

Michigan Today

A photograph of a man with a beard and a red cap, wearing a blue shirt, fishing in a stream. He is holding a fishing rod and looking towards the water. The background shows a rocky stream bed and some greenery.

Fishing With Artistic License

Larry Stark '65

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THEY ARE GOVERNED BY THE LIMITS OF THEIR ENDURANCE — THEIR COURAGE KNOWS NO DEPTHS

Women Divers of Japan

By Bethany Leigh Grenald



An ama, 30 feet deep, upside down, prying up an abalone.

ONE BREATH

Before you start reading the next paragraph, take a deep breath... and hold it:

Now: imagine yourself 30 feet below the surface of the Pacific Ocean, so deep in the murky water that the noon sun is just a dull gleam like a flashlight. Powerful

waves undiminished by any breakwater roll above you, and cause strong surges beneath the surface that yank you forward and backwards with each sweep. Now imagine that you're hunting for abalone and other ever-scarcer shellfish. You have descended willingly, but now that you're down there, you've got to find something to bring back before you will permit yourself to breathe again. Unfortunately, the only place you're going to find any abalone these days is in deep crevices between rocks, and so to the claustrophobia of being underwater is added the claustrophobia of being sandwiched between rocks in a space scarcely wider than you are—and you're upside down. If you're lucky enough to find your target, a \$40-a-pound abalone, then it's time to get the tools out and start wrestling. Abalone resemble suction cups about five inches in diameter, and while their top part is protected by a thick mother-of-pearl shell, they are grabbing onto rocks with their underside with enough strength that you can't pry them off with your bare hands, hence the necessity of a tool that looks like a combination spatula-crowbar-knife. You have to slip it between the abalone and the rock, and then use it like a lever to pry the abalone loose. Still, the abalone might be too strong, and it's likely that a life-and-death struggle will ensue. The abalone is literally fighting for its life, and you feel like you are, having gotten so caught up in the struggle that you feel that you must remain struggling until you've secured your prey, or else you've made your 60-foot, 80-second roundtrip for nothing, because if you ease up for a moment, the abalone will slither deeper between the rocks out of your reach.

OK, you can breathe again now.

THE AMA OF SHIRAHAMA

What I've just described is a typical dive for many of Japan's women divers, called ama in Japanese. I have spent the last year-and-a-half living in the diving community of Shirahama, about 100 miles south of Tokyo, studying and diving with ama. People have dived for seafood off the Japanese islands for thousands of years, but it isn't widely known that the practice of professionally diving without air tanks still exists today in high-tech Japan. More surprising still is that in many ways diving practices are unchanged from those of 1,500 years ago.

Their reasons for diving are little changed. Divers search for seaweed, various shellfish, lobster, sea urchins, octopus and, in certain waters, pearls, which occasionally were a nice bonus inside the oysters the ama caught for food.

The main modifications in diving equipment have occurred in the last 100 years with the use of masks, then, perhaps 40 years ago (depending on location), fins. With the introduction of fins, divers gained the swimming power to support more drag in the water, so they could also withstand the additional weight of clothing to pro-

vide warmth. Also, for a brief time in the late 19th century, the ama in the Shirahama area dived with compressed-air helmets. The practice was soon outlawed once it was realized that it would lead to quick depletion of local oceanic resources. Some residents of Shirahama and nearby towns then moved to California, where helmet diving was not forbidden, and set up a thriving abalone diving business. The Oscar-nominated actor Sessue Hayakawa (for *Bridge on the River Kwai*), born in the Shirahama area, originally immigrated to America to become a diver before finding success in Hollywood.

So by and large, only low-tech methods of diving have been used in Shirahama. The divers, proud of their strength and skills, have legislated that it is the limits of endurance of each individual, unassisted with any but the most rudimentary of equipment, that determine how long each person stays in the water, how successful each diver becomes. Accordingly, most areas of the town forbid divers to wear full wetsuits, permitting only very small, thin, torso-covering wetsuits. Thus now, as in the past, ama rely only on their own heart, lungs and willpower. And then, as now, women divers garnered the most attention.

In fact, that is what I went to Japan to study—women divers. (There are men divers, too, though they aren't as numerous or as well known as the ama, and in some areas of the country, only women dive.) I set out to examine the differences between men and women divers, any tensions that might exist between them, and the different ways they are regarded in the popular imagination.

MEET THE DIVERS

A large percentage of the women in Shirahama have dived at some point in their lives as a means of getting food and money for their family. But a few women persisted with it, making it their own skilled profession every year during the May to September diving season. The ama consider diving to be a rather undesirable job. I have yet to meet one who wished her daughter to become a diver. Yet every ama I have met has spoken with pride of her diving skills and of her own desire to be a diver. To call oneself an ama is almost to claim an honor for oneself, and many divers have told me, "I'm not a real ama," because they didn't feel that they were skilled enough to claim the title "ama."

Ama say that a love of the sea is necessary for all divers, otherwise the difficult, frequently frightening work is too unpleasant to endure. Every day I dived with them, I was awed at their courage and spirit, as women as much as 40 years



Photos by Bethany Grenald

older than I would gamely slog through nauseating waves, between great rocks, in conditions that my old dive instructors in Northern California might quail at the prospect of swimming in.

One friend of mine, age 73, suffered a heart attack, and her doctor told her to stop diving. But after six months' recuperation, she was back in the water. All of the younger divers were glad to see her because, as one said, "She's the best diver. Every year, I watch her and learn something from her." Another woman, 62, suffered a mini-stroke while diving. Despite weakness on one side of her body and a sudden dimming of her vision, she swam to shore. When the next year's diving season rolled around, she was back in the water.

The worst day of diving, bar none, is the first day of the season, May 1. The water is at its coldest, perhaps 57 degrees Fahrenheit, and murky. The sun is obscured by clouds, and there are strong spring winds making it feel colder and whipping up the ocean waves. Out of practice, the divers can retrieve only pathetically small amounts of shellfish for all their efforts. On such a day in 1997, I was able to see most clearly what keeps them diving under these conditions. After diving, we all returned to the dive hut on the beach, the amagoya, where cadres of three to eight divers eat, rest, rinse off (in unheated fresh water) and change clothing. Everyone was wearing the supremely disgruntled expression of a cat who has been forced to take a bath.

As we sat in silence, shivering and dripping, nauseous amidst the smell of seaweed gone bad, unable to truly dry off because it had started to rain, two divers slunk off together into an obscure corner, whispering conspiratorily. Moments later, they both jumped out, wearing outlandishly silly clothing that they'd bought in preparation for this day. All the other divers burst out laughing in surprise. The oppressive mood was broken, and everyone started moving around and chattering happily. Then, one of the culprits leaned over to me, and said, "You see, Bethanychan, if we laugh we can forget how damn cold it is!"

A SPACE OF THEIR OWN

Despite these harsh conditions, they love diving, so I have asked them from where their love springs. A partial answer seems to lie in the freedom that comes with diving. Virtually all ama also hold another job, usually caring for a small farm, in addition to running their homes. And for most of these women, being at home when young meant that their mothers-in-law and other members of their husbands' families would be watching over them (this is less true of the current generation). But ama always have a space of their own: the amagoya.

The ama meet at the amagoya each morning during the diving season. The hut is soon surrounded by a flurry of activity, with the ama mending gear, soliciting the latest gossip and laughing at bawdy jokes. Next, they begin eating, loading up on calories to support them for the day's work. Because of the harsh ocean conditions, divers can stay in the water for only a few hours at a time before becoming too cold, too sick or too tired to continue. Then, they make their way back to the rocky beach (almost always as a group), sell their catch, eat lunch, rest and talk with their friends as they spend the rest of the day gradually warming themselves up from their minor hypothermia.

Because diving requires great skill, non-divers have no

authority to critique the ama in their own sphere, unlike in the home. One ama told me that when she was first married, "After diving, we would always stay at the amagoya instead of going home, because after diving, you need to rest and warm up, or else you'll get sick. But if we went home, we would be made to work or to feel lazy for not working. But in the amagoya, we could do what we liked." Yet there is a great deal of competition between divers, a result of which is that divers do not instruct or advise other divers on their work, either. Consequently, ama are relatively autonomous in their actions.

Another plus for diving is that it is less laborious than farming because even though it is more intense work, it demands much less time. So even divers who also farm are able to spend less time farming than those who do not dive at all. Some divers have spoken to me of the freedom that diving gives them in other contexts as well. One diver with a young daughter to support told me that she was glad of her ability to dive because "it gave me the financial freedom to divorce my husband." Others have told me that when young, their ability to earn a living from diving allowed them to avoid becoming maids in Tokyo to help support their families.

Financially, diving was at one time quite lucrative, though profits have been decreasing for the past 20 years due to depletion of oceanic resources as well as the collapse of the Japanese economy. Divers are fairly secretive about their earnings, but they used to earn more than many salaried workers. Most ama have noticeably attractive, expensive houses, paid for from their diving profits. Currently, while good divers who dive all day from boats can earn perhaps \$500 a day in the 80 days or so that make up a diving season, the majority who dive from shore for only a few hours a day may earn only \$100 to \$200 a day.

The result of all of these aspects of being an ama is that ama are sometimes said to be different from other women—more aggressive, more earthy—though many ama would disagree with this. Ama frequently yell or speak in loud voices, are leaders in the community's women's groups and converse in bold, direct ways that are not commonly used by women in Japan—sort of the equivalent of saying "Yo!" instead of "Hello."

Ama Through the Ages



18th-century depiction of ama as working woman, mother and beauty, by Utamaro.



Divers in 1956 pose before going under.

Ama say that these speech patterns are true of all fishing people in Japan, because you need to yell and speak directly when working near the loud ocean. Of course, the damage ama do to their ears because of the changes in water pressure may contribute to their loud voices as well. Diving also causes ama to be muscular from the physical exertions and chubby as protection against the cold. Being in the open water for long periods of time causes them to get deep facial tans, too. All of these characteristics conflict with more idealized Japanese notions of feminine beauty and behavior, those of Japanese women as quiet, slender, shy, pale and self-effacing. It also conflicts with the geisha stereotypes of Japanese women held by many Westerners and encouraged in various films and novels. (Continued on page 4)

WHY WOMEN DIVE INSTEAD OF MEN

When I tell a person that I'm studying Japanese diving women, I'm usually asked, "Why do women dive instead of men?" While not strictly true since there are men divers in Japan, this question reveals that women divers are focused on. Implicit within this question is the belief that diving is men's work and inherently unfeminine as well as hinting at other perhaps unconscious assumptions about women and men. Attempts to answer the question reflect these assumptions.

Some say that divers were bred over generations to their skills, and so what they do would be impossible for other women to do. In fact, however, diving is not a job that is passed down from mother to daughter, but rather is adopted by choice. Others say that the ama are actually very masculine, implying that their skills at diving could not be associated with women, but rather are men's skills that they happen to have.

Still other explanations are: that in prehistoric times men were hunters while women gathered shellfish on the beach and gradually started diving as an outgrowth of their beachcombing; that men left to fight in some war of long ago, and women took over their jobs; that women dive because men fish in deep-sea fishing boats, allowing women to stay relatively near home in the presumably easier job of coastal diving. None of these "historical" explanations is supported by any evidence.

The explanation with the strongest empirical support is that women dive instead of men because women can deal with cold stress better. Various biological anthropologists have performed numerous studies on divers and found that women are able to conserve heat better in the severe cold stresses faced in the ocean.

DIVERS AS BATHING BEAUTIES?

Even though they don't conform to common notions of femininity, the ama have nevertheless become erotic symbols in Japan and, occasionally, in the West. In Ian Fleming's *You Only Live Twice* (later made into a movie), James Bond marries, impregnates then leaves an ama/Hollywood starlet/superspy who has revived him from a mid-life crisis via a masterful display of laughably stereotypical Asian-woman subservience, sensuality and exoticism. In the 1986 Japanese movie *Tampopo*, a nubile young ama sensuously wades out of the ocean and has a raw oyster eaten out of the palm of her hand by a man.

The most famous ama erotica are the woodblock prints from Japan, primarily from 200 to 300 years ago. The ama's popularity with artists in this medium was partly due to the fact that nudity in woodblock prints was technically forbidden by the shogunate government. Since ama dived topless, this stricture could be circumvented through appealing to realism in art. Until quite recently, however, many female agricultural workers also went topless upon occasion, yet they were not depicted in erotic art as were the ama. Possibly the choice of the ama as subject reflects the symbolic association of women, water and sex throughout Japanese history.

The image of the ama in both Japan and the West misrepresents their actual lives. Such dissonance might be merely amusing to some

or offensive to others were it not for the fact that many who view the divers in this way have the economic power to affect how these women live.

THE AMA AS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

When Kokichi Mikimoto invented a method of culturing pearls in about 1893, he opened a pearl-growing farm to attract tourist customers. Mikimoto then hired ama to pretend to dive for pearls at the farm even though no such labor-intensive method of oyster collection was necessary to harvest cultured pearls. When the tourists became shocked at the ama's open nakedness, Mikimoto made the divers wear a white outfit, later adopted by real divers and reputedly designed by him. The costume, as emphasized in modern tourist posters, is semi-transparent when wet. The effect of this costuming is to make the ama appear to adhere to conservative notions of feminine modesty, so that they are more like a feminine ideal, yet at the same time, the spectator is allowed to view the divers' nakedness, as if "stealing" a glance at something the women wish to conceal.

Over time, the practice of hiring ama to mimic their prior jobs as independent divers while simultaneously serving as clandestine sex objects became more elaborate. To entertain tourists, ama or other women in villages where ama live have begun to be hired as so-called "ama-geisha" in bars and hotels. Ama have expressed to me their dis-



James Bond spends some quality time with Kissy Suzuki, ama/superspy, in You Only Live Twice. Ama are not known to wear bikinis, and almost always have short hair, because long hair can be dangerous, get in the way or just take too long to dry.



In their semitransparent costumes, young and slim non-diving winners of the Ama Queen contest contrast with the real ama whom they are presumably honoring.

taste at this work and their relief when their diving skills enable them to earn enough at real diving to avoid doing it. Yet this process of downplaying the unfeminine aspects of diving and highlighting the "feminine" aspects continues, so now bars are hiring women who have never dived to act as ama-geisha while wearing the sexy, invented ama clothing, as described by anthropologist D.P. Martinez.

This contrast between what divers really are and their commercialized image shows up vividly during Shirahama's annual Ama Festival. During the festivities, women divers dress up in the semi-transparent white outfits that people think ama really dive in, but which are no longer used in Shirahama. Then, at night, to the strains of "The Ride of the Valkyries," the divers wade out into the ocean and swim around, carrying burning torches that glint off the glass of their masks and make their white outfits glow. It is an eerie, impressive display, yet completely unrelated to what the divers do for a living, and many ama find it silly. In contrast, on land, the city hall has organized an "Ama Queen Contest," a thinly veiled beauty contest for which participants dress in the invented ama outfits and high heels, and answer questions like "How old are you?" and "Do you want to marry someone in this town?" When asked to imitate ama behavior for the contest, many strike the phony poses that professional models assume on tourist posters or sculptors use in souvenir statues of ama. What the posters and statues have in common is that the ama is never working but always posing coquettishly.

