designing utilitarian objects, the forms they choose also should reveal function." Thus, indus-

trial design students must consider multiple issues in their creations, including utility, aesthetics, ergonomics, materials, manufacturing processes, and cost of production.

Whether an object is designed for mass production or for people with special needs, it should influence people in a positive way, Samuels says. In his course, "Invention and Innovation" Samuels assigns students two projects, one an invention and the other an innovation.

"I give them examples of badly designed products, like white sinks and bathtubs that camouflage steam and cause burns to older people with changing vision," he explains. "Or I might point out that toasters are all alike: They're hard to control, collect lots of crumbs that are hard to clean out, and, worst of all, each year they burn or electrocute about a thousand children who stick fingers or metal objects into them. Someone ought to be able to design a better toaster."

"I tell students to go out and observe human behavior—how people live, work, think—and to

combine these observations with their knowledge of science and technology. By the time they start to design products for the real world, they have learned to combine elegance with ease of use."

Each finished project has gone through a complete design cycle—problem analysis, conceptualization, refinement, documentation and prototyping. Some students are so adept at transferring ideas from head to paper that their preliminary sketches resemble the delicately detailed drawings of Renaissance inventors.

But Samuels sees those sketches as just one means to the important end of "getting the students to think. I don't place much value on the beautiful drawing of a dumb idea." A well-executed project based on a good idea demands much thought and research—plain work that goes far beyond artistic talent, he says.

"The assignment scares the hell out of them at first. They have to get out of the Art School and explore other disciplines. That's one reason U-M is such an ideal place for this program. The students

probably would have trouble finishing quality products at any school with a less diverse range of disciplines." The birdhouse builder talked to ornithologists; students who design products with electronic components consult with faculty in electrical engineering. "If the knowledge exists, someone around here has it," Samuels says.

As the accompanying photographs show, the combination of interdisciplinary research and acutely active imaginations has produced an array of futuristic but practical concepts that improve on existing products.

Many projects have humanitarian purposes. The nation's Center for Disease Control in Atlanta initiated a project under Associate Professor Montalvo to develop a water filter that cleans contaminated water with sand. The device, in the form of a small, easily transportable plastic drum, will be tested in Latin American countries where unfiltered water has caused outbreaks of cholera.

In their invention assignment, students transform original ideas into material objects capable of

performing specific operations—even though the technology behind the operation may not yet exist.

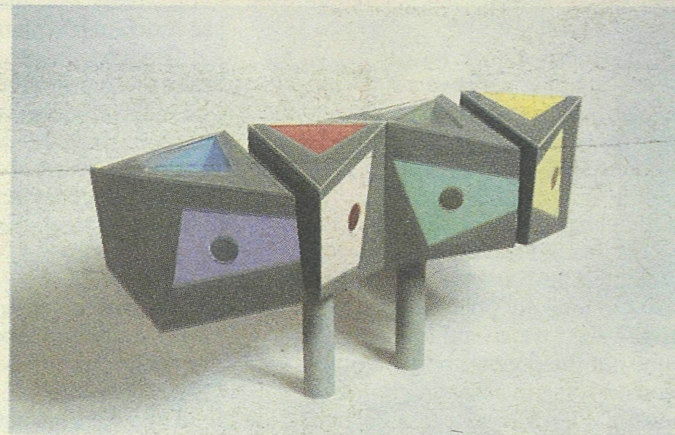
Rather than Rube Goldberg-like contraptions, the final products of student projects are elegantly compact objects with streamlined parts. A close examination of Todd Gill's laser sewing machine gives no clue that there is yet no "laser needle" that can adhere material to a light-sensitive thread. Gill's design outstrips current technology, but not so much as to make his idea far-fetched.

Samuels tests his students' abilities to come up with useful and original items by giving each of

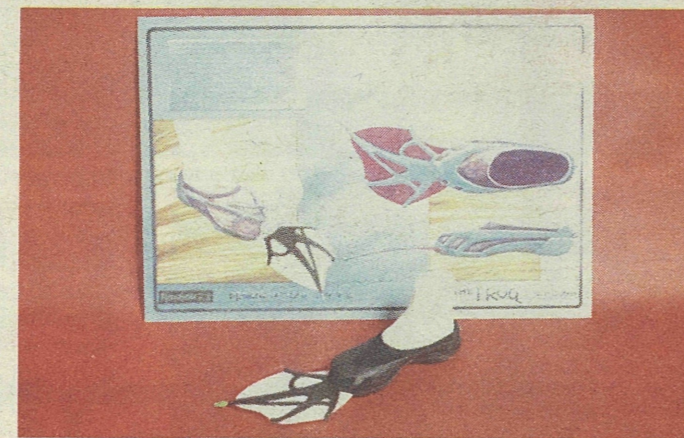
them a set of generic components and telling them to consider "diverse options, contexts and possibilities." This year the components were a few rectangular, cylindrical and triangular blocks, some solar cells, a few knobs and a viewing screen. The assignment was to design an electronic device that could be body-carried or used in hand or on a desk-top.

"Many students might start off with the same idea, but they never come up with the same combinations of elements," Samuels says. "Consequently, we got a huge variety of devices, from navigational systems, to an electronic football game, to a heart-scanning device."

Surely any colony of purple martins would prefer this colorful condo to the usual plain, barracks-like variety. The elegant modular complex designed by Jeongwon Han '92 MFA departs from the traditional style of multicelled birdhouses in design and building material. Hers is made of cardboard paper, in the tradition of ancient Chinese architecture.



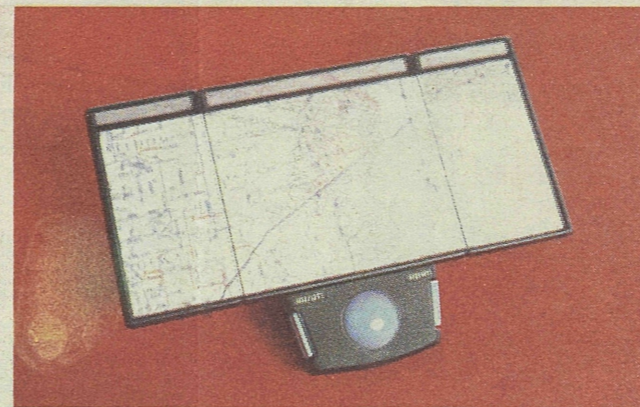
The ideal birdhouse provides not only shelter, but a clear view of its inhabitants to curious humans, according to designer Dan Koester, an MFA student. The adjustable mirror in his cylindrical, nest-shaped structure reveals its interior to anyone standing below.



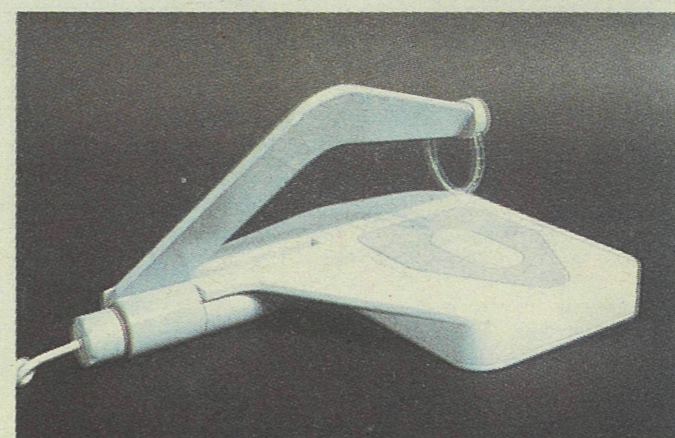
This water shoe called "The Frog" converts from sandals into slippers. Jack Hough '93 won a cash prize from Reebok Co. for this entry in a national competition.



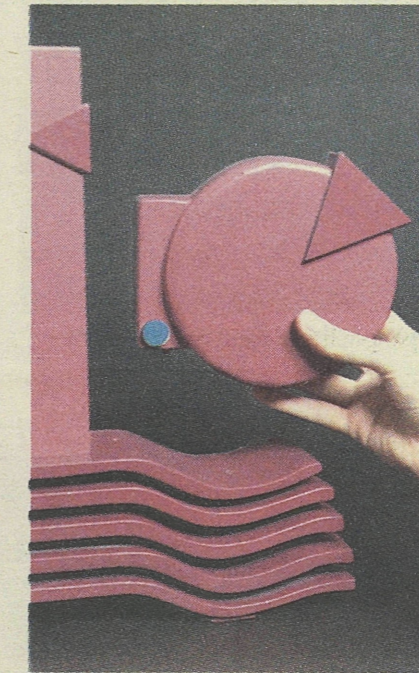
Matt Riemenschneider '92 designed low-impact hiking footwear for a Reebok competition. He devised a quick-release buckle system in which a pull of one strap tightens and fastens the shoe via a release tab and a Velcro fastener.