LOOKING TO THE HORIZON

Powerful economic and social forces are pressuring ama to conform more closely to a certain ideal of femininity, one in which the women have become passive beauties who no longer threaten any socially defined ideals of femininity or masculinity. A profession that once conflicted with the image of Japanese women as geisha or as sex objects has become just that in the lives of many. Reality has been altered to adhere to a fantasy model of Japanese womanhood.

Alongside this fantasy model, ama still exist as women divers. But probably not for long. The money they can make has been dropping precipitously as the overfished and polluted ocean yields fewer and fewer shellfish; a faltering Japanese economy lowers prices for the delicacies the ama procure; and cheap imported abalone cuts into sales of local strains.

And then there is El Nino, which has ravaged the Pacific for the past two diving seasons. In 1997, divers could work only half as many days as usual, diminishing already shrinking profits. Divers tell me that now diving is yielding only extra spending money, so that they have to devote more time to farming for a steady income. But the divers greet these changes with the same unflappability with which they face diving into churning waves during a thunderstorm. They are all survivors, hard working and determined, and will confront whatever lies ahead with courage and strength.

MT

Bethany Leigh Grenald is a doctoral candidate in anthropology.

USA and RSA can learn from each other, Commencement '98 speaker says

For the first time since 1926, hundreds of graduates kicked off Commencement May 2 with a procession from Elbel Field to Michigan Stadium. There, they joined 6,000 other degree-recipients and tens of thousands of family members to hear speaker Mamphela A. Ramphele (pronounced Ram-FAY-lay), vice chancellor of the University of Cape Town and South Africa's only top female university administrator of African ancestry.

Ramphele, the widow of anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko, who was killed in custody by police, said that South African recent history shows that leadership is important.

"It's easy to forget that just six years ago our country was on the verge of civil war; the majority was unable to vote; racist ideology dominated government planning, our leadership was in prison, and a military junta seemed like a plausible scenario."

Disaster was averted, she said, because leaders "were capable of stepping outside the narrow confines of party politics and racist ideology, leaders who were prepared to take risks in reaching out across boundaries that were seen to be rigid."

But while South Africa showed that "individuals make a difference," Ramphele, who was banished to the hinterland for her anti-apartheid activities and lived under surveillance for seven years, said that she "would be remiss if I left you with the impression that apartheid is a dead thing of the past. For the amazing thing about apartheid was not that it was a failure, but that it was a phenomenal success. The previous government



'In the 21st century, intellectual capital is the currency by which nations will trade,' Ramphele declared.

Bob Kalmbach, U-M Photo Services

achieved the aims of denying black people opportunities for advancement, housing, medical care and above all education."

Ramphele said that "like a stain on the fabric of society; the residues of racism do not go away by themselves. With the immediacy and scope of our problems, we cannot idly stand by and simply watch the course of events, like spectators in a stadium. We need to accept responsibility to examine and renew that fabric."

Leaders at the University of Cape Town realize that "we need to pursue a policy of promoting both excellence and equity," she said. South Africa is uncompetitive today, she said, because "excellence was undermined by discriminatory policies, which prevented drawing

from the widest pool of talent available. How can we be competitive if we do not draw on the rich diversity of talent from all of our people?"

"Equally destructive are policies that purport to pursue equity at the expense of excellence," she added. "Equity without excellence leads to decline and the loss of talented people who leave for greener pastures."

The social challenges in the developing world "are also present here in the developed one," Ramphele said. "In South Africa, we may not have the best of all that technology has to offer, but nonetheless we have enough of a commitment and release of creative energy to deal with the challenges of human development."

The 1998 Commencement address is on the Web at <http://www.umich.edu/~newsinfo/Releases/1998/May98/ramp.html>

Honorary Degree Recipients

In addition to Commencement Speaker Mamphela A. Ramphele, who received an honorary doctor of laws, three other persons received honorary degrees May 2. They were:

- The novelist and short story writer Richard Ford, honorary doctor of humane letters. Ford won in 1996 both the PEN-Faulkner Award for Fiction and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel *Independence Day*. He was a faculty member in 1975-76 and the Avery Hopwood Memorial Lecturer in 1992. Ford was this year's main speaker at May 1 Graduate Exercises in Hill Auditorium.

- Chemist Mary Lowe Good, honorary doctor of engineering. After teaching in the Louisiana State University

system and serving as senior vice president for technology at AlliedSignal, Good became a managing member of Venture Capital Investors, LLC. An adviser to four US presidents, she was undersecretary of technology in the Department of Commerce and also a member and chair of the National Science Board.

- Scholar and activist-intellectual Edward W. Said, honorary doctor of humane letters. Professor Said, chair of the doctoral program in comparative literature at Columbia University, is among the world's most influential cultural critics. A Palestinian-American, he has written on literature, music, history and Middle Eastern politics. His works have been published in 26 languages.

YoHA

Year of the Humanities & Arts

Hillary Clinton closes Year of Humanities and Arts

"We must make room for the arts and humanities as essential ingredients to fuel the human imagination," Hillary Rodham Clinton told an overflowing Hill Auditorium audience of more than 4,000 members of the University and surrounding community on April 28.

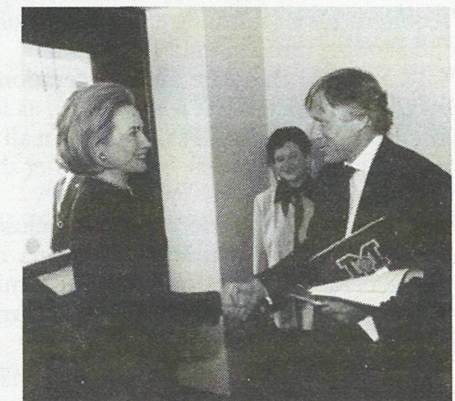
"There is very little space left for culture, culture that is essential to human imagination," Clinton maintained at celebrations closing the University's Year of Humanities and Arts (YoHA), launched last fall at President Lee C. Bollinger's inauguration.

"Rapid advances in technology and telecommunication make it possible to keep in touch with the entire world and have more information at hand," Clinton said, "but those advances also allow some of us to retreat into anonymity."

Clinton said that the nation must "make sure that the arts and humanities are available in every school and community. I find it disheartening when members of Congress, or local school boards, or state governments decree that public support for the arts and humanities is a luxury that we cannot afford. I believe that it is a necessity that we must afford."

Clinton said that it was "essential that we continue to celebrate the arts and humanities, and you are showing us, here at this university, how to do it."

She added that she hoped that through discussions and activities initiated by such efforts as YoHA and through the White House Millennium Program, the nation would once again "take arts and humanities to places where they're not normally seen" and especially "put art back in all schools."



President Lee Bollinger welcomes Hillary Clinton to campus. Looking on is Provost Nancy Cantor.

Paul Jaronski, U-M Photo Services

Washington Post publishes Bollinger-Cantor op-ed piece

University President Lee Bollinger and Provost Nancy Cantor published an op-ed essay, "The Educational Importance of Race," in the April 28 issue of the Washington Post.

Bollinger and Cantor stated that the nation's long history of enforced separation of Americans categorized as belonging to white and black races had resulted in members of both groups' tending to learn about each other "by relying on unfounded images and stereotypes."

"Demeaning and hurtful images proliferated in the media, in textbooks, in movies and on radio and television," they said. "There were no countervailing institutions to perform the function of education and understanding. By design, we did not know each other."

The 1954 Supreme Court ruling (*Brown v. Board of Education*) outlawing school segregation opened the society to changes that saw "African Americans at first and then other underrepresented minority students" increase their presence in higher education.

Nearly 14 percent of U-M students are African American, Hispanic and Native American today, Bollinger and Cantor noted, but the University is "the target of a lawsuit that seeks to prohibit us from ensuring a racially diverse student body by using race as one factor in admissions."

"The suit by the Center for Individual Rights (CIR)" they said, "is at the center of a great public debate over one of the most important issues of our time: how our governing constitutional principles permit us to use race" to overcome the effects of segregation.

"Virtually all institutions with selective admissions consider race when they choose among applicants who experience shows can thrive in and contribute to a more vital educational environment," the essay said.

Arguing that "a first-class education is one that creates the opportunity for students, expecting differences, to learn instead of similarities" and that "likewise, encountering differences rather than one's mirror image, is an essential part of a good education," the president and provost noted that "our public universities have always cast a wide net in admitting students."

In its publicity campaign, they said, the CIR has offered up "grids that have been used in our undergraduate admissions process. These grids assign different weights to a variety of factors—academic grade-point average, test scores, alumni relationship, race, residency and so on—that help us make an admissions decision. Different outcomes will follow, depending on any variety of factors. CIR's real argument is not with our use of these grids. There are no grids in the law school process, yet CIR challenges our use of race there, too. Rather, to CIR the fact that race is one of these factors at all is what makes the process unacceptable."

Bollinger and Cantor said that "implicit in its [CIR's] claim is a presumption that we admit some students who are not qualified. Let us be clear: All students admitted to the University of Michigan meet threshold requirements establishing that they are fully qualified to do the work of a demanding undergraduate program."

"CIR seeks to eliminate all consideration of race in college admissions," the essay said. "If it is successful, as it was in an earlier lawsuit against the University of Texas, we will in all probability soon return to a largely segregated system—*de facto* rather than *de jure*, to be sure, but segregated nonetheless."

Bollinger and Cantor declared in conclusion that "the country cannot afford to deprive institutions of higher education of the ability to educate generations of young Americans—minority and nonminority—in an environment that enables all to flourish, and understand each other, in a truly integrated society."

The entire op ed is on the Web at: <http://www.umich.edu/~newsinfo/Admission/washpost.html>

President Hatcher dies at 99



U-M President Emeritus Harlan H. Hatcher died Feb. 25 at the age of 99. Tremendous expansion of the U-M marked Hatcher's 16-year term in office, from a 1951 enrollment of 17,000 to 37,000 in 1967. The budget increased from \$44.5 million to more

than \$186 million in the same period. Shortly after he took office the University purchased land for the North Campus site and began development there. Regional campuses were established in Flint and Dearborn.

Among the numerous buildings completed on the Ann Arbor campus during Hatcher's years in office were the School of Music's Moore Building, the Institute for Social Research and the Undergraduate Library, which Hatcher identified as one of the major accomplishments of his tenure. The Graduate Library was named in his honor in December 1968.

"President Hatcher had a noble bearing, a noble mind and a level of human courtesy unknown in our time," said U-M President Lee C. Bollinger. "He presided over the University during one of its more formative stages. His name will always be mentioned in the same breath as Michigan."

President Hatcher "laid the groundwork for a new era," noted President Emeritus Robben W. Fleming, and for a university that became "not only bigger, but more comprehensive in the way it serves both undergraduate and graduate students. The University and the state of Michigan owe Harlan Hatcher an immense debt of gratitude for the wisdom and grace that marked his presidency."

Before being named the University's eighth president in 1951, Hatcher was vice president at the Ohio State University (OSU). He also had been a professor of English at OSU and dean of its college of arts and sciences. His scholarly research focused on American literature and history, particularly of the Midwest, and he wrote several books on the Great Lakes region.

Hatcher married Anne Gregory Vance in 1942. In addition to his wife, he is survived by son Robert, director of the U-M Psychological Clinic and the U-M Institute for Human Adjustment; daughter Anne Berenberg; and four grandchildren.

The family asked that memorial contributions be sent to the University Library in Support of the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, c/o University Library Development Office, Room 8076, Hatcher South, U-M, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1205.

A Monument to the Stability of America

Among the many achievements of the late President Harlan H. Hatcher's was his leading role in the Federal Writers' Project during the Great Depression. Michigan Today asked Petra Schindler Carter, who wrote her doctoral dissertation on the project, to write about Hatcher's contributions. Her article follows.

When Harlan Hatcher assumed the directorship of the Ohio branch of the Federal Writers' Project in 1937, he encountered daunting obstacles to publishing success: an ill-prepared team of writers ravaged by financial hardships and personal despair; the stabs of a local press fiercely opposed to the New Deal; and the contourless mass of a subject matter, the Midwest, which demanded much temperament-searching.

Nevertheless, Hatcher promised to fellow historians in 1938 that "when this series is finished, Ohio will have a more complete picture of itself and its history than it has ever had before."

The fact that the Ohio Writers' Project under his reign became one of the most productive in the nation is a testament to Hatcher's strength of leadership. The 634-page *Ohio Guide*, published in October 1940 by Oxford University Press, became the crowning achievement of his four-year stint as state director and remains today a privileged glimpse of the Midwest at a moment of radical change, a document of inestimable worth to historians and students of American culture.

The Depression of the 1930s had fostered a climate of governmental support for a nation of which one third lived in dismal poverty. Of the numerous New Deal relief agencies, the Works Progress Administration's Federal Writers' Project succeeded in coupling the creation of much needed jobs for white-collar workers with a larger, more symbolic imperative: the reawakening of a sense of national cultural achievement.



Cover photo of the Michigan Guide—the Lake Michigan pier at Benton Harbor.

Spending Spring Break

On Hardwood Floors

By John Woodford

Intended as a "panoramic portrait of the nation," the American Guide Series (1935-1942), with its array of historical essays, city portraits, and automobile tours, was the backbone of the project. Of Hatcher's *Ohio Guide* none less than the writer Louis Bromfield would write in 1941 that it was "better than *Baedeker's*."

Harlan Hatcher joined the small group of FWP officials who publicly mused on the historiographic potential of their undertaking. He advocated a new mode of writing history in which the highways of America would become a web of meaning. During a speech before the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society in 1938, Hatcher suggested that clocking the highways and byways of their native land, WPA guide in hand, would refamiliarize Americans with the rich value of their own land. "Using the network of roads as an organizing unit," he said of his *Ohio Guide*, "the book will reveal the present picture of Ohio, tell the story of the activities and occupations of its people, and pause at historic spots to connect the present with the past."

Whereas conventional history books targeted trained historians, a WPA guide spoke to ordinary people. "The result is a new form and style of history," Hatcher recognized, "which may provoke the citizens of Ohio to a keener interest in the heritage of their State." Federal writers like Hatcher thought that, after the demoralizing days of the Depression, such a "point-by-point picture" of this country's accomplishments would illustrate hope and invite optimism.

The role of state director required administrative skill, an encyclopedic control of detail, and boundless creative energy. In his preface to the guide Hatcher described the task of "unfolding a monumental picture of our Nation, past and present, never before revealed or undertaken" as one that had been "long and often difficult."

Hatcher's vision and expertise, however, overcame the numerous challenges. The published record of his involvement with the Federal Writers' Project today fulfills his own 1941 hopes for "a heartening monument to the stability of America, long after the bitter years of the 1930s have been forgotten."—**Petra Schindler Carter.**



ASBers (front row): Christopher Olsztyń, Kiran Arora, Navin Bapat and Kelly Koay; (back row) Daniel Filstrup, Maloree Yang, Emily Vertalka, Andrea Berman and Sarah Patrick.

This March 1, the Sunday before spring break week began, nine Michigan students arrived by car just in time for supper in the St. Paul, Minnesota, home of Mark Thompson '67 Ed.

"The week started with an amazing experience," said Thompson, who teaches English at the Saturn School, a magnet school that serves many students from the Twin Cities' Hmong-American community. The U-M students were volunteers from the Alternative Spring Break (ASB), a program that sends more than 300 hundred students across the nation to work in 32 community projects.

"A Hmong lady named See Vang," Thompson continued, "came to speak to the group, telling about her experiences coming to the United States and the difficulties of a new world. While we were eating, she kept looking at one of the Michigan students. Finally, she said, 'You look just like a woman that lived one village over from me in Laos. I think I know your mother. I can see your mother's eyes in your eyes. Is your mother's name Ka?'"

"Maloree Yang could hardly believe it, and we could see the answer on her face. Later on in the evening, we had Maloree call home to Hazel Park, Michigan, and See Vang talked to her childhood friend for the first time in many years. It was an incredible moment for us."

Yang's parents fled the Hmong home-

land in the highlands of Laos in the late 1970s. Up until the Vietnam War the Hmong (pronounced "Mung") had lived "an existence apart from cities," Thompson noted. Secluded farmers, few had any schooling; indeed, they had no written language until the 1950s, when Christian missionaries began to show them increased attention.

The Hmong were relatively late residents of the region, having come to Laos and Vietnam from southern China in the 16th century. After centuries of live-and-let-live neighborliness, they had the misfortune of allying first with the French colonialists and then with US military and intelligence units that recruited the Hmong to attack North Vietnamese supply lines in Laos. The Hmong became embroiled in a conflict that ultimately took the lives of perhaps half of their soldiers, according to some accounts.

After US troops left Southeast Asia in 1975, the Hmong were exposed to vengeful Laotian and Vietnamese enemies. "They had to escape from their country traveling in the dead of night," said Thompson, whose family has long been involved in Lutheran missionary work.

Sophomore Mao (Maloree) Yang was born when her mother, father and 4-year-old sister were scavenging for food as the family walked through jungles at night to reach the Thai border. They say that is why Maloree is the smallest of the seven Yang children.

After two years in a refugee camp, the Yangs gained admission to the United States through the sponsorship of Lutheran groups.

Most of the 200,000 Hmong immigrants have settled in Fresno, California. Minneapolis-St. Paul, with 30,000, has the second-highest population. The Yangs, however, had friends and relatives who had gone to Detroit, so that's where they moved.

"Maybe the greatest difficulty for the

Hmong people" Thompson said, "comes in wondering why they are treated with so much contempt when their loved ones died believing their deaths were necessary to keep the people of the United States free from communism."

Thompson said that most of the older Hmong-American students at his school spent years in refugee camps where they received no schooling, and now live in homes in which English is heard only on TV or radio. "The Hmong students generally are hard working, conscientious and wanting to learn," he said. "They just need a helping hand. So, it was with great expectation and thankfulness that we welcomed the Michigan students here again. We knew they were giving up a week of play and relaxation to come and sleep on hard floors and work from early morning to late at night helping young people that they probably will never see again."

Maloree Yang plans to major in English literature and then teach in a school serving Hmong-American students. One of about 10 Hmong students at U-M, she found the visit to the Hmong community surprisingly moving.

"I thought I would know things better than the young kids," she said, "but I didn't. They knew our language and customs and history better than I did. My parents had always told me I should learn those things, but I ignored them. Now I see that they were right. This is one reason that we Hmong students here have started the Hmong-American Students Association to help us establish an identity among ourselves and also to promote awareness of the Hmong culture."

This spring was the second time that seniors Kelly Koay of Singapore and Christopher Olsztyń of Rochester Hills, Michigan, had spent spring break at Saturn School. As site leaders, they selected this year's group.

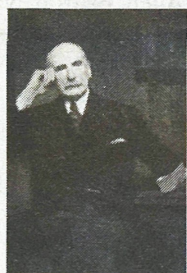
"Last year, going into their homes was sad for the students who were with me," Koay said, "because they had not been confronted with such poverty before. I was happy, though, for the opportunity to go into their homes and befriend them and learn about their way of life. My major is sociology, and to be able to experience their lives with them like that was rewarding."

John C. Dann tells the story of one of the U-M's world treasures

THE CLEMENTS AT 75

The William L. Clements Library turns 75 on June 15. This University gem is so widely prized that its value can be taken for granted. It's worth reminding ourselves of the insight, work and support that underlie the Clements's fame. Michigan Today's John Woodford asked Clements Director John C. Dann to discuss the institution's history and main features. Here are the highlights of that discussion:

I THE FOUNDER



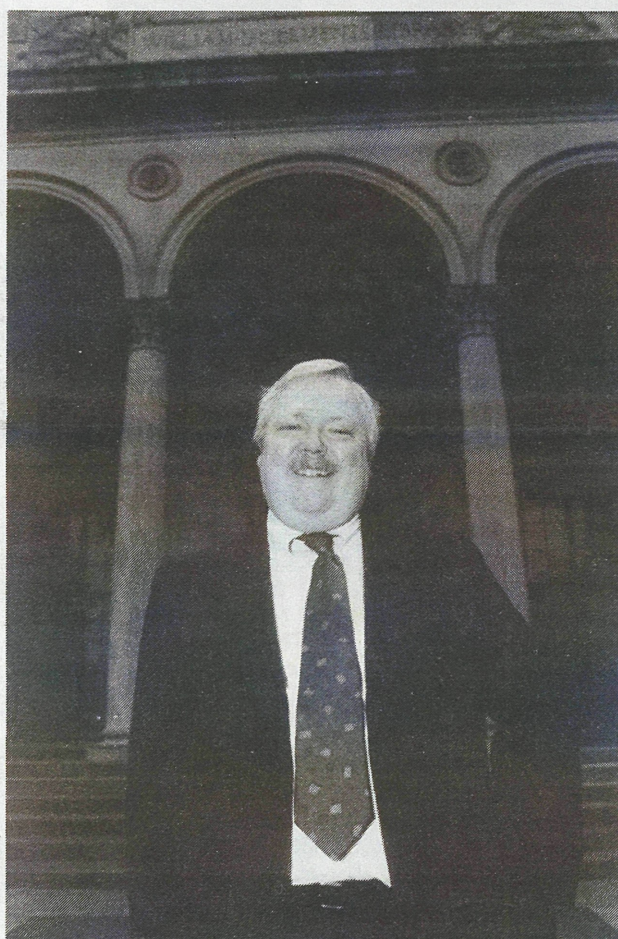
William L. Clements

William L. Clements was born and grew up in Ann Arbor. After graduating from the first U-M engineering class in 1882, he joined his father's crane-manufacturing firm in Bay City, Michigan, and quite soon received patents manufacturing cranes and steam shovels. He began collecting rare books in the 1890s and joined the U-M Board of Regents in 1909.

The University had very little bureaucracy back then; the administration comprised a president, secretary, treasurer and a couple of dozen non-teaching employees. Regents sat on all important committees and also did some administrative work. Libraries and buildings fell under Clements's charge. Given the avidity of his book collecting, it was probably inevitable that he would move to establish some sort of library on campus.

By 1915, Clements had collected 15,000 to 20,000 books and titles in his home. The fact that Clements was a Middle Westerner is an important aspect of his collecting. In Boston and other Eastern cities, American history tends to be seen as emanating from their city or state. Bostonians focus on the Winthrops, Mathers, pilgrims, witch hunts and so on; Jeffersoniana is big in Virginia; works on Franklin and the Liberty Bell attract Philadelphians.

But in Bay City, as in many former frontier sites, the historical outlook has embraced American Indians, the conflicts between French-speakers and English-speakers, the lives of trappers, lumbermen, pioneer women and so on. It's a different perspective. Furthermore, many Americans don't realize how much history is in the Middle West. Detroit was founded in 1701. It's about as



Photos by Bob Kalmbach

'Opening the Clements was somewhat controversial,' says Director John Dann, 'because Michigan was heralded as a place to get a Harvard-level education at almost no cost to the student. Some questioned whether a rare book library had a place at an institution that was practical in its aims. The controversy quickly subsided, however, because Mr. Clements established the library at no cost to the state.'

old as Williamsburg, Virginia, and older than many East Coast towns. From early on, our historical outlook in Michigan has been more national, even international, and there has been a stronger anthropological attitude about what American history is all about.

Growing up, Clements imbibed the broader view of North America. He saw Indians living a fairly traditional lifestyle on the Great Lakes. Rough and tough lumber-

men and fur trappers lived there, too. He saw American history as a larger entity than the events that molded his hometown or state. He was interested in the settlement of the whole country.

Following the advice of a friend that he should avoid giving a rare books collection to the main University library system, because then his collection would always be secondary, Clements established a separate library for his collection. Under the Clements gift agreement, the director reports directly to the provost rather than through the intermediary of a dean or department head. Clements knew the importance of establishing the library so that the president would have it under his or her wing.

He put two-thirds of his worldly wealth into this place. It was not just a gift to the University, it was his life. He believed in the importance of what a library like this does for this country. It was almost a religion. You have to have a touch of that missionary impulse to do what he did and to perpetuate it.

Having developed, as a Regent, a close working relationship with the architect Albert Kahn, Clements asked Kahn to design the Library. The Library was established at no cost to the state.

The Clements Library is unique at the University in that it was not created by the University but by a legal contract between a donor and the University. (The Rackham Building shares aspects of this distinct formation.) Under the Clements agreement, he built the building and the University agreed to pay staff salaries, maintain the building and provide some funds for acquisitions.

II DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

What sets the Clements apart from other campus libraries is that its collection has been carefully built book by book, manuscript by manuscript, with a larger purpose in mind. From day one, the Clements has been a major purchaser of primary source materials on American history. We've received wonderful gifts, to be sure, but they fit within our concept. Our collection is the raw material for historians: books, newspapers and pamphlets; letters, diaries and memoirs of people involved in historic events; photographs, prints, eyewitness accounts and magazines. We're a mine or well that each

generation of historians comes to, to look at original sources with the eyes of their generation. We have military, social, political and religious history. There is no censorship of material here. We want anything that will help people determine what happened in the past.

We're living in the day of the computer and virtual reality. We're exposed to a type of fiction or drama or movies in which writers present real historical figures as characters and have them say or do things that conflict with the historical record, or have them meet with people they were never together with in real life. Authors don't blush at concocting "histories" that willfully distort the historical record. I don't care for this use of history. But in such a time, it's important to have a place where you can read what Thomas Jefferson's true attitudes toward race were, where you can prove Columbus or Magellan took a trip to this or that locale, where you can read what the pilgrims wrote down firsthand about life in their settlements.

The Clements is one of no more than a dozen libraries in the world that has these materials, and a third to a half of our collection is unique. Places like the Smithsonian or the British Museum have tremendous resources, too. But anyone interested in the areas we collect in would have to come here to work as well.

III

THE LINE OF COLLECTORS

The Clements Library has had non-stop collecting by four people. Clements's original collection, impressive as it was and is, is now perhaps under a fourth of the whole. One of the great things about this institution

is that as its collection is enriched over the lives of its directors, you can have a collection that no single multibillionaire of 1998 could amass even a respectable fraction of.

I am the fourth collector and third director, and each director has worked for his predecessor. I worked for Howard Peckham from 1971 to 1977. Peckham started his association with the Library



Benjamin Franklin was the first native-born American celebrity. Engravings of his portraits were hot sellers on both sides of the Atlantic. This engraving was based on Benjamin Wilson's painting of the 1760's.

Purchased from the Old Frim Gallery, 1991.

when it became part of his beat as a Michigan Daily reporter in 1928. In 1935 he became the manuscript curator and became director in 1953. He worked for Randolph G. Adams, and Mr. Adams had worked with Clements for 11 years as the Clements's first director. The Library opened in 1923, and Mr. Clements died in 1934.

This pattern of succession has given me great strength in my collecting. I've seen the gaps that Clements and his successors have seen as if it's through their own eyes. There has been remarkable continuity in collecting focus here, as if one person had been building the library for 100 years. And each of us has collected from the historian's perspective. That is, we've kept in mind what our contemporary American historians are doing, what their interests are, what they are looking for. You might say the Clements is more of a research center than a "rare book library." Materials needed for such research just happen to be very valuable, very rare and, in many cases, very beautiful. At most rare book rooms, preservation of books as precious objects is the primary focus. Our interests go far beyond that.

IV

THE COLLECTION

At first, Clements thought he'd build, exclusively, a rare book collection. Then he got the chance to acquire the archives of the British Army during the American Revolutionary War. With these papers, he acquired the maps of British Generals Gage and Clinton. The library has gone on to amass a map collection on the American Revolution that is the best in the world.

So the Clements evolved into a leading library for materials related to the American Revolution even though that was not in Clements's mind when he built the place.

At just about the time the Library opened, it seized the opportunity to acquire the collection of Henry Vignaud, a US Consul in Paris who was a scholar and collector of historic explorations and discoveries. At one shot, the Clements bought his 50,000-piece library. It had all the notable atlases of Ptolemy, Mercator, Ortelius, Blaeu and

Purchased from Lathrop C. Harper, 1918. Gift of W.L. Clements 1923.



Spanish colonist Gonzalo Oviedo's reports in the 1530s gave Europeans their first vision of what Native Americans looked like. These Indian miners panned for gold in streams they diverted, techniques still in use during California's Gold Rush more than 300 years later.

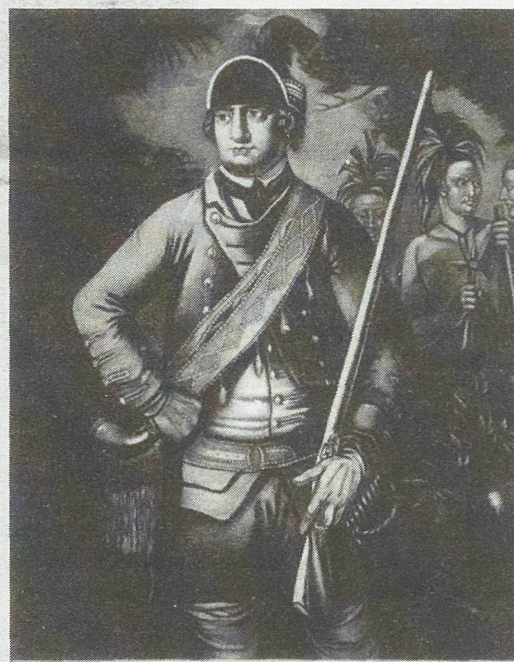
other key creators of maps from the 15th through 18th centuries. So by 1930, the Clements had become a great manuscript and map library in a building originally intended to be a rare books library.

Another way we expand our focus is that we try to respond to the interests of scholars and students. When he was a graduate student in the 1940s, the U-M music historian Allen Britton was interested in early American tune books, so the library started collecting them. We now have a strong collection of 18th and 19th century music. We got them for \$5 to \$10 apiece. Now they range from \$500 to \$5,000. These acquisitions led us to start a sheet music collection. So now we are a great resource for music historians.