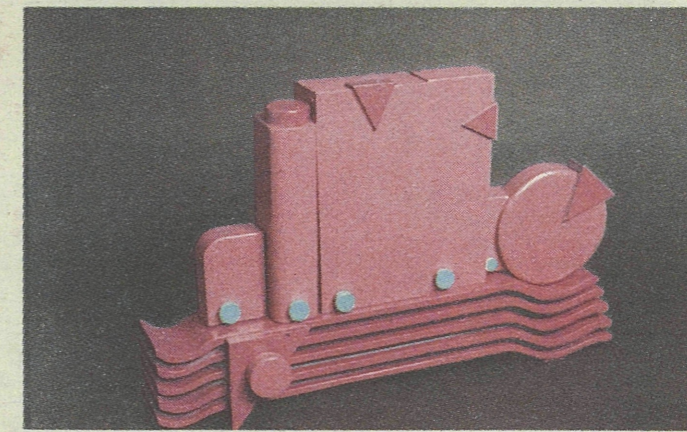
The solar-or-battery powered mapping-tracking device designed by Richard Nelson '92 is 'in the realm of possibility,' Montalvo says. A traveler seeking to locate his position would dial in desired pre-programmed map with the blue mouse, flick on receiver for satellite beam, and read precise marking of the spot.



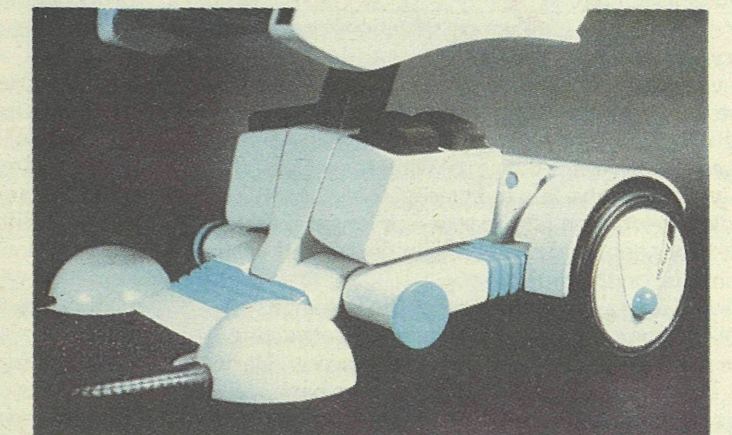
The 'needle' of this sewing machine designed by Todd Gill '92, who received BAs in fine arts and engineering, is a laser. His design presumes that laser technology will someday produce a device in which a laser beam will cause light-sensitive thread to adhere to fabric.



In this day of media gadget overload, Amy Love's concept of an electronic communications system eliminates the need to run from one device to another. Love '91 combined a compact disc player, mini-television, video cassette recorder and AM-FM radio as separate modules mounted on a common base.



This battery-powered personal vehicle designed by Anthony Popocik '91 and Tom Loeffler '91 could replace conventional wheelchairs. The occupant can enter, exit and clean the device with relative ease and comfort. Asst. Prof. Sekulski says the vehicle's spherical front wheel inventively integrates the dual function of a wheel housing and a bumper.



Med students interrupt studies to learn about career in laboratory

TIME OUT FOR RESEARCH

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By Eleanor Mayfield

ost medical school students shoulder such heavy financial burdens that they never stop during the long march through professional or postdoctoral training. One reason for this persistence is that getting that last degree means they can begin paying back family members, banks, the government or other creditors.

So when medical students do interrupt their studies, they find even their fellow students questioning their sanity.

"The idea of taking a year off in the middle of medical school doesn't really appeal to a lot of students," says Ravi Allada, even when that year is spent working as a scientist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, the country's center of biomedical research.

In fact Allada has spent not one but two years in the Research Scholars Program, which is jointly sponsored by NIH and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a private medical research organization named for its founder, the late industrialist and recluse Howard Hughes.

Allada, who is one of four Michigan student's in this year's program, doesn't regret his decision. "In terms of biomedical science, this place [NIH] is unparalleled," he says. "If you want to do research, there are 2,000 investigators working here, and they cover everything. If you're at all interested in doing research, you're doing yourself a disservice if you don't apply."

Founded in 1985, the Research Scholars Program began as a way of attracting more medical students to consider careers in biomedical research, where the nation has faced a shortfall in medical scientists. The program attracts more than 100 applicants a year nationwide, and accepts about 45. Michigan has sent 36 students into the program, more than any other school.

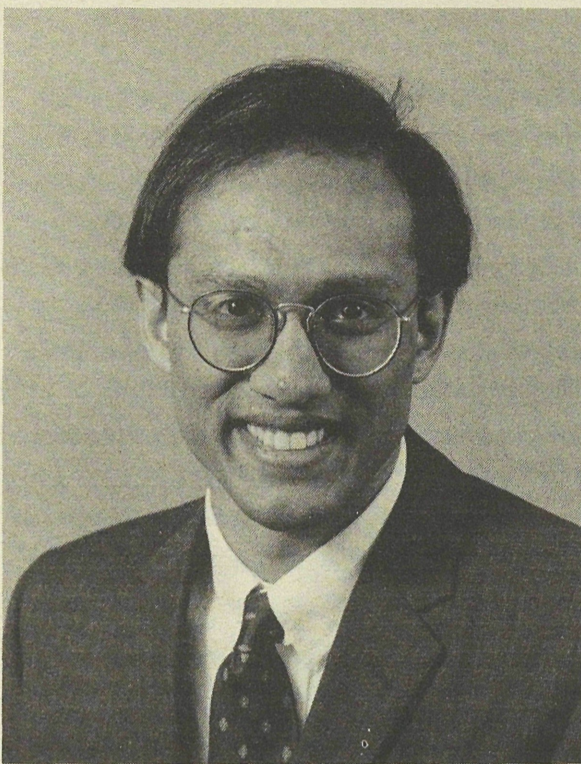
"We're looking for people who want to try their hand at a concentrated period of research, in a setting where they will be able to devote themselves full-time to doing research in a laboratory under the guidance of an experienced scientist," says Donald H. Harter of the Hughes Institute, who directs the program.

Most student-researchers live in the Cloister, a renovated convent on the NIH campus that also houses the program's administrative offices. "Communitarity" is an important feature of the program, Harter says, because it permits students "to live together, talk about each other's work, and learn together about research away from the distractions of their school." The Hughes organizations provides a salary and benefits.

The students needn't have selected a research topic before they arrive. During orientation they are assigned an advisor—a senior NIH scientist—who suggests laboratories they may want to work in. They then visit NIH labs, talk to investigators and settle on a project to work on for the year—or longer if the student has assumed a vital role in the lab and wishes to continue on the project.

It's still too early to tell whether the Research Scholars Program will achieve its goal of attracting more medical graduates into research careers, Harter says, but several former Hughes scholars have returned to research after medical school graduation or after completion of a medical specialty. Others have returned to work on their research projects at NIH during vacations or as an elective course while they're still in medical school. And others have gone on to enroll in doctoral programs in biological science.

Here are some of the things Allada and his U-M schoolmates report about their experiences in the program:



Allada has spent two years as a research scholar at NIH and will return to Ann Arbor for his third year of medical school this fall.

Ravi Allada

Allada arrived in 1990 wanting most of all to work in a close, one-on-one relationship with a scientist

"and really learn how to go about thinking about scientific problems." He found the mentor he wanted in molecular biologist Howard Nash of the National Institute of Mental Health. Nash is working on one of the oldest mysteries of modern medicine—why general anesthetics put people to sleep.

"These drugs have been in use for 150 years, but no one knows how they work," Allada says. "To me the problem is interesting because the chemical structures of general anesthetics are all different, and they don't seem to have any relationship to each other."

"Most drugs that have effects on the brain, like marijuana and opiates, have known receptors. The traditional view is that everything in the brain works through a receptor.

If you know where the receptors are, you can identify a neural pathway, and you know that is the pathway that governs certain behaviors.

"But general anesthetics don't have a known receptor or a known pathway, and they go everywhere in the brain. People have been studying this question for 150 years and they have no answers. The traditional approaches have failed."