Clements liked beautiful prints in pristine condition, whether printed separately or in books. His successors have continued to collect outstanding prints and watercolors over the years. Our interest in these visual materials led to the acquisition of photographic materials in recent years. James Schoff, former president of Bloomingdale's and a member of our library board, gave us a superb collection of Civil War photographs. Fred Currier, a journalist and noted leader in the field of market research, this past year donated his collection of old photography to us. Now we are a major resource.

Peckham was especially interested in social history, material culture, the decorative arts, Indian captivity narratives and early architectural books. He made purchases in these areas when collector interest in them was low and prices were very reasonable.

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*MAJOR ROBERT ROGERS.
Commander in Chief of the 1st Regiment of the AMERICA
In the 1750s, frontiersman Maj. Robert Rogers was as famous as George Washington for his success against the French and Cherokee. Rogers was celebrated by the historian Francis Parkman and by novelist Kenneth Roberts in Northwest Passage.*

Gift of Marteyan, Lam, Augustyn Inc., 1994.

V

UNDERGRADUATES AND THE CLEMENTS

Clements had no idea that undergraduates would use the library at all. He saw it as a place for advanced scholarship only, a place apart from the University's general teaching function and from its general library system.

Now, however, the Clements is deeply involved in undergraduate education. Undergraduates studying American history, literature and political science use the library regularly, a privilege that used to be enjoyed only by senior scholars. Classes even meet here. That's a great change, which reflects the change in teaching history: the textbook is out. Students are excited by exposure to original materials.

I occasionally teach, and you can't believe how excited students are when they get an original letter or pamphlet in hand. You are showing students a great deal of respect in letting them do this. It's telling them, you are competent to analyze the past without needing an interpretation of the material from textbook writers. Not to mention the fact that they get to see and touch old things. Mainly, it's that they get the chance to draw their own conclusions. That sets them on the course of producing mature scholarship earlier; it's better than having them regurgitate what someone else has said. There is no equivalent of the Clements at most universities in the United States.

Another change is that the library realized that it needed to raise money. That's why the Clements Library Association was created in 1947. Raising money is extremely important, so we can keep up with acquisitions. We have a national and international constituency. People give us support through bequests and other means. It adds to the excitement of working here to know that others appreciate what you are doing.

VI

THE ART OF COLLECTING

Each director of the Clements has brought a double expertise. We've all been historians, so we have understood what items have original research value. And we are all col-

lectors, too. I began hanging around bookstores when I was 10. I was out of school with polio then, so I accompanied my grandfather, who was an Americana book-collecting nut all his life. Adams started at about the same age. You have to get bitten by this bug early.

I grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, and used to go to bookstores there and in Philadelphia and Baltimore with my grandfather. A mania for Americana was my birthright. I grew up in the 1940s and '50s near where the Battle of Brandywine took place. I could go out and trace the paths that Washington's army had walked. All collectors are inspired in part by a sense of the romance of history and biography. It takes long exposure to the market for you to know what's worth acquiring and what a reasonable price for it is. A successful collector has to recognize what is about to become hot because of the interesting qualities latent within it. The time to collect is before a field becomes hot, and familiarity with both history and the book market provides you with that intuitive sense.

When I first came to Ann Arbor I went over to the first Borders bookstore, which was on Williams Street. I saw they had a Washtenaw County Atlas from the 1870s and bought it for \$35. It had wonderful lithographs. These handsome county atlases were a Midwestern thing—Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois. Local historians have always valued them, but recently they're seen as wonderful expressions of ideals and aspirations of

middle-class America of the 1870s. They now cost several hundred dollars apiece, but I managed to accumulate several hundred of them for the Clements at a fraction of that price before they "took off" with general collectors.

Another newer type of new resource we've acquired for 20 years is the road maps and travel brochures that used to be free. Until quite recently, travel materials—which have been published since before the Civil War—were considered to be almost valueless, but now they've become highly collectible.

You find lots of things by sheer luck, by serendipity. I can be sitting here with almost no money for an acquisition and get a call from someone. In my world, they knock only once. About four years ago I got a call from a book dealer in Vermont, a friend. He said a quiet man who lived in Brooklyn, a li-

thographer who wrote detective stories for Ellery Queen Magazine, was fascinated by the history of murder. For 40 to 50 years this man accumulated every pamphlet and book on true crime up to 1900.

My book dealer friend told me that the Brooklyn collector had some steep medical expenses and wanted to sell all 1,600 titles. Was I interested, yes or no? I said yes instantly. In one shot we owned 40 percent of the American crime reports written up to 1900. It's our James V. Medler Collection. These reports tell not only about crime but about what people ate, how they lived—there are endless numbers of ways to use the material. An undergraduate English class is using the crime narratives right now. We went from being a modest player in this area to ranking in at least the top three. And since acquiring the Medler Collection, we've added another 35 to 40 related items on crime from pre-1900 and are getting material after 1900, maybe to 1930. What may be boring or banal recent history for one generation becomes a treasure to the next one. Now we're beginning to get World War II and even Vietnam-era collections. It's a continuum.

VII

WHAT THE CLEMENTS NEEDS

The market we are involved in is bullish. It's difficult to keep up. I want the Clements to have income sufficient to meet its acquisition opportunities as they arise. We need a substantial acquisitions endowment of about \$1.5 million.

Our greatest problem, however, is that we're out of space. We have a great expansion plan. I hope that by the time of our 100th anniversary, we will have marvelous new stack space underground, an auditorium and an expanded museum function. This "Center for American History," or or some such entity, could be named after the donor, and I hope in that way to have the pleasure of ensuring someone's earthly immortality before I retire. The cost would be \$10 million or \$15 million at least—a lot of money—but this person's name would have prominence as long as our civilization survives, which is not the case with most charitable gifts. MT

Clements Library publications—books, maps, bulletins, posters, periodicals and notecards—may be ordered from the Web at: <http://www.clements.umich.edu/store.html> or by obtaining a catalog by calling (734) 764-2347.

The illustrations in this article are from One Hundred and One Treasures From the Collection of the William L. Clements Library, a fascinating 180-page commemorative book available to Clements donors of \$100 or more. John C. Dann edited the volume, which was published with the support of the Mosaic Foundation of Rita and Peter Heydon.



'BEAUTY AT THE BILLIARD TABLE' JAN. 31, 1885

Irish immigrant Richard Fox launched the National Police Gazette in 1845. He often depicted American woman as seductive Amazons.

Purchased from New York Museum Auction by Patterson Smith, 1994.

'WHERE SHALL WISDOM BE FOUND?' IN BRAINPOWER? IN AGE? IN HARD KNOCKS? ON OPRAH?

THE SOUL OF THE ACADEMY

By Diane Swanbrow
News & Information Services

It's a rare woman who can sit quietly and listen while her husband talks about wisdom. True, W. Andrew Achenbaum has better bona fides for the topic than many men in their 50s. He's a U-M professor of history, a research scientist at the U-M Institute of Gerontology, the author or co-author of 13 books and more than a hundred articles. A charismatic teacher and popular keynote speaker, he has delivered presentations on spirituality and aging at meetings of gerontologists around the world. As possible further evidence of his knowledge of the topic, he has been married to the same woman, Ann Arbor attorney Mary Schieve, for 27 years.

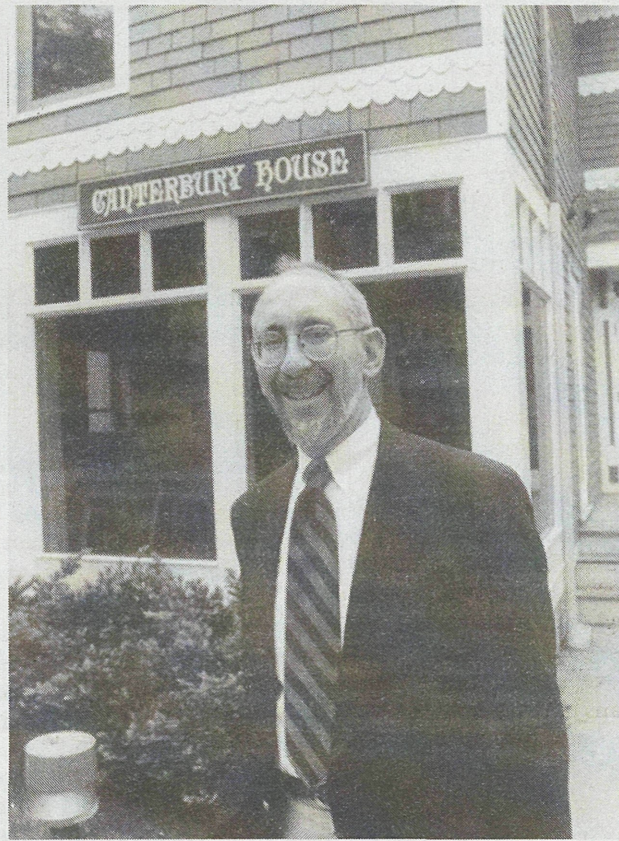
Achenbaum was speaking at the last in a series of four spring lectures at Canterbury House, the U-M Episcopal Center. "You are invited to a conversation with eight faculty members who have found ways to deepen their experience of the soul without sacrificing their academic careers," read the flyer for the series. Besides Achenbaum and classicist Charles Witke on wisdom, the speakers were psychologists Jacqueline Mattis and Thomas Morson on forgiveness, psychologist Richard Mann and religious studies lecturer Astrid Beck on wholeness, and Buddhist scholar Luis Gomez and musician Stephen Rush on creativity.

"Campus ministries have always provided space on the margins for students interested in matters of the soul," said Canterbury House's chaplain, the Rev. Matthew Lawrence, "but an increasing number of faculty members are finding the need to confess their sins. You can't do this at a faculty meeting."

The series began in mid-March with Asst. Prof. Mattis speaking about how hard she sometimes found it to forgive colleagues who made "unwittingly dismissive" remarks or acted in ways that revealed deep-seated reserves of racism, sexism or ageism. After discussing the issues Mattis raised, the faculty, staff and students went on to discuss whether Jews could or should forgive Germans for the Holocaust, whether truth and reconciliation were attainable in South Africa and whether students might one day find it in their hearts to forgive their more intellectually arrogant professors.

"Students are mainly mad about the scorn the faculty reserves for those who aren't as smart as they are," said Prof. Emeritus Richard Mann, who counsels graduating seniors. "A lot of professors are looking for intellectual clones, not students," a graduate student added.

For a minute, it's hard to believe this is the University of Michigan, a school that prides itself on having a higher level of federal research grants and more publications per faculty member than any other university in the nation. It's the last place on earth you'd expect people to question whether being smart is what really matters. But as people get older, they tend to question all kinds of things. Aging professors are no less vulnerable than the millions of aging Americans outside the academy to second thoughts about the meaning of life. They may not only wonder if they're any wiser now that they're older, but also whether



'I'm a bit heavier but in better shape than the nerd who graduated from Amherst on the day Bobby Kennedy died,' says gerontological historian Andy Achenbaum.

Photo by Bob Kalmbach, U-M Photo Services

being so smart has anything at all to do with wisdom.

Achenbaum has been addressing these issues more forthrightly than many of his colleagues, in his work as well as his life. "With the pool of mentors for the baby boomers diminishing, we must rely increasingly on our inner convictions," he wrote in an essay on spirituality and aging in a recent issue of *Innovations in Aging*, published by the National Council on the Aging. "Every aging cohort has probably felt this way, but ours is larger than most, and we are likely to redefine the boundaries of the second half of life as dramatically as we altered the experiences of youth."

The approach of mid-life triggered changes in his intellectual interests, as well. After a career-long interest in the history of aging, he began his formal study of wisdom in his 40s as the result of a professional roadblock, one of a series he was experiencing. Halfway through his latest book, *Crossing Frontiers: Gerontology Emerges as a Science* (Cambridge U. Press, 1995), he was unable to finish. He decided to put the project aside for a time and looked around for something else to study. A post-doctoral student looking for a mentor encouraged him to consider the topic of wisdom. He did so, quickly finished his book, then returned to the study of wisdom. "The prospect of writing was enough to propel me to finish," he explains. "Sort of like eating the peas before you can hit the ice cream."

In the *London Review of Books*, Raymond Tallis praised *Crossing Frontiers* for making the argument that "one consequence of the demographic revolution should ... be a rethinking of our sense of the course of life—and a recognition that perhaps there is more to old age than loss and infirmity and the indignity of being reclassified as a 'burden' or a 'challenge.' Old age holds out promises as well as threats."

Achenbaum is currently working on three books about wisdom: one about what to expect from societal aging; a major collective biography of some wise 20th century Americans, including Langston Hughes, and Joan and Erik Erikson; another on the scriptural literature on wisdom. "I return to *The Book of Job* again and again because it is, quite simply, the most profound and poetic," he said.

At Canterbury House, Achenbaum began by reading the paean to wisdom in Chapter 28 of Job:

Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold where they refine it. But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?

A long moment of silence followed his short presentation. Then everyone jumped in. "What strikes me about Job," said psychologist Helen Weintraub, "is that with all this stuff happening to him, he never blames himself. That's certainly not a New Age response. He doesn't know why all this bad stuff is happening, but he does know it's not his fault."

"What's common today is the assumption that wisdom is something that's done to you," said emeritus physics professor Gabriel Weinrich, "that you become wise by reading a book or watching Oprah. But Job says, 'I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear but now mine eye seeth thee.' You're not going to achieve wisdom from a book or a television program, but from some experience that's peculiar to you."

"One reason we associate wisdom with age is that the old have been around long enough to be hit several times," Achenbaum observed.

"I've always liked the Buddhist notion that locates wisdom not as a quality of the mind but a quality of the heart," Weintraub replied.

This observation prompted classics Prof. Charles Witke to note that "in the Eastern Orthodox tradition, someone wise is often a person dressed in rags, who lives in the forest and feeds the bears. For these Holy Fools, too, wisdom is in the heart not the head."

The conversation continued on a warm spring night near the end of winter term, with faculty, staff and students sitting together talking about wisdom and whether or not it's in short supply on campus.

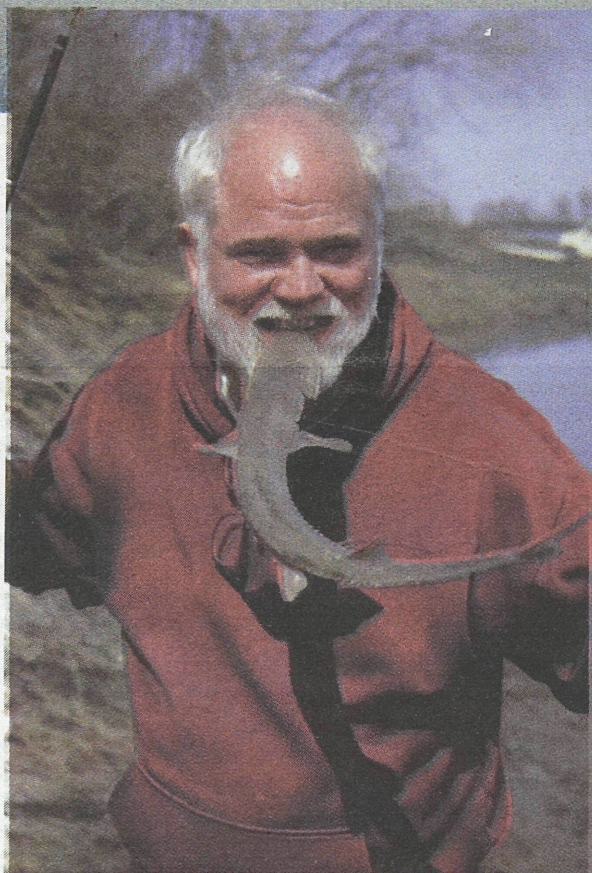
Then Achenbaum posed another question, another working hypothesis, which he presented with a characteristic mixture of energy, earnestness and wry humor. "Is wisdom a woman? In her playfulness and sexuality, [the Greek saint] Sophia epitomizes wisdom. What if the quest for wisdom is really the search for love?" He looked at his wife and smiled.