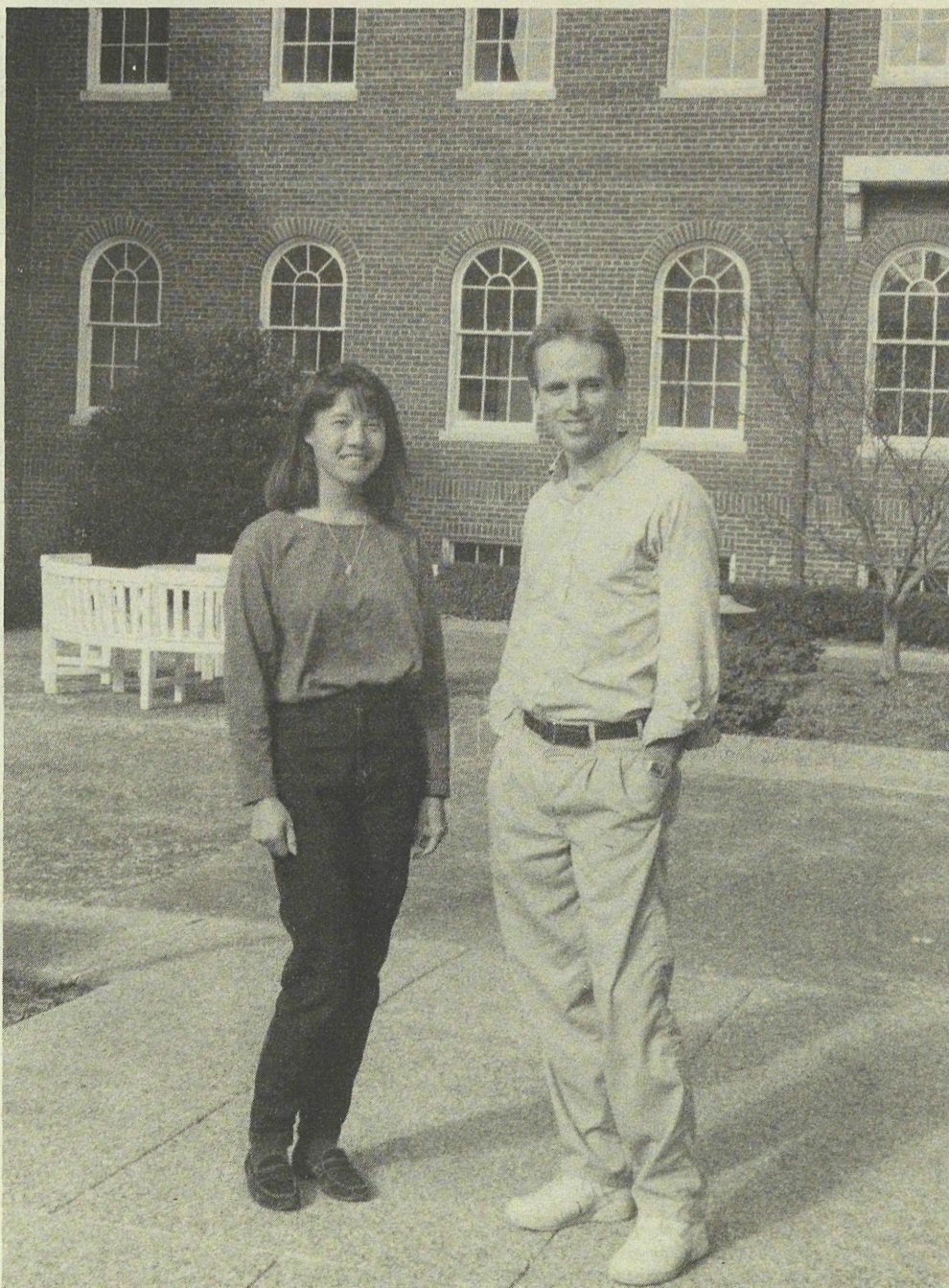
There is more involved than the desire to understand how and why general anesthetics—among the most widely used drugs in modern medicine—work, Allada explains. Solving this puzzle "would tell us something important about the brain itself—about consciousness."

Nash's lab is trying a new approach: applying genetic techniques to the mystery of general anesthesia. Allada's project, which led him to stay on at the NIH for a second year, involves genetic analysis of *Drosophila melanogaster*, the fruit fly.

"It's an ideal organism for genetic analysis, because it's a simple system yet its behavior is fairly complex. What my work has shown is that the fruit fly's behavior under general anesthesia is very similar to human behavior. Every test we've done so far has said that flies and humans are not vastly different in terms of their response to general anesthesia—which is somewhat amazing."

Allada opted for a second year in the lab because "I was loving my work and felt this was something I'd really like to do in the future. I was still learning a lot from my preceptor and I thought the second year would be very beneficial."

After spending two years in the refined atmosphere of NIH, Allada isn't sure how he'll deal with the hurly-burly of third-year medical school at Michigan this fall. "I guess once I'm thrown in the water, I'll have to swim," he says.



Wu and Gilbert in front of the Cloister, a former nunnery housing the Research Scholar Program in Bethesda, Maryland. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute provides their salaries and picks up most other program costs.

Don Gilbert

The opportunity to fill in gaps in his knowledge of basic science attracted Gilbert, a third-year student, to the Research Scholars Program.

Gilbert's interest in neurology led him to the Laboratory of Viral and Molecular Pathogenesis at the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke, where he is working with a group studying the effects of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) on the human brain.

"A lot of patients with AIDS get dementia, and that's especially true in children," says Gilbert, who is from Livonia, Michigan. "AIDS is a disease that affects immune cells, and it turns out the cell it gets into in the brain pretty much has an immune cell function. But the virus doesn't attack the neurons—the cells that do the thinking—so that raises the question, why do people get dementia?"

"There are several possible answers. It could be that the virus is getting into other brain cells, but at a level too low to detect. It may not get into the cells at all, but have an effect on cell membranes and just by being around cause the cells to dysfunction. Or it could be that the virus causes the creation of chemicals in the cells it attacks. These chemicals may have an impact on the neurons which leads to the development of dementia."

Strengthening the last possibility is the fact that AIDS patients with dementia improve when treated with the drug AZT. "If the virus was destroying a lot of brain cells, you wouldn't expect AZT to have any effect, because it can't bring cells back to life," Gilbert explains.

HIV's effect on the brain sometimes resembles that of multiple sclerosis, a chronic disease involving damage to the brain's "white matter"—the whitish neural tissue that underlies the gray matter of the brain and spinal cord.

"A lot of people with AIDS lose some of their white matter, and so do people with multiple sclerosis," Gilbert says. "If you look at a brain scan, you see similar findings—loss of myelin [a substance contained in the sheath around certain nerve cells] and things like that. We're trying to detect whether HIV gets into brain cells called oligodendrocytes, which are the cells that make white matter."

Despite the fact that many neurological diseases are still incurable, Gilbert says he would find it "frustrating to be working with patients who I couldn't really help, and not feel I was doing something about one of those diseases." That's why a career in academic medicine—combining clinical work and basic research—appeals to him.

Erica Wu

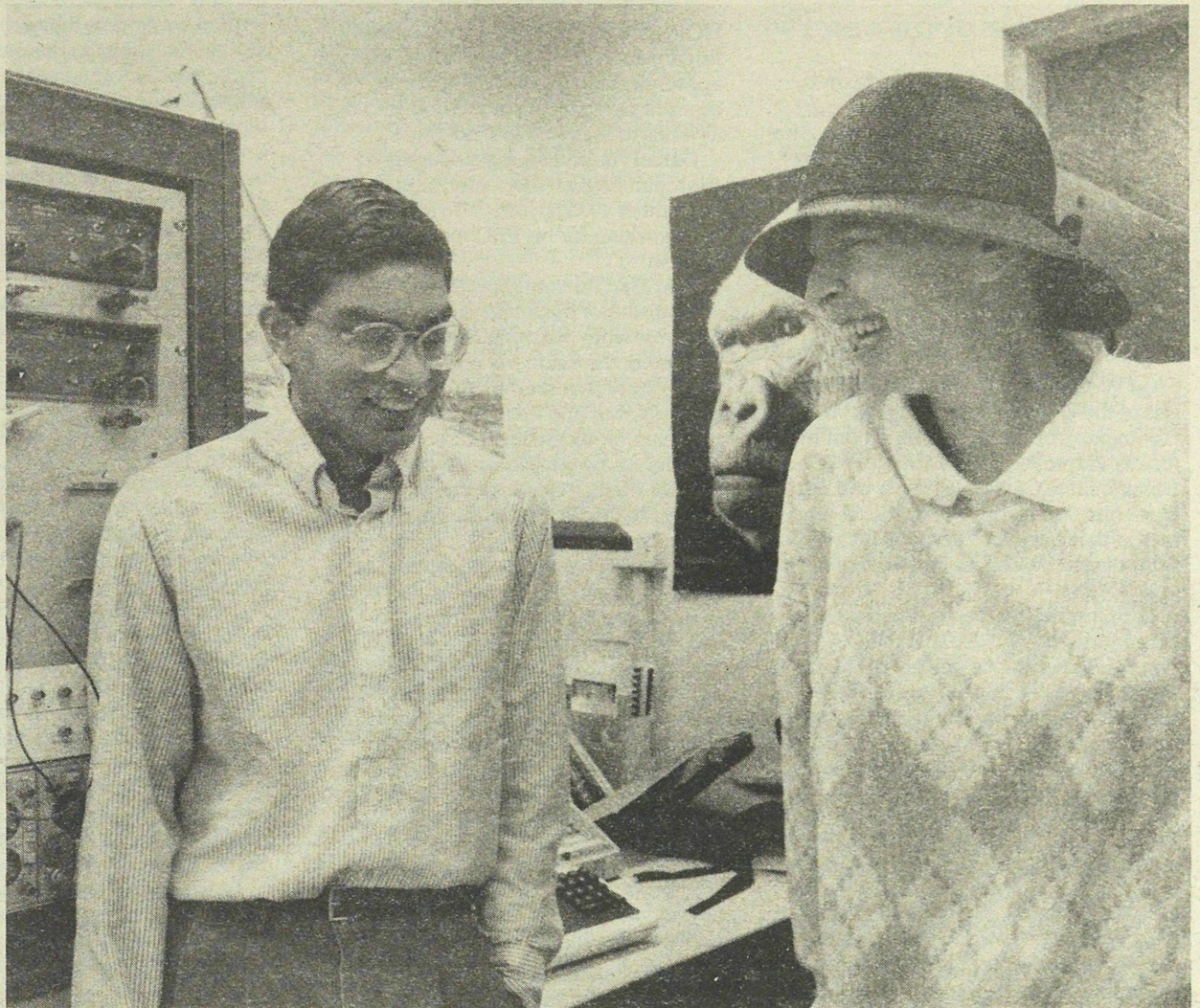
An intriguing link between a virus that causes sexually transmitted disease and the development of pediatric cancer brought second-year medical student Erica Wu back to her native city to work at the Tumor Virus Biology Laboratory at the National Cancer Institute.

Wu is studying one of the "transforming", or cancer-causing, genes of human papilloma virus 16 [HPV 16]. Genes—the units of hereditary material contained in human cells—hold information that governs all aspects of human development, exerting their influence by directing the manufacture of proteins.

"It turns out that one of the mechanisms of action of HPV 16 is that one of its gene products interacts with the retinoblastoma gene, which is a tumor-suppressor gene that's involved in some pediatric eye tumors," Wu says. "At first glance, that seemed to be a really far-fetched connection, because HPVs cause sexually transmitted disease. It piqued my curiosity."

Wu is zeroing in on the behavior in human skin cells of mutant proteins. The mutants are generated by combining parts of the protein manufactured by HPV 16 with pieces of the same protein from another strain of the papilloma virus, one known to be non-carcinogenic.

She soon learned that working with primary human skin cells—cells "grown" from the foreskins of



Vallabhanath (l) and a patient who is trying out an experimental 'seeing aid.' The research may result years from now in a device that can send visual stimuli directly to the brain and enable the blind to see.

Photo by Eleanor Mayfield

circumcised babies—can have its frustrations. Just as human beings are prone to unpredictable behavior, so are human cells.

"You get little glitches that you don't expect, and things that you think will take three weeks actually take three months. You put the DNA in and do certain things to it, and three weeks later you [hope to get transformed colonies]."

"The first time I did it, it seemed really easy. But then, when I started doing my real experiment, the first two didn't work. The third one is just beginning to work—I hope."

Wu and her preceptor, Karl Munger, hope to find out which of the mutant proteins transform the human cells to make them cancer-causing, and what characteristics of the proteins cause the transformation to occur. This knowledge would add another piece to the enormous biomedical jigsaw puzzle of what causes cancer.

Despite early setbacks in getting her experiments off the ground, Wu was enthusiastic about her introduction to biomedical research. "I like the independence and flexibility," she says. "Some people have the image that scientists work in a lab and don't socialize, but there's a lot of interaction—on the phone, in the lab, at meetings."

"There's always a challenge. Even when things aren't working, you get to try to solve the problem. Sometimes you get into a major dip, and things don't go well for a long time. I'm pleased that in spite of some of the problems I had in the beginning, I got past them and now I'm really trying to get this project to work."

Prashanth Vallabhanath

When Vallabhanath began looking for a research project, he thought it would be "hard-core molecular biology." Then he discovered that investigators at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke were studying a problem that had interested him for several years—the development of a visual prosthesis, or "seeing aid."

"If you electrically stimulate the visual cortex in the back of the brain, you can produce sensations of light

in both sighted and blind people," says Vallabhanath, whose home is in Ann Arbor. "The eventual goal of this project is to create a reading and navigation aid for the visually impaired."

A seeing aid would benefit individuals who have lost their sight from eye diseases that, like glaucoma, result from the eyes' failure to send signals to the brain so that vision can occur. The seeing aid Vallabhanath envisages "would bypass the eye by applying a stimulus through microelectrodes implanted in the brain."

An existing device similar to his hypothetical visual prosthesis is the cochlear ear implant, which stimulates the auditory nerve to produce a sensation of sound in people who have lost their hearing.

The project he's working on is at a very early stage, Vallabhanath emphasizes. "There are so many different ways of stimulating the brain. Electrical pulses vary in width and in all sorts of other parameters. We're still figuring out what kind of stimulation is ideal for the effects we want to create."

He cautions that it may be going too far to say a visual prosthesis would enable a blind person to see. "It's really hard to predict how any one individual's ability to see would be improved," he says. "Some people might use it to read, others to navigate and avoid obstacles."

Preliminary experiments and safety studies were carried out on animals. "But an animal," Vallabhanath notes, "can't tell you what it's seeing. Right now we have a patient who has electrodes implanted in her brain, and we're quizzing her about what she can see when we apply different kinds of electrical stimuli."

This kind of basic, highly experimental research is why NIH exists, says Vallabhanath, because "it's the only place that has the resources."

Vallabhanath is looking forward to returning to Michigan in the fall for his third year of medical school, but is sure he will stay interested in visual prosthesis research. "I think I've fallen in love with this whole idea," he says. "I'd like to come back here to work on it some more whenever I get the chance."

Eleanor Mayfield is a freelance writer from Silver Spring, Maryland

LETTERS

CHAMPIONS OF THE WEST

I ENJOYED Sam Walker's article on people living in remote places [Dec. '91 issue]. Except for the time I spent in Ann Arbor, I have always lived less than an hour from Manhattan. It was a pleasurable diversion to read about people who have ventured away from the congested metropolis. Thanks for the breath of fresh air!

April McGee, M.S. IOE '84
Elizabeth, New Jersey

SAM WALKER'S portrayal of "Champions of the West" was interesting, but the comments from Mark Sterner about his former employer, Valley City (North Dakota) State College certainly did not place him, the institution or the community in that category. Perhaps the word "chumpion" would have been more appropriate.

Flipping back some six decades, here was a little city of 5,000 that then as now, represented only one percent of the state population. Yet, in just my era of the 1920s, from that community emerged a treasurer of the United States; a president of American Motors (Michigan Man), a professor of music composition (Michigan), a state administrator of education, a faculty member of Penn State and three vice president of Fortune 500 companies. Even a former editor of Sterner's home paper, the *Flint Journal*, had close ties there.

From the entertainment field: Ann Sothorn, the Clark Sisters and Peggy Lee, who made her debut there. From beyond the city limits came actresses Dorothy Stickney, Virginia Bruce and later Angie Dickinson. Mustn't omit Lawrence Welk. Or Eric Severeid. Larry Woiwode, from a wide place in the road, in his best seller *Beyond the Bedroom Wall* placed some of the action (respectable) at Valley City State.

I do hope Mr. Sterner and his family will not become disillusioned again in his new position in the Prairie State of Illinois, in a college less than half the size of the one from which he departed.

O. Arnold Norman '30
Huntington Woods, Michigan

1939 DIARY

I ALWAYS enjoy this publication, but some articles are outstanding. I want to express my appreciation for "Apprentice in English: 1939" by Edgar L. McCormick (Feb. '92). It was so very enjoyable because of the nostalgic memories it evoked. Thank you.

Lydia Maguire
Detroit

I WAS delighted to read the excerpts from Edgar McCormick's 1939 diary since I underwent a similar experience some years earlier. In 1923, working toward my M.A., I became teaching assistant in the branch of the English department then known as "Rhetoric Department." I don't know when that designation was outlawed, but shortly thereafter, I hope.

Professor Rankin, who headed the department, was a charming man who loved giving assignments and hated reading the results, which task fell to me, so my memories of that year consist mostly of the stacks of papers I took home every night. These were, on the whole, pretty discouraging, enlivened all too rarely by one memorable gem. The assignment was, "What should be the duty of the College instructor?" and my favorite of all 30 or more answers, was that of the student who began his essay: "Each student comes to the University with a spark burning in his breast, and it is the duty of his instructor to water that spark and make it burn brighter." I sincerely hope that chap found that instructor. Perhaps it was I?

Forman Brown, '22, '23 MA
Hollywood, California

HOW PLEASURABLE it was to read Edgar McCormick's English Department apprenticeship diary of 1939, for it brought back a spate of memories to me, as it has to many others, no doubt.

Daniel Aaron was my beleaguered freshman English instructor, from September 1935 to June 1936 and he, too, was working for his PhD requirements in English.

I am glad the semi-boredom and vicissitudes of freshman English didn't deter me from pursuing advanced courses in the field. My original interest in literature was fired by my four years at Ann Arbor and has continued through the years. A biography I did of a Michigan alumnus, Kenneth Millar '35 PhD, entitled, "The Very Private Eye of Ross Macdonald," gave me great pleasure.

Perhaps it would be appropriate to mention some of today's notables who were products of the Department of English during the 1930s: Joseph Gies, John Ciardi, Norman Rosten, John Malcolm Brinnen, Kiman Friar, Arthur Miller, Harvey Swados, Joseph Barry (Bernstein), *inter alii*. The University assuredly had a great department in its English staff. The faculty comprised a stellar cast, and I remember them well and pay homage to them.

Norman Kiell '39
Cornell Medical Center
Long Beach, New York

I REALLY enjoyed Edgar J. McCormick's record of teaching English II in the spring term of 1939, since I was a freshman at the University in 1938/39. Apropos of his surprise at the low quality of his students' compositions, has he forgotten that all of us who earned an "A" or a "B" in English I were exempted from English II? I have checked my transcript to see if a "B" earned exemption, and it did. So Prof. McCormick was starting his teaching with only the less able students. Thus if "B's" were plentiful at the final grading, he must have been delighted with the success of his teaching, and I suppose he was, since he devoted his career to it.