MT

Artist Larry Stark '65 aims to become the All-American angler

The Fishing America Project

Stories and Photos by Larry Stark



The bluefish was not harmed by the author's unorthodox catch-and-release technique.

In September 1990, I was driving home to Minnesota from Oregon after a combined fishing and business trip in which no fish had been caught and no business had been done. Covering 1,800 miles in 46 hours, I zoomed by rivers and lakes with no time to stop and fish. I began to reflect on the many times I'd passed this way before, always promising myself that I'd return some day just to fish. By Idaho, I was really upset because I knew I'd been fooling myself. I'd never make it back to fish these rivers. It had been just a fantasy.

By the time I got to Montana, I was feeling better. So much better that I resurrected my fantasy—and improved on it by coming up with the idea to some day fish all 50 states. Halfway through North Dakota, I stopped thinking in terms of “some day,” and my fantasy began to evolve toward reality as the idea formed in my head to fish all 50 states and write a book about it.

I'm an artist—a printmaker and photographer—and I decided that this project would be a work of art and a book. The book would have lots of photographs, which I'd take myself while traveling from state to state. Maybe a series of prints would come out of it. Maybe a call to the Guinness Book of World Records would be in order. No question, this was a big-time idea, and I'd support the project by selling my art to museums and galleries along the way, between fishing experiences.

As soon as I got home, I called my artist-fisherman

friend James Holmes in Kansas and told him of my plan for The Fishing America Project - A Work of Art. He said he liked it, then asked, “You'll need help, won't you?”

“Holmes, we've had so many fishing trips planned that didn't materialize, I wouldn't plan another with you unless you signed a contract.”

“So send one down. I'll sign it.”

I called my attorney the next day and asked him to design a contract. When I picked it up, he said, “I want to sign the first one.” That's when I realized that I could fish with a different person in each state and that everyone would sign a contract to fish with me.

Under the contract, “the Artist will be solely responsible for all of his costs associated with the expedition and the cre-

ation of the work of art. The Fisher will be doing most of the planning of the expedition and the Fisher is expected to try to keep the expenses at a minimum.” The Fisher must agree to volunteer for community service if the Artist shows up and he or she finks out. If the Artist fails to show up, the Fisher will still receive a free limited edition copy of the final artwork that all Fishers are promised.

I spent time in the library reading about fish and places to fish and more time writing letters and balancing data to figure out what to fish for and where and when to do it. I spent hours on the phone trying to locate fishing partners. Generally, my fishing partners were people who had the knowledge to fish for a targeted species. Some

were chosen because they're interesting, others because they're my friends. (My attorney, by the way, did indeed sign the first contract, but he wound up breaking it, and wasn't there when I launched the project with a lake trout in Minnesota.)

In selecting the targeted species, I took into consideration the state fish, the person available to fish with me, his or her particular fish interest and what fish were waiting to be caught. Here's an example of the fish-finding process:

On November 2, 1990, I was sitting in front of my computer, trying to decide how carp fit into the picture. The field had been narrowed to three states: Massachusetts, Missouri and Illinois. The phone rang, and I answered, “Fishing America—A Work of Art.”

“Is Larry Carp there?”

“You mean Larry Stark?”

“No, I mean Larry Carp.”

“You have the wrong number, but before you hang up, tell me, where would you fish for carp, in Massachusetts, Missouri or Illinois?”

I would have had a quick solution to my problem if only she had answered my question before hanging up. I had to solve the problem some other way, so I called a friend in Massachusetts, who suggested we fish for striped bass there. I called a friend-of-a-brother-in-law-of-a-friend in Missouri, and he said he'd rather fish for smallmouth bass in Missouri. He suggested a guy who fishes for carp in Illinois, and that's how my problem got solved.

It might seem like an easy task to fish all 50 states. One scenario that was suggested to me was to leave Minnesota and fish every state going east to Maine, then work my way down to Florida and across to the West Coast. After flying from Los Angeles to Hawaii and back, I'd drive up the coast to Washington, fly round trip from Seattle to Alaska and then fish my way back to Minnesota. This would cover all 35 perimeter states, and after a rest of a day or two, a smaller loop would get the last 15 states.

Another method would be the same trip with more zigs and zags to get everything in one trip. Still another possibility would be to fish the western states on one trip and the eastern states on another.

It doesn't work that way. All fish species are unique, with individual traits and habits. Some fish are easier to catch in the fall, some make better pickings in the spring and there are winter and summer fish, too. As an example, let's take New England. In Vermont, landlocked salmon are best fished during the ice-out in late April or early May. In New Hampshire, pickerel are fun to catch through the ice and the best time to ice fish is when there's ice. The blueback char, a fish found only in Maine, has to be fished in late September because even though October is best, the season closes October 1. In Massachusetts, striped bass are best fished in early June, when they're running the rivers. So there you have it—four trips to New England to fish four states.

A question I've heard a lot over the last few years is, “Is this fishing project art?” I think it is, and my argument to support this view is that art is defined by the artists who create it. Given a conventional definition of art, the people who work within this closed set are more artisans than artists. Those who work outside this set are the best artists.

My attorney thinks it's a neat idea, but not art. He thinks art isn't defined by artists but by a combination of society and history. He says that if society doesn't accept an idea as a work of art over a period of time, then it isn't art.

I say I've done it, called it art and will be dead long before the final verdict is in.

Florida: The Fishing Oscar Goes To . . .

Before the reader judges whether the Fishing America Project is a "conceptual work of art," as Larry Stark terms it, it would be useful to know Larry Stark's track record in such matters.

Almost 30 years ago, long before economists began using the price of McDonald's hamburgers to compare the value of various national currencies, Stark identified the civilizational implications of McDonald's as a harbinger of commercial globalism and cultural homogenization. In 1970, with a grant from the Addison Gallery at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, he hit the rode on his first conceptual art project: a 9,500-mile automobile trip in 30 days of eating only at McDonald's hamburger establishments.

Whatever the gastronomic results of this quest might have been, the aesthetic product was a series of 12 photo-screen prints of scenes at McDonalds called "One Culture Under God." Clearly, Stark can sense what is stirring in the cultural waters.

In the story at right, Stark finds himself in Florida on the watery trail of an unusual fish that seems to have made the best of its manmade introduction into our waters. Potential Fishers and others who wish to learn more about the Fishing America Project may visit Larry Stark's Website at index.html <http://www.visi.com/~lstark/index.html>

From 'One Culture Under God' (1970)



It is unknown how many people in the United States have this sickness, but the estimates go as high as 137 million people, half our population. There is no known cure, but fortunately there is relief through therapy.

I have this disease, and I will fish for anything anytime anywhere any possible way. For example, last March, I dropped a hook, line and worm into my son's aquarium and caught his oscar. Lucky for him, I'm into catch and release.

In the 1800s, South American oscars were brought to this country as entertainment slaves to be held captive in people's homes in glass bowls. Their only purpose? Cat television. Currently the oscar is the predominate fish in the Florida Everglades. There is some debate as to how it got there, but it probably escaped from a tropical fish farm. The other possibility is that a breeding age pair of oscars acquired their freedom when some aquarium owner got tired of his hobby and released them, hoping they would start a new life. And they did.

Before the oscar arrived in these waters, largemouth bass were the local stars. The bass are still there, but the oscar is the more aggressive fish, bringing the bass down a notch in the food chain pecking order. The bass aren't as big or as plentiful as they once were.

Since my son's oscar fought so well and since I had read about these wild oscars, I arranged a fishing trip near Ft Lauderdale in one of the Everglades canals. My fishing guide, Jack Allen, took me to some of his secret fishing holes.

Jack fished for largemouth bass while I fished for oscars. He fished with a fly rod using poppers handmade from pieces of Styrofoam he'd found floating on the canals on his previous fishing trips. He caught lots of bass, one after another, but the biggest was under two pounds. I fished for oscars, which came in just under a pound.

Every time I caught an oscar, Jack said, "All right!" or, "Good going!" or some other positive exclamation. Guides are supposed to do that, so you go home and remember you caught fish and tell your friends about the experience, so they, too, will hire the guide, supporting his fishing sickness. Anyway, Jack praised me every time I got a fish, and I got a lot of praise because I got a lot of fish. But every time Jack caught an oscar it was a different story. "Another inevitable oscar," he'd say, because Jack doesn't like oscars.

I think if I hadn't been there, the process of catch and release would have been catch and destroy. I had this image of him stuffing the oscars with a little sticks of time-delayed TNT before he released them. He said something about how they would make good clay pigeons.

Oscars aren't rough fish, they're just something few people are aware of. Oscars are good eating. They are one of the most popular freshwater fish in the world, but not in the USA, because they are new here and few people are aware of them. We found other boats with people fishing for oscars, but not many.

If you ever want to fish for oscars, I suggest you go to the Florida Everglades and use your ultralight spinning rod with the smallest beetle spin you can find. It works, I know. Fun? And how! This fish fights like Mike Tyson. And there won't be a lot of



The Oscar

boats pulling up next to yours when they see you pulling in your limit. The fish are everywhere, and the fishermen are few and miles between.

Oh! About Jack Allen, my fishing guide: Earlier in the day, when we were putting the boat in the water, Jack informed me he had an afternoon client, so he would fish with me for only half the day. I've wondered about fishing guides and whether they fish to make money or whether they make money so they can fish.

The answer came when quitting time arrived. Jack did the "one more cast" routine for half an hour. I haven't talked to him since

our outing, but I'll bet he was late for work.

MT

Larry Stark grew up in St. Joseph, Michigan, and enrolled in U-M's art school after a brief career as an accountant. His photographs and prints have been exhibited and collected throughout the country. He and his wife, Barbara Benson Stark, live in St. Paul, Minnesota, and have five children.

The Fishing America Project— The Catch So Far

| States | Fish |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Alaska | King Salmon |
| Arizona | Apache Trout |
| Arkansas | Bowfin |
| Colorado | Brook Trout |
| Florida | Oscar |
| Illinois | Carp |
| Indiana | Red Ear |
| Iowa | Bullhead |
| Kansas | Fresh Water Drum |
| Maine | Blueback Char |
| Massachusetts | American Shad |
| Michigan | Yellow Belly Perch |
| Minnesota | Lake Trout |
| Mississippi | King Mackerel or Cobia |
| Missouri | Smallmouth Bass |
| Montana | Grayling |
| Nebraska | Blue Catfish |
| New Hampshire | Pickereel |
| New York | eel |
| North Dakota | Northern Pike |
| Ohio | Walleye |
| Oklahoma | Sand Bass |
| Oregon | Squawfish |
| Pennsylvania | Brown Trout |
| Rhode Island | Bluefish |
| South Carolina | Redbreast |
| South Dakota | Sauger |
| Tennessee | Snail Darter |
| Vermont | Landlocked Salmon |
| Virginia | Roanoke Bass |
| Washington | Dungeness Crabs |
| West Virginia | Rainbow Trout |
| Wisconsin | Muskellunge |
| Wyoming | Cutthroat Trout |



Cooler of bluegills



Landing an eel.

Medical Care at Michigan responds to changes sweeping the industry

A Revival At The Health System Of Last Resort

By Sally Pobojewski

Lloyd Jacobs woke up on May 30, 1996, knowing it was going to be a really bad day. For months, Dr. Jacobs and members of his cost-effectiveness committee had been analyzing budget reports and meeting with hospital executives searching for a way to avoid what had to be done. But there was no alternative. As chair of the committee, it was his job to walk into a press conference and announce the layoff of 200 employees and the elimination of 1,055 jobs at the University of Michigan Medical Center—all part of a three-year plan to cut expenses by \$200 million.

News of the first widespread layoffs at the Medical Center in more than 20 years sent shock waves through Ann Arbor and the University community. Demonstrators picketed the U-M Board of Regents meeting. Reporters interviewed stunned employees who had just received termination notices. Economists speculated about the impact on the local economy.

Michigan residents were used to hearing about auto industry layoffs and corporate downsizing. But pink slips at the U-M Medical Center? With a \$913 million budget, over 8,000 employees and \$151 million in research funding, how could one of the world's most prestigious academic medical centers be in financial trouble?

Like many hospitals around the country, the Medical Center was a victim of forces beyond its control. It was trapped between skyrocketing costs of medical care and fundamental changes taking place in the US health care industry.