Peggy T. Rice '42 (nee Margaret Wiseman)
Chevy Chase, Maryland

I RECEIVED a master's degree in English Languages and Literature from Michigan in 1936 (with no distinction!). I did have courses, however, with Dr. Rice and Dr. Bredvold, whom Dr. McCormick mentioned. I was acquainted with Dr. and Mrs. Marckwardt, Dr. Griggs, Dr. Parker, Dr. Jones and Dr. Mueschke. I knew Howard Peckham, then curator of the Clements Library, who has retired, with his wife Dorothy, to North Carolina. But, most important, I knew Dr. McCormick's wife, Cora Lee Morrow, over 50 years ago in Texas. I did not know her address, and I am delighted to know where she is.

Josephine L. Moore '36 MA
Greensboro, North Carolina

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed the excerpts of Edgar McCormick's 1939 teaching diary. I wish somebody had given me the advice to keep a diary when I began as a teaching assistant at the University in 1985. I may start one now, but six years of precious experience as a beginning teacher, of incredibly funny episodes, of anger and sadness, are already lost.

I was particularly struck by McCormick's comments on grading. It seems that in our day "grade inflation" has done away with the satisfaction of getting an A or even a B+. An A-grade has come to be regarded as the right of anybody who pays tuition, rather than the reward for outstanding work.

Beatriz Urraca, '87 MA
Philadelphia

LITTLE ICE AGE

"THE LITTLE Ice Age" by Sally Pobjewski in the February hit me right between the eyes, so to speak. For a number of years I have been doing genealogical research on my Swedish and Finnish Lapland ancestors. An archivist in Oulu, Finland, suggested that the only usable reference had been written by Anders Johan Sjogren in 1826 and published in Archangel two years later. It took over a year to translate from Swedish with other languages and dialects (Latin, Russian, Finnish, and East Bothnian) adding zest to it. Sjogren cites in the book the temperature and other climatic conditions reported by the clergymen in the 18th and 19th centuries, along with crop failures, illnesses and animal dearth.

The book, *Notes About the Congregations in Kemi Lappmark*, is now intensively indexed by personal names, geographic sites and cited publications. But I never knew what to do with the material about climatic conditions. It has been 20 years since I typed it and had copies made xerographically. In the past year I have entered it all on computer and expect to have more copies made which will be a little more attractive than those made from my typed originals.

Indiana University's School of Folklore and Linguistics was interested in publishing it, but due to its arcane nature had difficulty in finding an expert on cultures of the sub-Arctic to assist in phrasing some portions in their preferred style. They were amused by my interest in cultural anthropology when my career before retirement has been spent as a professional engineer in the energy matters.

Robert Gustafson '48
Irondequoit, New York

THE TEMPLES OF POSEIDONIA

E.A. WALLIS BUDGE (*The Dwellers on the Nile*, Dover 1977, p. 193) reports that the 36 Dekans of the zodiac were known to both the Greeks and the Egyptians of the New Kingdom XVIIIth Dynasty, and were tabulated in a practical manner at a somewhat later date.

The atlas of Ptolemy gives the correct longitude of Taprobana, easily recognized on a modern map, from the Candy Islands. So the Greeks used the Kedams for navigation.

Thus, the 36 columns of the Doric second Temple of Poseidon at Poseidonia testify that the Dorian Greeks of Poseidonia had circumnavigated the Earth, within one century.

Robert M. Lauer
Boulder, Colorado

OPPOSES 'SPEECH CODE'

I AM very pleased to see the MSA oppose the University's speech code. I never had a lot of use for the MSA while a student (does the Spartacus Youth League still run a slate of candidates? [No—Ed.]

The present-day representatives recognize the code for what it is—a serious infringement on free speech of all students no matter what the opinion. I have discontinued making any contributions to the University or the Law School until the code is repealed. I am not a political conservative and would love to see racism, sexual harassment and homophobia vanished from a campus and University I dearly love. Regulating speech and thought is not the way. I encourage the MSA to continue its opposition.

Jeri Rouse Looney
Manhattan Beach, California

RESERVATION SCHOOL

PLEASE SEND me the address of Linda Austgen '86, at the Rocky Ridge school in Arizona. I am a retired college professor of biology-botany who may be of assistance to Ms. Austgen in the way of certain supplies and equipment for gifted students at her school.

Sidney V. De Boer
Battle Creek, Michigan

Other readers also asked how they might help the Indian reservation school where alumna Austgen teaches. The school's address is: Rocky Ridge Boarding School, Box 299, Kykotsmovi AR 86039.

DESMOND HOWARD

I THINK it's wonderful that you have a picture of Desmond Howard on the outside cover of Michigan Today. It's been fifty years since Tom Harmon accomplished the same thing. But where's the article on Mr. Howard? How come his singular achievement does not justify an article?

You need to tell all your readers why "About our Cover" is on page 5 - not page 2. You could tell us why the short blurb on Mr. Howard is mixed in with an article on Alex Haley and one on Martin Luther King Day. What is the connection? I can only see one and if it's what I think it is, you are not as subtle as you think you are.

Darryl G. Gorman '70
Washington, D.C.

Michigan Today shares a sizeable common readership with some other University publications. We try not to feature the same events or persons at the same time. An excellent cover story on Desmond Howard was under way at the Michigan Alumnus. You and other interested readers may order that issue from the Alumni Association at 200 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor MI 48109. Several other national media also covered Howard extensively at that time.

Connecting Howard, Alex Haley and Martin Luther King Day required no subtlety: Howard and Haley appeared together on King Day. They spoke about personal, familial and academic practices that they felt would benefit young African Americans in their struggle to overcome racism and the effects of racism. Their comments were worth reporting to a wider audience—Ed.

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WHEN YOU referred to the 1991 Heisman Trophy winner, Desmond Howard, you said he "duplicated the feat of the late Michigan legend Tom Harmon '40." Unless our Class of 1941 records are in error, Tom Harmon was Class of 1941, not 1940. (Right you are—Ed.)

G. Robert Fox '41
Deland, Florida

SOVIET DISUNION

UNLIKE SOME some other readers, I was not amazed by Professor Hopf's article about the Soviet breakup in the October '90 issue. It reminded me of an event at U-M in 1959, when I was a graduate student. The U-M president (forgot his name) had just returned from a trip to the USSR, where he witnessed the annual October parade on the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. At the U-M convocation, he described how deeply he was touched by the enthusiasm of the Soviet people and the grandeur of the celebration, with all the marching workers and children.

As luck would have it, in 1939 my father and I had been among the marchers, and I remembered my father quietly cursing. And I thought of the U-M President: What a jerk. Very few professors in U-M history and humanities departments had ever bothered to seek the truth about Soviet horrors, to acknowledge that they existed or to show compassion for millions upon millions of victims of the prison of nations. By any reasonable standards, America's academia is a moral sewer. The entrenched views of its Sovietologists and experts are not surprising. Since when are the experts expected to be right? A herd of rhinos has more motivation for individual

inquiry and questioning of accepted dogmas than the ivory tower scribes.
Boris Danik '62 PhD
North Caldwell, New Jersey

SAFER SEX

I was pleased to read in the February issue the great article that told of students educating peers on safer sex practices. As one who has been in the ministry for over 38 years, I am proud to have graduated from a University which deals with the issues of today's world in such a creative and realistic way. Keep up the Good work

H. Arthur Doersam '50
Binghamton New York

'VERBAL DESECRATION'

I REMEMBER having a witty, sophisticated and endearing English Literature professor who, in the course of reviewing the writing of Cardinal John Henry Newman, offered this quote: "It is almost a definition of a gentleman to say he is one who never inflicts pain."

Prof. Thomas Tentler [See "Thinking Seriously About Comedy," Feb. '92 issue—Ed.] falls far short of Newman's test of a gentleman. It would appear he is so removed from goodwill, so lacking in sensitivity, with insight and judgment so impaired, he does not realize his unkindness and cruelty. Or perhaps he does, and in it he deliberately ridicules the Catholic Church and encourages his captive student audience to do so, all under the guise of "humor."

Is Tentler part of the counterculture in America intent on tearing down the morals and traditional values of our country? A kind and gentle educator would no more think to laugh at or ridicule the beliefs of those of the Jewish, Protestant, or any other faith knowing how important their tenets are to them. Tentler's course "Comedy in Catholic Contexts" is offensive and is a verbal desecration. It should not be part of the curriculum of a great institution.

Moira MacDonald Prekel
Birmingham, Michigan

Explicitly, or by inference, Moira MacDonald Prekel judges me to be ill-willed, insensitive, unkind and cruel—lacking not only in insight and judgment but also in wit, sophistication and qualities that students find endearing. She asserts that my students are captives forced to listen to "offensive . . . verbal desecration." She speculates that I belong to "the" counterculture and am an enemy of American morals and traditional values.

Not the least offensive aspect of Ms. Prekel's assault is its association of John Henry Cardinal Newman with her own anti-intellectualism. To encourage the popular stereotype of Catholics as authoritarians and censors is a singular disservice to those who believe that religiously informed ideas have a legitimate place in political debate. Furthermore, anyone who has read the exchange with Charles Kingsley that issued in Newman's *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* will realize that whatever he meant by "never inflicts pain," he did not mean to deny writers and teachers the pleasures of irony, parody, sarcasm or caricature—as poor suffering Kingsley found out. It would be tragic if an unsuspecting reader of Ms. Prekel assumed that because he was a cardinal, Newman was a prig and a bore.