From 1980 to 1995, the total amount spent on health care in

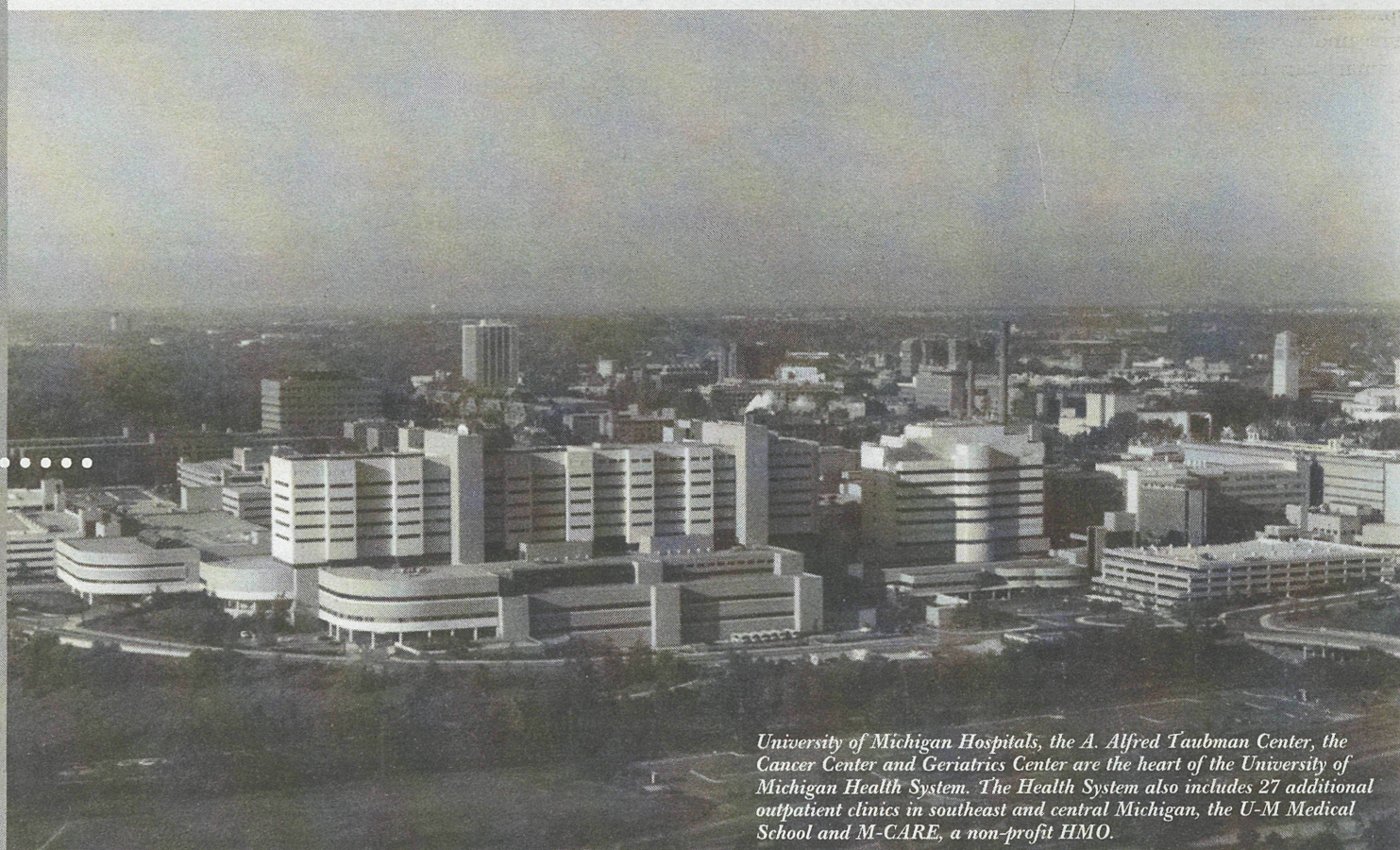
the United States soared from \$247 billion to \$988 billion. In an attempt to control medical costs and reduce a growing budget deficit, Congress started cutting back on Medicare and Medicaid payments to hospitals in the mid-1980s. About the same time, corporations—looking for a way to reduce the escalating costs of health insurance—began moving employees from traditional fee-for-service health plans to what has come to be known as “managed care.” The simultaneous loss of millions of dollars in income from two major funding sources devastated the nation's teaching hospitals.

The beautiful, new U-M Medical Center looked great on the outside. But the people who balanced the budget knew it was only a matter of time. With a \$16-million operating loss and a falling admissions rate, the hospital's prognosis was grim.

The coming of 'managed care'/HMOs

“Things were a lot simpler back in the 1980s,” sighs Tom Marks, who coordinates financial services for U-M Hospitals. “Back then, individualized payment plans and special contractual arrangements were the exception. There were fewer billing rules and less negotiating with managed care firms or Medicare. Basically, we billed the full amount; they paid the full amount.”

Coping with the financial impact of managed care is one of the more challenging aspects of Marks's job these days. The concept of managed care originated 40 years ago but wasn't widely



University of Michigan Hospitals, the A. Alfred Taubman Center, the Cancer Center and Geriatrics Center are the heart of the University of Michigan Health System. The Health System also includes 27 additional outpatient clinics in southeast and central Michigan, the U-M Medical School and M-CARE, a non-profit HMO.

Photo by © Dale Fisher

adopted until the late 1980s in California. The most common form—the health maintenance organization or HMO—manages health care costs through a process called capitation. Under capitation, HMOs give local physicians and hospitals a fixed amount of money to provide medical care for HMO members. All the expenses for treating HMO patients come from one common pot. If there is anything left in the pot after health care expenses, then physicians and hospitals make money; if not, they break even or take a loss. Managed care companies can be either for-profit or not-for-profit.

For-profit managed care is less common in Michigan than in California, Minnesota, Massachusetts or New York, where it was introduced much earlier. Michigan's health care market has always been influenced by the automobile industry, and employees at Ford, General Motors and Chrysler wanted traditional fee-for-service medical plans from firms like Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. This gave Michigan hospitals and health systems time to create their own non-profit managed care plans, of which U-M's M-CARE is one. Like other industries nationwide, the auto industry is now encouraging its employees to join HMOs in an effort to cut health care costs.

"Five years ago, the Medical Center received less than 10 percent of its revenue from managed care," Marks says. "This fiscal year, 28 percent of our gross revenue will come from managed care. We expect that percentage will continue to increase."

Managed care creates its own set of winners and losers. Because the primary goal is to cut costs, HMOs favor hospitals that provide medical care at a lower price. To survive under managed care, hospitals need large networks of primary care physicians who refer patients to that hospital. Increased patient volume helps cover the hospital's fixed operating costs.

Unfortunately, the U-M Medical Center as it existed in the early 1990s was a big loser under the terms imposed by managed care. It had fewer than 50 primary care physicians on the faculty, and it was the most expensive hospital in the state.

Why academic centers cost more

Why is the Medical Center more expensive? One big reason is that it has always been, first and foremost, a teaching institution. U-M administrators point out that tuition doesn't begin to cover the costs of training a medical student. Because clinical revenue must subsidize the costs of medical education, they say, teaching hospitals are always more expensive than non-teaching hospitals.

When the first University Hospital opened in 1869, it was the only university-owned teaching hospital in the United States. Its purpose was to provide a clinical practice setting for students at the U-M Medical School, which was established in 1850. Since 1869, the patient care and educational missions of U-M Hospitals and the Medical School have become so intertwined that it is virtually impossible to separate the costs associated with each.

Before managed care, when government agencies and insurance companies were willing to reimburse hospitals on a full fee-for-service basis, it really didn't matter that

part of each patient's bill went to cover educational expenses. Many of today's managed care companies, however, maintain it's not their responsibility to subsidize medical education. The HMOs want academic medical centers to document exactly how much they spend on education, so educational costs can be excluded when HMOs set prices for patient care.

A task force of Medical School faculty and administrators currently is trying to identify the true costs of educating medical students and house officers (what the U-M calls residents or new MDs), who spend three to eight years specializing in their chosen field. The task force's job will not be easy.

For example, third-year medical students now spend about half their time working with house officers and faculty physicians in 30 outpatient Health Centers in southeast Michigan. Medical students don't treat patients, but they do take medical histories and observe patient visits. At the end of the day, how much of the supervising physician's time was spent on education and how much on patient care? How many more patients could she have seen that day if she hadn't spent time working with students?

Residents treat patients, but only under the direct supervision of a faculty physician. Even though they never set foot inside a classroom, these physicians spend part of each day on instructional tasks—time which otherwise could be devoted to patient care or research. Also, there are additional demands on nurses who train residents in basic hospital or clinic procedures, and on support staff who handle the extra scheduling and paperwork.

"Teaching in a hospital or clinic setting is not well understood or appreciated by people who are only familiar with teaching in a traditional classroom setting," says Steven A. Goldstein, a professor of surgery and biomedical engineering in the U-M Medical School. "It's intense, one-on-one and requires a major commitment of time and energy."

Medicare supports residency training

Since its establishment in 1965, the tax-funded federal Medicare program has paid academic medical centers a share of the costs of training the nation's 102,000 medical residents. Medicare's share is determined by the percentage of a hospital's patients who are covered by Medicare.

In 1983, Congress established an additional payment for academic medical centers, called the indirect medical education (IME) payment. IME payments are designed to help teaching hospitals cover higher costs incurred from



Larry Warren, executive director of U-M Hospitals and Health Centers (left) and Gilbert Omenn (right), the U-M's executive vice president for medical affairs, in UMH corridor.

Photo by Bob Kaimbach, U-M Photo Services

treating sicker patients who need more complex and expensive medical care. The exact amount varies from hospital to hospital, because of a complicated adjustment formula written into the Medicare statute.

In 1995, IME payments to academic medical centers totaled \$6.1 billion. "IME is the lifeblood of a place like this," says Rick Bossard, government relations officer for the U-M Health System. Unfortunately, that lifeblood is slowly draining away, as Congress—in an effort to control health care costs and balance the federal budget—keeps reducing the reimbursement amount. When the program started in 1983, the reimbursement rate was nearly 12 percent. The current rate of 7.7 percent will be reduced to 5.5 percent by the year 2001. Since 26 percent of the U-M Health System's annual gross revenue comes from Medicare, every percentage point drop in IME translates into a multimillion-dollar revenue cut.

And just to make life even more interesting for the folks in the budget office, all the old fee-for-service payers—Medicare, Medicaid and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan—are threatening the Health System's future revenue even more by encouraging members to leave traditional programs and join managed care plans.

Nearly 28 percent of the Health System's gross revenue comes from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, according to financial director Marks. Just a few years ago, most BC/BSM members were enrolled in traditional, fee-for-service health plans. Today about 15 percent of all BC/BSM members are enrolled in the Blue Cross HMO, Blue Care Network. Nearly one-third of Michigan's one million Medicaid recipients are in managed care plans now and that number is expected to double within the next few years. And many HMOs in Michigan are offering "senior plans" to encourage people to switch from Medicare to managed care. (Continued on page 16)

'We are the hospital of last resort. We treat the sickest, most difficult cases. All our competitors transfer their most difficult and expensive cases to us.'—Jim Bell.

As managed care becomes a more dominant force in Michigan, Marks worries about what will happen if the Health System has to compete with less expensive community hospitals on the basis of cost alone.

"So far, most of our major payers have been willing to pay more for basic health care here in order to give their members access to our high-end tertiary care," Marks says. "The question is, how long will they continue to do this?"

'Grading' the hospitals

Just as universities use grade-point averages to evaluate applications from potential students, managed care administrators compare hospitals on the basis of cost-per-case. The hospital with the lowest cost-per-case number has a big advantage in the managed care market. The basic premise behind calculating cost-per-case is simple: Add up all your expenses and divide by the number of patients treated in a given period of time.

In actual practice, it's not so easy. A complex formula is used to factor in differences in the case-mix ratio be-

tween the number of patients admitted, say, for open heart surgery vs. the number going to a clinic to see their doctor about a sore throat. Some hospitals include expenses for depreciation, malpractice insurance and even the hospital gift shop. Others limit expenses to direct costs of patient care.

But no matter how you run the numbers, the hard truth is that the UMHS is more expensive than competing hospitals, although not nearly as much as it used to be. James A. Bell, assistant finance director, is co-chair of a committee that recently analyzed how UMHS calculates cost-per-case. According to the committee's report, the re-adjusted cost-per-case calculation for fiscal year 1997 was \$7,662. That's \$565 more than the average cost-per-case for comparable academic teaching hospitals in the US and \$1,630 more than non-teaching hospitals in southeast Michigan that compete directly with the UMHS for patients and managed care dollars.

"If all you do is take total expenses and divide by the total number of patients, of course we're going to appear more expensive, because the numbers don't capture the severity of our case mix," says Gilbert Omenn, the U-M's executive vice president for medical affairs. "Before comparing these numbers, employers, insurers and the media need to look at what they're paying for. High-risk patients must have access to the specialized treatment we provide, which often is unavailable at other hospitals."

Transfer patients are expensive

Omenn points out that about 15 percent of admitted patients are transferred from another hospital. Many of these people would die without the advanced treatment technology available at U-M Hospitals and the expertise of its specialists. But intensive care for high-risk patients does not come cheap. A statistical analysis of nearly 85,000 patients admitted to U-M Hospitals from 1989 to 1993, published in the journal *Academic Medicine*, shows that transfer patients require longer hospital stays and more expensive care than non-transfer patients.

Patients in C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, for example, come to Ann Arbor from all over the world for Mott's specialist treatment programs. In a national study of children's hospitals conducted by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, Mott was rated almost twice as high as other children's hospitals on the association's patient severity index. Patient care costs at Mott raise the cost-per-case calculation for the entire Health System by several hundred dollars per case, according to Omenn.

No one is considering turning away transferred patients or shutting down Mott Children's Hospital. "We are a



Lorris A. Betz, interim dean of the U-M Medical School, helps first-year medical student Helen Kang of Montclair, California, into a white coat during ceremonies for students beginning their first year.

state institution, and we have a responsibility to care for the state's children," says Jean E. Robillard, professor and chair of pediatrics at the U-M Medical School.

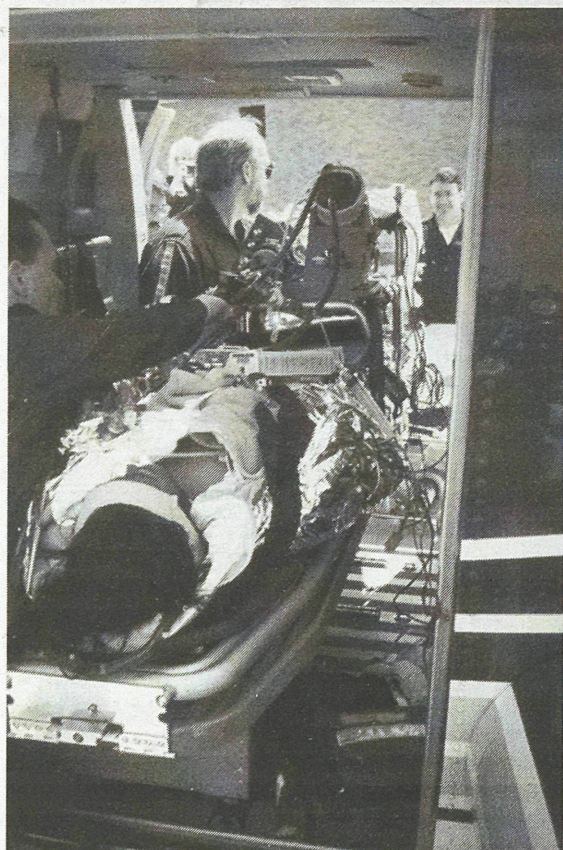
But as the Health System struggles to come up with the money to carry out its responsibilities, the people who balance the budget understand that altruism has its price in the bottom-line world of managed care. Every patient transfer increases the cost-per-case for the U-M Health System, while it reduces the cost-per-case for a competing hospital.

"We are the hospital of last resort," says Jim Bell. "We treat the sickest, most difficult cases. All our competitors transfer their most difficult and expensive cases to us."

Changes in the Health System

The Medical Center has seen many changes in the two years since Lloyd Jacobs announced the bad news at the 1996 press conference. For one thing, there's a new CEO. Gilbert Omenn, the University's first executive vice president for medical affairs, joined the U-M in September 1997. The Med Center also got a name change to the U-M Health System. And there's a new organizational structure. All three U-M Hospitals, 30 Health Centers, the Medical School and M-CARE are now together in one organization directed by Omenn.

Instead of a \$16 million loss, the Health System expects a \$20 million gain from basic operations this fiscal year. A major initiative to expand and reorganize its primary care network has added 85 new primary care physicians to the faculty and 25 new outpatient Health Centers. Hard work and creative suggestions from employees have made it possible for the Health System to implement more efficient operating procedures and cut expenses by



Survival Flight nurse Kris Nelson (left) and pilot Bobby Crees (center) unload a critically ill patient transferred from a Detroit-area hospital. Survival Flight helicopters carry portable heart-lung bypass equipment, which made it possible for Dr. Robert Schreiner Jr. (far right) to begin treating the patient immediately instead of waiting until she arrived in Ann Arbor.

Photo courtesy of Survival Flight

millions of dollars. The number of outpatient visits climbed to nearly 1.1 million last year with inpatient admissions of 33,761. Business is so good that most of the nurses who were laid off in 1996 have been rehired and there are job openings for 150 more.

While the current financial status of the Health System is excellent, Jacobs cautioned that the crisis is not over. "We've been successful at getting costs down and developing a cost-conscious culture," Jacobs said. "We're far more fiscally stable and competitive than we were two years ago. But we have to continue to respond to market pressures to reduce costs, and we have to work harder to become more patient friendly and improve our quality of care."

Lorris A. Betz, interim dean of the U-M Medical School, adds, "There is a stronger sense of partnership between the Medical School faculty and the hospital administration, which has grown from the mutual recognition that we need each other to provide the highest quality patient care while supporting our academic mission in the face of a threatened loss of clinical revenue."

The Faculty Group Practice

Physicians and administrators agree that one of the most important changes in the Health System was the formation in July 1996 of the Faculty Group Practice, which combined clinical activities of 15 separate departments into one self-governing organization.

"The Faculty Group Practice could be considered analogous to the federal government and the clinical departments to the states," says John F. Greden, professor and

chair of psychiatry and current chair of the FGP's Board of Directors. "Ideally, they should work together. Before the Faculty Group Practice, departments often had competing, or at least not synchronous, missions and agendas with little consensus on what we should be doing. Our current goal is to speak with one voice and improve the efficiency and quality of patient care."

Since its creation, FGP has helped implement a centralized billing service, so patients no longer receive multiple bills from physicians in different specialties. Its 12-member board of directors determines the share of overall clinical revenue each department should receive. The organization has developed professional service standards that are now being implemented throughout the Health System. These standards specify guidelines for everything from patient appointment scheduling to billing procedures and patient satisfaction surveys.

Customer service and quality of care are crucial to the success of the Health System's new Ambulatory Care Division, according to David A. Spahlinger, FGP's executive medical director. "Ambulatory care is the gateway to the entire health system," Spahlinger says. "It's important to make a good first impression, because patients have the

freedom to walk out and take their business elsewhere."

FGP's professional service standards are an example of how managed care has generated some positive changes in health care, according to John E. Billi, associate professor of internal medicine and medical education in the Medical School. "Under managed care, physicians are held accountable and responsible for the quality of patient care they provide," Billi says. "Patient satisfaction is one important measure of quality."

"Another development fostered by managed care is the creation of clinical practice guidelines, which are developed by physicians based on the results of scientific studies to specify the most appropriate medical care for a specific condition," Billi adds.

Reinforcing the trend toward evidence-based medicine, the Health System is doing more to encourage clinical research—research that evaluates the effectiveness of new drugs or treatments for specific diseases on human subjects. This is a research area that many scientists say has been overshadowed by the Medical School's national reputation as a leader in basic scientific research.

"Part of the obligation of an academic medical center is to take basic science advances from the laboratory through the steps required to produce an effective and practical treatment for patients," Betz says. To do this, he and Omenn have set aside \$8 million to fund various joint research initiatives involving clinical and basic scientists in the Medical School. Another \$10-million Clinical Venture Investment Fund established by the Faculty Group Practice and U-M Hospitals and Health Centers, also will be used to support new clinical research studies and other initiatives.

"What's been most satisfying to me is seeing people recognize the need to work together to identify and solve our problems," Jacobs says. "Everyone is working a lot harder now, but people are more engaged and committed to the future of the institution. We also are taking our responsibility to patients more seriously and realizing that the patients don't work for us. We work for them." MT

Sally Pobojevski is a health and science writer for U-M News and Information Services and the Health System.

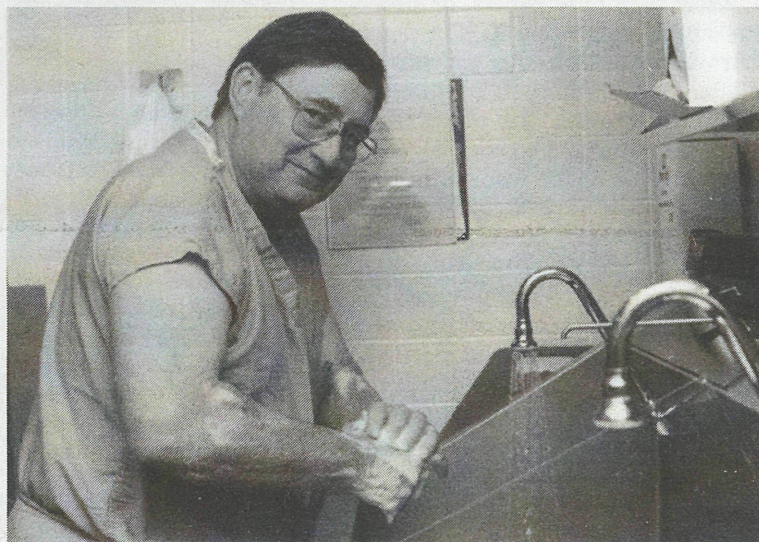


Photo by Bill Wood, U-M Photo Services

Lloyd Jacobs (above), associate professor of surgery and senior associate dean for clinical affairs in the Medical School, is spending more time in surgery than in budget meetings these days now that the Health System's financial situation has improved.

Attending pediatrics resident Kathy Fessler (left) of Detroit and first-year resident David Bundy of Kalamazoo examine newborn Nathan Conn with his mother, Tina Chapman, at the Corner Health Center in Ypsilanti.

Photo by Bill Wood, U-M Photo Services



**They're high-tech sleuths
whose beat ranges from
poor etiquette to crime**

**By Nancy Ross-Flanigan
U-M News & Information Services**

Nothing seemed unusual to the students who slung down their backpacks and settled in to work at computers in the Michigan Union's public computing site. The screen displays that prompted them to type in their passwords seemed just like those on all the other computers around the room. If anything, the scene had a reassuring monotony about it—banks and banks of identical computers with seemingly identical screens.

But something wasn't right. As the students innocently checked their e-mail, wrote their term papers, or surfed the Internet, they were stumbling into a trap. The familiar "login" display that welcomed them that day was really a fake, modeled after the real thing. It concealed a secret computer program that captured the password of anyone who logged into one of the altered computers.

After the hapless users left, the person who set the trap came back and, with a few keystrokes, collected the day's catch. Then, hiding behind the students' identities, the thief used their passwords to send out a storm of racist e-mail.

Such scenes are being played out on campuses across the nation. As computers become more commonplace, and electronic communication is considered almost essential, incidents ranging from the improper to the illegal are posing problems for communities of computer users—and for computer support staffs. At the University of Michigan, most such problems wind up in the laps of Dora Winter and Jim Knox, the IT (Information Technology) User Advocates who work with the Information and Technology Division (ITD).

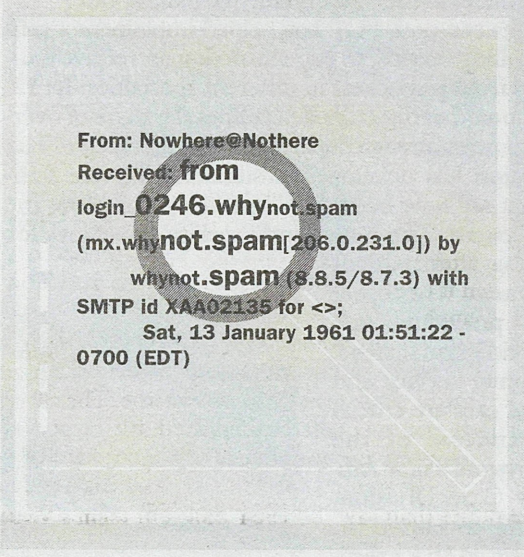
While Knox prefers the advocacy side of the job, Winter revels in investigations and doesn't mind being called a "hacker tracker." A fan of *Dragnet* reruns who always has enjoyed unraveling mysteries, Winter has worked with law enforcement agencies—from the U-M Department of Public Safety and Ann Arbor police to the FBI and Secret Service—to crack cases of stolen passwords, credit card fraud and even a forged e-mail message that appeared to be from the president of the United States.

Tracking the source of an e-mail forgery or a computer account break-in can keep Knox or Winter absorbed for days. They search for clues in the "headers" of e-mail messages—strings of e-mail addresses and other information that function as electronic postmarks, showing every computer the message has passed through, along with the day and time each machine received the message.

The machines themselves can also contain telltale traces of inappropriate activity. But the trail can get convoluted when a crook uses more than one computer to break into someone else's computer account. And in cases of password theft, dozens of users may be affected, adding to the time it takes to investigate and clean up after an incident.

In one particularly messy case, hackers stole users'

TALES OF THE HACKER TRACKERS



From: Nowhere@Nothere
Received: from
login_0246.whynot.spam
(mx.whynot.spam[206.0.231.0]) by
whynot.spam (8.8.5/8.7.3) with
SMTP id XAA02135 for <>;
Sat, 13 January 1961 01:51:22 -
0700 (EDT)

passwords, broke into their computer files and stored collections of illegal software there without the users' knowledge. Then the hackers distributed the stolen passwords on the Internet, telling people they could use them to get free software from the U-M. To clear up that incident, ITD staffers had to call in more than 100 students, one by one, and go through their computer files with them, discarding the illegal files and keeping those that belonged to the students.

The cost wasn't only in wasted time. The incident also caused legal headaches for the University, which although innocent, appeared for some time to be offering pirated software for free. The university never found out who was behind that caper. But in plenty of other cases, the culprit has been caught, often thanks to the IT User Advocates' tracking skills.

Being the one to point the finger has taken some getting used to, Winter says. "I'm the one who says, 'They did it, and here's why I believe that,'" she says. "At first that was very weird to me. I kept thinking, what if I'm wrong?" But with time and experience, Winter has come to trust her instincts. Sometimes that means listening to a nagging voice that keeps telling her that things just don't add up.

Take the case of the phony president. Someone sent out a sarcastic and threatening e-mail message apparently signed by President Clinton. Working with the Secret Service, Winter traced the forged message to one student. But after talking to the student and trying to put all the pieces together, Winter felt someone else was responsible. Sure enough, it turned out to be the student's roommate who had done the deed.

But Winter and Knox insist they're not primarily computer cops. Instead, they see themselves as peacemakers and educators. Most of the problems they deal with every day are more in the realm of Miss Manners than of *Dragnet*'s Joe Friday. Take these typical cases: A student creates mischief by circulating an e-mail message to classmates, made to look as if it came from their professor. A participant in an online discussion group complains that someone from the U-M is posting rude remarks. A staff member gets a little too curious about a coworker's business and is caught snooping through private computer files.

In situations such as these, the user advocates' first step is to help the miscreants understand why their behavior is inappropriate or possibly harmful. That educational role is essential, explains Virginia Rezmierski, director of ITD's Office of Policy Development and Education.

"We're dealing with young, developing people, and they need to have feedback about the impact of their behavior on other people," Rezmierski says. "And nine times out of ten, that's all it takes. They just haven't thought about what they've done and how it reflects on them, or how it reflects on the University, or how it might cause somebody not to be able to use the system."

Young people do impulsive and unwise things with their computers for the same reasons young people do impulsive and unwise things in general, says Rezmierski, an educational psychologist by training. Some just think it's fun to play pranks. Others like the challenge of sneaking into someplace they're not supposed to be, just to see if they can do it. And some simply are not clear on where the boundaries lie.

Universities have a responsibility, Rezmierski says, not only to give students the technical expertise they need to use computers, but also to help them learn that the world is not a laboratory where they can experiment without limits.

When the IT User Advocate position was created more than a decade ago, it was seen as a sort of ombudsman for the small group of relatively sophisticated computer users on campus. Back then, desktop computers were rare. Users relied on the University's mainframe computer, and the Internet as we know it did not exist.

Knox, who was one of the U-M's original user advocates and now devotes one-quarter of his time to such activities, recalls handling only about 20 complaints or requests a month in those early days. And now? "I think already this academic year, we're up to approximately 1,400," he said in April.

After about a year in the role, "I've come to the conclusion that I'm the investigator," says Winter. "I'm not determining guilt. I'm not determining innocence. I'm just giving you the facts." Just the facts. Now there's an attitude that *Dragnet*'s Joe Friday would appreciate. **MT**

LETTERS

Keep Reference Letter Files Active

The Career Planning and Placement office is updating its reference letter files. Files that have been inactive since December 1987 will be destroyed by the Reference Letter Center (RLC).

To maintain an active file, a student or alumna/us must have conducted one or more of the following transactions since December 1987: transmitted (mailed) reference letters as part of an admission or employment process; added new letters to the file; submitted updated personal data (e.g. current address, telephone or newly acquired degree).

To reactivate a file that has not been used since 1987, contact the (RLC) by August 15, 1998. You will be asked to update information in your file. There is no charge.

File deactivation affects only reference letters. Transcripts and other academic material are not affected.

Any U-M graduate or current student with at least 12 credits may start a new file by requesting the necessary information from the RLC. Last year, the center opened 3,000 new files, added 12,000 new letters to active files and mailed 30,000 reference letter packages to graduate and professional schools and employment settings across the country.

For further information contact the Reference Letter Center, 3200 Student Activities Building, 515 E. Jefferson St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1316. Phone (734) 764-7459; fax (734) 763-4917; e-mail cp&p@umich.edu.

The Subject Is Still Roses

"THE RETURN of 1947's Mad Magicians" in the Spring 1998 issue reminded me that in the years I spent in Ann Arbor between the Fall of 1941 and the Winter of 1949 (interrupted by World War II), I saw every at home football game and never once saw the Wolverines lose. Your article and this undefeated 50th anniversary year of my graduation stirred happy memories.

The article also made me recognize that, for those of us celebrating the half-century since graduation, what others perceive as history we see as living memory. So, in that spirit, I offer a minor correction to the article. Bump and Pete Elliott must have been

sent to college under the same U.S. Navy V-12 program that I was, not B12 as the article stated. One of the pleasant memories of that time is of marching smartly down State street with the V-12 contingent to the bounce of "Anchors Aweigh," pretty heady stuff for a 17-year-old recruit.

Robert Leopold '48 BSEE, '49 MSEE
Livingston, New Jersey

I RECENTLY read that, at least in the opinion of whoever wrote whatever it was I was reading, history is best written after time has passed. That may be true when it comes to interpretation, but it doesn't apply to the details. Two articles in the Spring 1998 issue brought that out clearly to me. Most of the items in question had to do with the return of the well-named "Mad Magicians."

They were the epitome of single-wing teams, and the single-wing offense was one which depended on finesse rather than raw power, but Bob Chappuis playing defensive left halfback?! It's odd that I remember watching him throw passes to Bob Mann all that season, and run with the ball, but defense? No. (I also remember him from Speech 101.) I think, too, that he was being modest in saying that they didn't have great players. True, he was not a passer of the NFL type, but the NFL didn't use finesse then, either. However, another member of that team and of that speech class has been in the pro football's Hall of Fame for some time, and Lenny Ford wasn't all that much better than the rest of them.