But there is a much more serious matter here. We have in this letter an unexpected manifestation of a social disease now spreading in American colleges and universities: the virulent idea that legislators or college administrators or deans or some other version of sound authority should control speech and censor professors and their courses. In my particular case, Ms. Prekel: if you think that giving them the power to tell me what to teach will result in courses that you would like, I pity you.

In the general case, let me preach to all readers of this letter. Academic freedom has always permitted (barring libel, slander and criminal speech) the saying of nasty things and the teaching of repugnant and stupid ideas. Some of them are so bad that one is tempted to forbid their utterance. Resist the temptation. Intellectual repression will only get you something nastier, stupider and more repugnant—Thomas Tentler, Professor of History.

'GAS' DETECTION

I WOULD like to purchase a copy of *It's a Gas* by Profs. Rabkin and Silverman, which you wrote about in your excellent February 1992 issue. Xenos Books of Riverside, Cal., told me the authors should be contacted directly.

John Zimmerman
San Diego

You and other readers who have had trouble obtaining *It's a Gas: A Study of Flatulence* from the publisher may order it from Dr. Eugene Silverman, 3644 Creekside Dr., Ann Arbor MI 48105. The list price is \$9.95—Ed.

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Softball team wins first Big 10 championship

The Michigan softball team won its first Big Ten crown this season, taking an astonishing perfect 16-0 record in away games in posting a 22-6 conference mark.

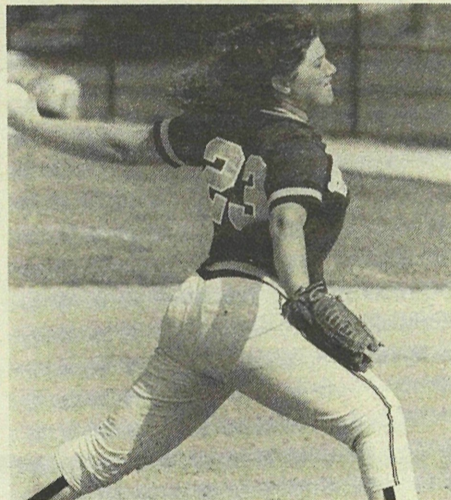
Although the Wolverines lost to the defending national champion Arizona

Wildcats in the first round of the NCAA tournament in Tucson, their 37-22 regular season was an unqualified success.

The team was led on offense by All-American junior outfielder Patti Benedict of Wyoming, Michigan, who scorched Big Ten opponents with a .424 batting average. On defense, freshman pitcher Kelly Kovach of Pittsburgh went 19-7 in the regular season, giving up a miserly 1.25 earned runs a game.

Benedict took the Big Ten Player of the Year award, Kovach was the conference Freshman of the Year and Pitcher of the Year, and both were named to the All-Big Ten first team. Skipper Carol Hutchins won the Coach of the Year award, giving the Wolverines a sweep of the four major conference awards.

Sophomore shortstop Mary Campana of East Detroit, and identical twin juniors Kari and Karla Kunnen of Jenison, Michigan, the team's center fielder and catcher, respectively, were named to the all-conference second team.

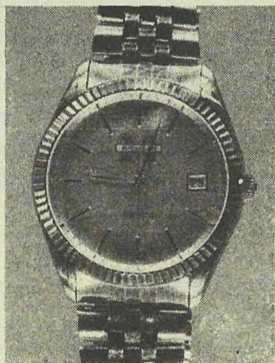


Freshman Kovach, Big 10 Pitcher of the Year



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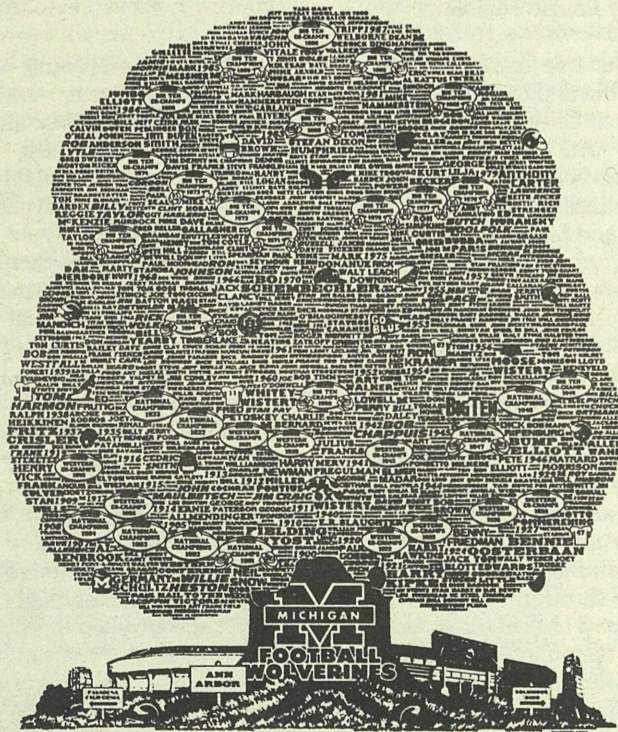
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CSAS CONCEPTS

Champs of the West Have Often Been Women

By Jane Myers

In January 1870 the University of Michigan Regents passed a measure stating that "no rule exists . . . for the exclusion of any person from the University who possesses the requisite literary and moral qualifications." By "person" they meant women.

It was a quietly dramatic step that immediately made Michigan a pioneer in American co-education.

Two buildings on Michigan's campus are named after important figures in the move to co-education: Henry S. Frieze, the Latin professor who was acting president at the time and who lobbied in favor of admitting women, and Madelon L. Stockwell, who was the first woman to enroll.

The faith in women's intellect demonstrated by the University in 1870 has resulted not only in the achievements of its alumnae, but also in their direct support through volunteer activities and gifts.

One of the first and most important major gifts to the University was from Elizabeth Bates, a physician from Port Chester, New York, who died in 1898. Bates did not attend Michigan, but left the bulk of her estate to U-M so that women might enjoy "the same advantages as male students in the Medical Department."

In accepting her gift (which included the first endowment for an active professorship at Michigan), President James B. Angell noted that "so far as we can learn, she was moved to remember us in this generous manner by the fact that this University was one of the first to offer medical education to women."



Towlesy and Schembechler



du Boisrouvray

A year later, in 1899, Catherine Neafie Kellogg of Detroit wrote to President Angell that she wished to endow a chair to be filled by a woman of "acknowledged ability" who could study women's "characteristics and endowments" as a route to determining how women might help build a better world.

Fifty years later, Kellogg's endowment was large enough to endow the chair now held by the social psychologist Elizabeth Douvan.

It was Michigan women's determination in the 1920s to have a meeting place as good as the men's Michigan Union (which offered only limited access to women) that led to one of the more publicized fund-raising efforts at the University—the \$1-million drive to build the Michigan League.

Most of the funds were collected dollar by dollar, via small individual pledges and fund-raising events that included bridge games, bake sales,

Christmas bazaars, plays, musicals, teas and dances. Two of the largest gifts were by men to honor women: \$50,000 from Gordon Mendelssohn of Detroit for a theater to honor his mother, Lydia; and \$100,000 from Robert Lamont of Illinois, to honor Ethel Fountain Hussey, who became president of the Michigan Women's League at its founding in 1890.

Most memoirs of participants in the drive for the Michigan League say Mary Henderson was the most indefatigable, imaginative and successful fund-raiser. When she read a newspaper report of "an Indian chief who had just struck oil," she promptly journeyed to Oklahoma to solicit a gift from him. And got one. The League opened to women students 1929.

Today, women's earning power and control of substantial assets have increased. They are playing a larger role in philanthropy than ever before, supporting through their gifts the values and institutions they hold dear,

just as men have done for so long.

But as Anne Mathews wrote in an article on alumnae donors in the *New York Times Magazine* (4/7/91), "The reasons why women give, or refuse to give, or give sporadically, or donate to one institution attended but not another, are proving far more complex than previously believed—and far different from the giving decisions of their male counterparts."

Many women want to use their money to bring about change, whether through funding scholarships or programs. But women also give for traditional reasons, such as to commemorate a loved one by supporting the field of study to which he or she was devoted.

Ann Arbor's Margaret Dow Towsley, one of the University of Michigan's most important and loyal donors, has chosen to use her gifts to promote women's education, children's welfare, music, and medicine. Among her larger single gifts has been a \$1 million donation for the Margaret Dow Towsley Scholars at the Center for the Education of Women. Also, a performance wing at the School of Music is named in her honor. Mrs. Towsley is atypical of most female donors, however, in her love of athletics. She is a major donor to the Glenn E. Schembechler Hall, U-M's new sports services facility. Other campus programs and facilities founded upon her generosity include the Willard Dow Library, Herbert H. Dow Chemical Engineering Building, Towsley Center for Continuing Medical Education, Gerald Ford Library, Interdisciplinary Program for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Kellogg Eye Center, and Business School Building Program.

In 1989 the Countess Albina du Boisrouvray of Geneva, Switzerland, gave one of the largest single gifts to U-M to honor her son and only child. She pledged \$5 million for an aerospace engineering building (currently under construction) and additional funds to support a series of fellowships to commemorate Francois-Xavier Bagnoud. Bagnoud graduated from the College of Engineering in 1982 with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He died at 24 in a 1986 helicopter crash during a rescue mission in Mali while working for his father's air-rescue company.

The countess, whose grandfather founded a tin mining company in Bolivia, is a former journalist (she scooped Che Guevara's 1967 death in Bolivia), and film producer. She now heads a Swiss hotel chain and devotes her efforts to aiding the welfare of children around the world via the Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud, the foundation through which she made her gift to Michigan.

As the University prepares to launch the largest fund-raising effort yet undertaken by a public institution of higher learning in America, women's leadership will again be key. Four members of the Campaign Steering Committee are women: Janet Gatherer Boyles ('58 BSN), partner in Boyles, Curtin and Associates, an organizational consulting firm in Grand Rapids; Margaret A. (Ranny) Riecker, president of the Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation; Nellie Varner ('59 MA, '68 PhD), U-M regent and president of Primco Foods Inc.; and Kathryn Wriston ('63 JD), a New York attorney. They join the many alumnae and female friends of Michigan who continue to reciprocate for the support the institution has showed for women's education for more than 120 years.

Alumna is only woman in Mideast peace talks

By Laurie Fenlason

For the past five years, while a member of the department of architecture at Birzeit University in the West Bank, Suad Amiry ('79 MA urban planning) has coordinated regular informal political dialogues between Palestinian and Israeli women. Through lectures, common projects and demonstrations, the women are attempting, in Amiry's words, to "break the stereotypes and fears that Israelis have about Palestinians."

"There has been a long, long history of hostility between the two peoples," Amiry said in an interview during a recess in the talks. "Many times the insecurities and the threat the Israelis feel [about Palestinians] is beyond fact." The familiarity Amiry developed with Israelis through the women's meetings was a critical factor in her selection as the only woman among dozens of Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese and Israeli delegates who gathered at the negotiating table this spring for the Washington round of the Mideast peace talks.

An authority on traditional Palestinian architecture, Amiry provided expertise on urban planning and land regulation issues. She was one of nine negotiators in the 25-member Palestinian delegation.

"Negotiation is quite an intense experience," she said. "It's very important, when you go and meet your 'enemy,' as it were, not to have all the psychological barriers that you usually have, to see them as human beings and make sure they see you at that level, too."

"One thing I learned from these dialogues [with Israeli women] is that you don't just have to be reasonable. It's not reality that dictates things, it's what people feel. If people feel it, you have to deal with it."

Born in Jordan, Amiry attended high school in Amman and graduated from the American University in Beirut. In 1977, she enrolled in the College of Architecture's program in urban planning. She taught at the University of Jordan and later joined Birzeit U. She and her husband, Salim Tamiri, returned to U-M in 1987-88, when he taught at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

In Amiry's view, the Palestinian popular uprising known as the *intifadah* has been a key element in increasing worldwide recognition of the Palestinian position.



Amiry

Photo by Geneva Britton

"For so long, Israelis had been saying, 'There is no Palestine, there are no Palestinians, these people don't exist,'" she said. "Without the *intifadah*, I don't think we would be at this negotiating table. Despite the violence, the world has recognized that this is a popular movement. A whole nation is saying you can't occupy us anymore. The uprising had a political message, and this message is being negotiated on the table right now."

Although she foresaw little chance of concrete agreements emerging from the talks, Amiry characterized the Washington negotiations as "feeling the other side's position" and as an opportunity to convey to Israelis and the world "the difficulty under which we are living."

Generations of Straight Shooters In Michigan Basketball Tradition

By John Woodford

Basketball was big news on campus this spring—and not just because the Wolverine men's team won a surprising second place in the '92 NCAA tournament despite starting five freshmen.

While the young Wolverines were attracting fan and media attention with their season's strong finish, several other Michigan hoopsters made news.

Cazzie L. Russell Jr. of the Class of 1966 returned this May to the scene of his many triumphs. Russell is unanimously recognized as Michigan's all-time greatest basketball player and one of the Wolverine's most popular campus figures on or off the court.

A renowned high school star at Chicago's Carver High, Russell came to Michigan in 1962. He won the team's Most Valuable Player Award in each of his three varsity years, was a two-time MVP in the Big Ten, a three-time All-American, and the national Collegiate Player-of-the-Year in 1966.

Russell, however, left school with just a bit of work left to earn his B.A. Nonetheless, he is credited with building interest in Michigan basketball to the high pitch that required construction of Crisler Arena (dubbed "The House that Cazzie Built"). This spring he returned to Michigan to complete requirements for his degree.

Like many other students who had only some brushing up to do before qualifying for graduation, Russell participated in graduation ceremonies. Indeed, the Division of Kinesiology, where he is fulfilling his requirement, made him Commencement speaker.

Russell was a stellar performer in the National Basketball Association for 12 years, playing on one championship team (the 1970 New York Knicks) and

appearing in an All-Star game. He has coached in Atlanta; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Laramie, Wyoming and Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is currently coach of the Saginaw Great Lakers of the Global Basketball Association.

Russell told Michigan Today that he was grateful that Dee Edington and Harry McLaughlin of the Division of Kinesiology "kept on me, and George Hoey of the athletic department and Regent Paul Brown, too. All seemed genuinely concerned, and that was gratifying."

An active ordained minister, Russell warmed to his subject: "I asked myself, Why are they concerned? But that's what sets this great institution apart from all others. The University cares—and I want that word to get out to other athletes who are so close to getting their degree. All of the great men care."

"I call them great because the men who were here when I arrived on campus in '62—[Athletic Director] Don Canham, Coach Dave Strack, Newt Loken, Red [Kenneth] Simmons and all the rest—all showed up at the Commencement dinner. But they were always there for me from my freshman year on. They told me then that they were happy I had chosen to come to the University of Michigan because it was steeped in history and tradition that I would come to appreciate. And they were right. To have them appear 30 years later at the graduation dinner was very, very gratifying."

"That means something to me, if people show they care about you as a person, not as an athlete. I always looked up to Don Canham. When he got a nice cashmere overcoat, I said I wanted one just like it. And got one. Then he got some nice brown and white shoes. I got a pair, too. But when he got a Lincoln Mark III, I told him, 'I'll have to wait till I get out of the University to keep up with you there.'"

"My getting the degree is something I sincerely hope will let people know that it is never too late. On the other hand, time waits for no one. Procrastination is the thief of time. Everything changes. I'm going to go back to Ann Arbor and ask for a tour not just of the Department of Kinesiology but the whole University. I didn't recognize half of it! The North Campus is really tremendous! I couldn't believe it."

"To get my degree I need to finish my paper on sports management, to describe how I have had to develop and handle young players. That's the psychological part of my job. But I've

spent 13 years playing and 10 coaching; 23 years might give me a little insight into this."

Russell prides himself on "motivating and challenging my players to go to the next level inside or outside the game."

"There is a spiritual side of motivating and being motivated because it involves dealing with people. Experts in kinesiology or science can back me up on this: Behind everything that moves there is a force that causes it to move. And the force behind Cazzie Russell is God. We must use the best of what God has given us. God must be the nucleus, or we won't enjoy long-term peace and prosperity."

"It's just as it was written on our coins from early on: In God we trust. I was raised that way. My mother always emphasized that: 'Keep your hat size consistent—don't get the big head.' When I went off to college, my dad said, 'Keep your priorities in proper perspective. Don't cut classes. Do your work.'"

Meanwhile, other Michigan alumni were adding to their long lists of athletic achievements. Alfred Storey '49, Frank Whitehouse, '49, '53 Med., and William Fishbeck '57 Med., were key members of the Michigan Pace Setters, champions of the 65-and-over division of the National Seniors Olympics in Syracuse, New York, last year.

"Al and I also won an intramural championship on the East Quad team in '47," says Whitehouse, who also punted for the varsity 150-pound football team in his final two years. Whitehouse, who is on the Medical School faculty in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, is one of the few tennis players to win the Ann Arbor singles, doubles and mixed doubles crowns in the same year.

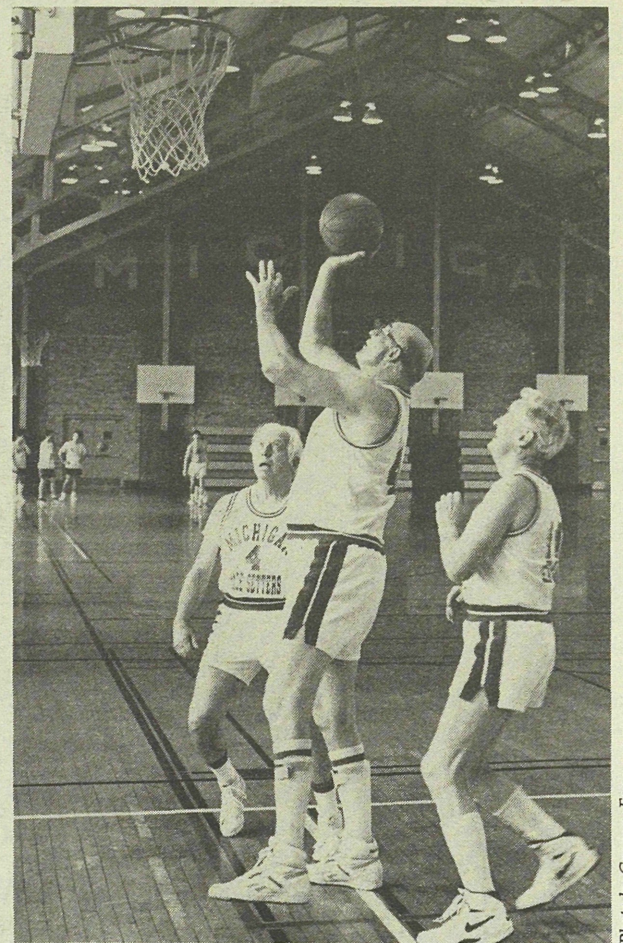
The tallest Pace Setter, Robert Hahn, a retired Ann Arbor businessman, starred at North Carolina State University. After touring in Europe with the Washington Generals (the straight men for the Harlem Globetrotters), he played for the Chicago Stags, forerunners of the Bulls. "Bob's still six-ten, and still famous for his left-handed hook shot,"

says Storey, director emeritus of the U-M Extension Service and a six-time national paddleball champion.

Fishbeck says there was "probably a 15-year period during my private practice when I never played basketball. But after I joined Dow Chemical, I picked up my physical activity and kept in good shape. When I retired, I took up bicycle racing, and represented Michigan in the National Senior Olympics in that sport."

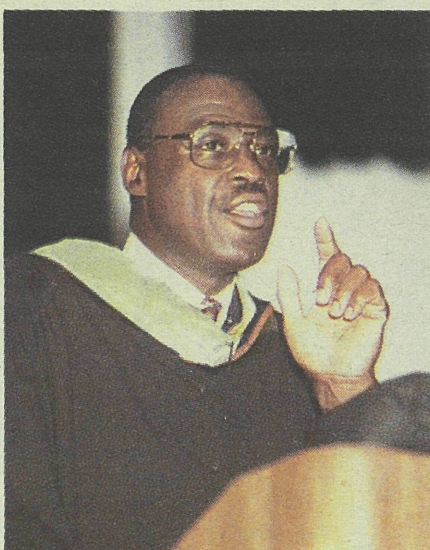
But Fishbeck had a yen to play basketball and set out to form a senior team. "I called 200 people before I could pull together six men 65 and up in good enough shape who had basketball experience," he says. "Most of the former professionals were crippled—their knees were gone, their hips were gone."

Rounding out the Pace Setters are Detroit Piston General Manager Jack McCloskey, a former NBA coach and player who led the Ivy League in scoring at the University of Pennsylvania; and Sam Fortino, a retired dentist and former Michigan State star of the 1940s.



Practicing in the Intramural Sports Building are Michigan Pace Setters (l-r) Whitehouse, Hahn and Storey. Storey and Whitehouse won an intramural crown on this court 45 years ago. The Pace Setters, reigning champions of the National Senior Olympics, are training for the Michigan Senior Olympics in Holland, Michigan, in June. They will represent Michigan in the 1993 U.S. National Senior Sports Classic in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Photo by Gregory Fox



Russell delivers Commencement speech.

Photo by Gregory Fox

Buy a Solar Cell For the Maize & Blue

The U-M Solar Car Team needs help to power the Maize & Blue to victory in 1993.

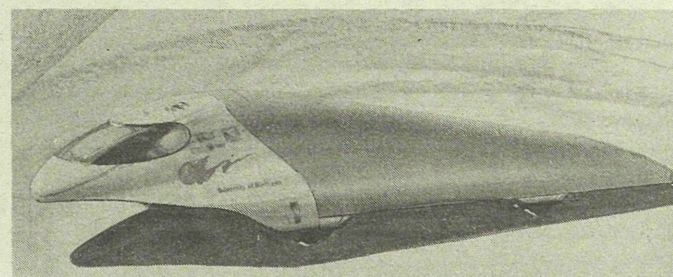
A hundred students have been working for a year to design and build the Maize & Blue, a world-class solar-powered car they hope will repeat 1990's victory in the GM-sponsored Sunrayce from Florida to Michigan.

"We're using what our predecessors learned from building the Sunrunner to design a car that is even better and faster," said Furqan Nazeeri, a senior in aerospace engineering and solar car team project manager. "We hope to

raise \$1,000,000 from corporate and individual sponsors to buy the best solar cell technology in the world."

The team is asking U-M alumni for tax-deductible contributions of \$100—the cost of one solar cell. Sponsors' names will be recorded on a computer disk aboard Maize & Blue in the June 1993 Sunrayce from Dallas to Minneapolis and the November 1993 race across Australia.

If you'd like to buy a cell for the Maize & Blue, fill out this form and send it, with a check for \$100 made out to the University of Michigan Solar Car Team, to:



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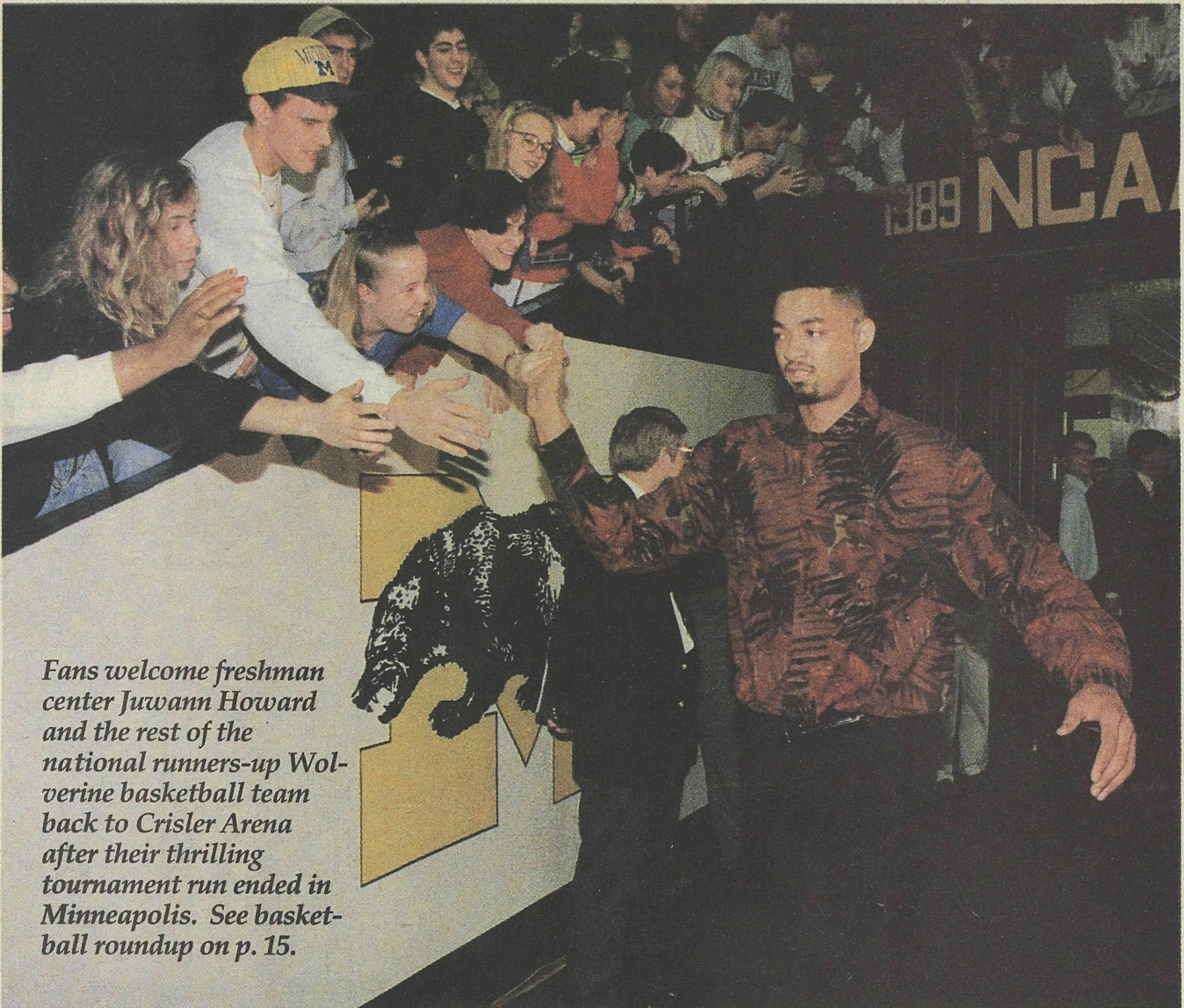
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Michigan Today



Fans welcome freshman center Juwann Howard and the rest of the national runners-up Wolverine basketball team back to Crisler Arena after their thrilling tournament run ended in Minneapolis. See basketball roundup on p. 15.

U-M Regents: Deane Baker, Ann Arbor; Paul W. Brown, Petoskey; Shirley M. McFee, Battle Creek; Neal D. Nielsen, Brighton; Philip H. Power, Ann Arbor; Veronica Latta Smith, Grosse Ile; Nellie M. Varner, Detroit; James L. Waters, Muskegon; James J. Duderstadt, President, *Ex-officio*.

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