There are a couple of really wrong numbers, too. Out-of-state tuition was closer to \$900 than \$147. Not even the students who helped with registration knew it, but the GI bill paid the same for instate and out-of-state students. The smart-aleck who had the bad luck to register me wanted to argue about that. Our version of the GI bill did not give us \$300 a month, either. Tuition and books were separated items with separate limits, and we got \$96 a month. I think single veterans got only \$75. The next year our stipend went to \$102 and we felt rich. (The Navy didn't give their students vitamins, either. Their wartime program was V-12, not B12.)

That article was enjoyable, even with its errors, but "The Mosquito War" left me with

a serious question. If current research "provides something to work from to develop a potential drug treatment and, perhaps, also a vaccine," what was the vaccine I and many others were administered on our way to the Pacific in WWII? We were told it was for dengue fever, and it was no more fun to have been shot with than any of the others.

W. Keith Sloan '49
Franklin, Tennessee

Dr. Rory Marks replies: I doubt that it was a specific dengue vaccine, because work that fully characterized dengue virus was not completed until the 1940s. However, it is possible. A colleague interested in dengue vaccines provided me the following information: Albert Sabin and his colleagues did work on dengue virus during WWII, infecting humans with serum from patients with acute dengue infections. Another part of this work was to propagate dengue virus in the brains of mice. This mouse-adapted virus was administered to people and found to be attenuated and protective; i.e. a potentially effective vaccine. Although this work was published in the 1950s, it took place during the war. This work was dropped because of safety concerns about administering mouse brain-derived vaccines."

KAREN BACK'S article stirred many memories of those who attained the 1948 Rose Bowl game. The cheerleaders were also entertained by Hollywood celebrities. Donald O'Connor and Olga San Juan. Years later as a Pasadena resident I enjoyed our 1964 (not '66) team's victory over Oregon State. An amusing interlude was provided by someone who tossed a small, greased pig onto the playing field. Piglet had been dyed yellow, and a dark blue M had been painted on each side. Play was halted as piglet ran circles around all who tried to catch him, much to the crowd's amusement. Finally, a farm boy from Oregon State walked casually up behind without startling him, dove, grabbed the piglet's hind legs and twisted him over. The crowd roared, then applauded, as the young man walked off the field cradling his prize.

William MacGowan '49, '50M Music
Gainesville, Florida

AS A veteran to Ann Arbor in 1946, I saw all the home games of the great 1947 football team. Consequently the article brought back many memories. However, I believe that a few statements in the article may be in error. In reference to Bob Chappuis, of Toledo, the out-of-state tuition is said to have been \$147. The G I Bill permitted the university to be reimbursed at out-of-state rates for all veterans, regardless of their domicile. Tuition varied among the different colleges of the University as it does now. The veterans did not receive \$300 a month (a very large sum at the time) for room, books and tuition. Tuition was paid directly by the federal government to the university, books au-

thorized by the veterans instructor were obtained from the bookstores which received reimbursement directly from the government. A veteran, if single, received \$65 a month, later raised to \$75. This was good money and it is in line with the 52/20 payments to veterans who were out of work and were not students. I suggest that Karen Rutky Back verify these dollar amounts.

W. Van Wicklin '48E
Gainesville, Florida

AT LAST Michigan had been selected to play USC in the Rose Bowl on 1 January 1948. They had been edged out the year before by Illinois with nearly identical records. Now was the time for fulfillment as in the glory days of 1932 and 1933 when Michigan won back-to-back the Williamson Trophy as the national champions.

It was while I was in a barber shop near Pasadena that I overheard a customer say he was a game official for the forthcoming bowl. He had refereed a game during the fall when Michigan's spinning fullback Jack Weisenberger even had the field officials wondering who would get the ball. USC better prepare for a bewildering offense.

The game itself was beyond belief! Michigan scored at will, and USC simply couldn't get going against a powerful defense. As one disappointed USC fan observed, "In 40 years they (Michigan) haven't improved a bit!" referring to the original Tournament of Roses game before the Rose Bowl was built when Michigan defeated Stanford by an identical score, 49 to 0.

Michigan got its comeuppance in subsequent years, but the win 50 years later in 1998 more than made up for the dry years.

Norman Williamson Jr. '36
Claremont

The Dewey Center

YOUR ARTICLES about John Dewey were quite interesting and amusing. As a librarian retired from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, I gave the issues containing the John Dewey articles to the Center for (John) Dewey Studies. They will also receive the Spring 1998 issue containing a variety of letters regarding John Dewey, but first I plan to show your corrected credit to Karen Drickamer who supplied the lead photograph of John Dewey in the fall issue. She should also find your article titled "Wiring History" of interest. E-mail has certainly presented a problem to many Archivists.

The same article raised some personal goose bumps with your mention of LBJ's original note card from his "Great Society" speech at the 1964 commencement. I left my children with a babysitter that morning in order to hear President Johnson's speech, not having any idea I would witness such a landmark event.

I have also enjoyed the discussion of your

address labels in the past few years. I was quite amused to suddenly find my husband's name added to the address from my Alma Mater. George had a unique relationship to the U of M, not as a student but as the investigator in charge of the US Civil Service Commission Investigations Office, which conducted security clearances in the 1960s for prospective government employees, including astronauts, Peace Corps volunteers and many, many other individuals who spent time in the Ann Arbor area.

Lilly Crane '67 MALS
Makanda, Illinois

I NOTE the information on 815 Packard Ave. (not 315 as printed in MT spring '98). In 1948-1950 I lived at that house along with Jay J. Pease Jr., Carl Lentz, Jr., Bruce Clark(?) two Malani Brothers, Ed— from Far Rockaway, NY, — Fleming from Chicago, and a fellow from New Orleans. The owner was Larry Birch, a med student with a family. We never knew that John Dewey lived there once. We called it the Packard Athletic Club. Down the street lived the brother of the shah of Iran.

Arthur Schwartz '50E
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

The Campus Plan

I WAS delighted to learn that the University has embarked upon a comprehensive planning study of the entire campus and adjacent area. I was equally pleased to learn that the planning process is just beginning, which hopefully means that there is still an opportunity for input from interested parties.

A careful reading of "Master Architects/Master Plan" (Winter '98 issue) clearly indicates that one of the core issues to be addressed is the transportation system proposed to link the parts into a cohesive whole. As a student of Prof. John Kohl, who later became the first administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, I was encouraged to consider options for linking the Stadium area/Central Campus/Medical Center North Campus/Ann Arbor CBD and have continued to evaluate options for nearly five decades.

The technology to provide such linkages is available and should be carefully considered as the University Master Plan evolves.

Robert S. Vogt BSCE
Cincinnati

HOW DOES one respond to the article "Master Architects/Master Plan" without sounding jaundiced? First, let me start by saying that I have the highest regard for the talents of Venturi, Scott Brown Associates. They have done more than almost any other architectural firm to drag us back from the edge of sterility and blandness that the International Style had imposed on architecture for a quarter century. Almost to a building, I enjoy the sensitivity and delight they bring to their designs.

On the other hand, I know little of their master planning abilities either because they are not publicized that much or what they have done is not truly classified as master planning. The examples listed in the article (Dartmouth and Penn) don't appear to be large-scale master planning. Site planning on a large scale is not the same thing as doing a comprehensive master plan.

I've come to feel that great architects, down through history, have been less than great master planners. One need not look any further than LeCorbusier and Mies van der Rohe. For some reason the mind-set which can create beautiful, detailed buildings doesn't seem to transfer into large scale thinking.

Now to expose the reason for my prejudices. In U-M's landscape architecture MA program, I had the pleasure of working for and being taught by two of the best large-scale planners I have encountered in my 35 years of professional practice: Prof. William J. Johnson (I am no relation) and Clarence Roy. It was Johnson and Roy then (1961) and became Johnson, Johnson and Roy just before I left for the American Academy in Rome. What was once a six-person office on the second floor of Hutzels in Ann Arbor has now grown to probably 150 people in five offices all over the US. And what was and is probably still their strongest suit? Master planning, more specifically, campus master planning.

So my question is this: Are we witnessing an example of "bringing coals to Newcastle" or of the axiom known to most design professionals, that one becomes a more highly regarded professional and expert in direct proportion to the distance from the source of work?

I just have the feeling that that is what is going on here. For my money, I think that JJ&R are probably the finest campus planners in the country, if not the world, today. And I would hire VSBA for most buildings in an instant. But it seems rather insulting to head back to the East Coast and the Ivy League when you've got one of the best practically "on campus."

Dean A. Johnson '63 MLA
Simsbury, Connecticut

WHATEVER other merits Venturi, Scott Brown Assoc. may earn in developing a "master plan" for the University, their stadium concept is not one of them. It is too cutesie-poo for words. Many in my day at Michigan resented having to include football tickets in their tuition payments and would rather have had that money applied to the May Festival concert tickets. I enjoyed the games for what they were, in a great perfect oval impressive for the experience of just "being" there.

Enough already of big-time stadium competition. We do not have to prove a thing. Leave the classical stadium as it is with mi-

nor and real improvements. Spend the money instead on scholarships and other student aid. Universities have been front-loading tuition hikes to make ends meet. Remember, it is education that we are all about.

Thomas J. Michalski '56 Arch, '59
MCP
Melbourne, Florida

Is 'Go Blue' Intellectual Property?

WHERE WERE you the first time "Go Blue!" was shouted to exhort the Wolverines to greater effort? I was halfway up the stands, somewhere around the 40-yard line, when Paul Fromm, '51E, yelled out the now famous cheer during the Wolverines' first home game of the season in September 1950. At subsequent games he kept using the cheer to encourage the team, each time gaining a few more voices from the surrounding fans.

Fromm and I were members of Gamma Delta, the student organization of the University Lutheran Chapel, and had joined with other members in getting a block of tickets so we could attend games together. We sat in the same seats each time Michigan played at home that year, so I became accustomed to hearing "Go Blue!" become more popular as the football season wore on that year.

I know Fromm originated the cheer because I grew up in Ann Arbor and started going to the football games in 1934, when friendly guards turned a blind eye to us children when we went through the gates at the start of the third quarter. We of course joined in the cheers, and "Go Blue!" was definitely not one of them. I think it's high time that Fromm was given recognition for originating "Go Blue!"

Margaret (Peg) Detlor Dungan '48, '51 MA
Clio, Iowa

P.S. Fromm says he used the cheer once before September of 1950 at a hockey game.

Avery Hopwood

THANK YOU for the informative article about Avery Hopwood and his exploits. In 1980, I received a Hopwood Award for an essay I wrote as a freshman, and proudly noted this accomplishment on my job resume, grad school applications, etc. Little did I know I was among such a fun-loving crowd, although I must admit my life to date has not been so colorful. Shame on you for not mentioning Avery's presumably long-suffering wife Jule. As I recall, the awards also bear her name. You might also mention how Jule's name is pronounced. Most folks assume it is "Jewel." (Maybe it is.)

Mary Ellen Lemieux '83
Menlo Park, California

Jule (pronounced as you assumed) Hopwood was Avery's mother—Ed.

Admission Policy

PROF. THOMAS Weisskopf, writing in his capacity as director of the Residential College (Spring 1998), reassures us that he welcomes the intellectual diversity provided by Prof. Carl Cohen's views on U-M affirmative action policies. But Weisskopf then goes on to make the pronouncement that Cohen's views "do not reflect the policy of the Residential College." This statement is immediately followed by a lengthy discourse, leaving the reader confused, at best, regarding the dividing line between [Weisskopf's] official pronouncements and his personal views.

I have seen the racially coded admissions grid, which Professor Cohen obtained from U-M under FOIA, and it shows unequivocally that this lawsuit is a no-brainer; U-M has clearly violated the Bakke standard, never mind the more rigorous standards for the use of race set by subsequent Supreme Court decisions. It may well be that "the policy of the Residential College" is to defy the highest law of the land, as Director Weisskopf's pronouncement implies, but if so, it is hardly a source of pride.

Robert M. Costrell '72
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

See the "Washington Post" story on page 6 for information about the grids—Ed.

Housing Co-ops

A STORY on the Housing Co-ops item would probably be of interest to your readers. The Co-op was started in the 1930s. It was a male group by circumstance rather than design. Women students lived in residences with meals provided, men students lived in rooming houses supplying living quarters only. In the '38/'39 school year with nearly 900 members, the Co-op represented about 10% of the men students. About 10% of the members exchanged work effort for their meals. The others purchased their meals, 20 each week for \$4.20. The Co-op was a product of difficult economic times, student operated with no outside support helping many to stay in school and graduate debt free.

Robert Candlish
Livonia, Michigan

The ISR

YOUR COVER story for the Fall '97 edition excited me; I got my MA in 1953 with the help of an assistantship at the Institute for Social Research (ISR). However, there was a glaring error of omission in your brief history. When I was there, ISR consisted of two parts, the Survey Research Center (SRC) and the Research Center for Group Dynamics (RCGD). I worked at the latter and my wife was a secretary at the former (yes, I got my degree by the sweat of my frau!).

Your article speaks only of SRC's work, ignoring the RCGD completely! My work with Hal Gerard and his study of group cohesiveness as related to air crew selection for the U.S. Air Force, led to my research on

"germ warfare" confessions among USAF prisoners-of-war in North Korea. This ultimately led to my co-authoring *Coercive Persuasion: A Socio-Psychological Analysis of the Brainwashing of American Civilian Prisoners by the Chinese Communists*" (Schein, Schneier & Barker; W.W. Norton, 1961). While my work at the RCGD was hardly a drop in the bucket, the body of work produced under the direction of Dorwin Cartwright, his predecessors and successor added more to the world's understanding of group behavior than any other institution in its time.

Other than that, I feel that *MT* is among the best of my several alumni publications (Syracuse and MIT as well). I hope it continues in its present form.

Curtis H. Barker '53 MA
Cape Coral, Florida

The ISR in Russia

I WAS delighted to see in the Fall 1997 issue an article on the Institute for Social Research (ISR) and its international work. I write to describe an important component of that work absent from the article.

The US Treasury Department Office of Technical Assistance places resident advisors in selected finance ministries and central banks to assist those countries develop modern fiscal and financial structures. One of our more successful areas of technical cooperation has been in Russia, where Treasury advisors have assisted Deputy Finance Minister Oleg Vyugin in upgrading the Ministry's macroeconomic forecasting models and strengthening statistical sources feeding those models. Advisor Albina Birman, formerly of the US Census Bureau, has over the past year worked with Ministry and private sector experts to develop a Russian Consumer Sentiment Index to be used as a leading indicator.

The survey supporting the Index has been developed with the informal support of ISR's Survey Research Center (SRC). SRC Director Richard Curtin has been generous with both his time and expertise in collaborating with Dr. Birman. In truth, the concept of producing such a survey probably can be traced to one of the Summer ISR Institutes attended by a Russian statistician. The quality of those Institutes and their staff in imparting applied knowledge to persons from dramatically different cultural backgrounds is impressive.

The Treasury is proud of having provided initial support to the development of the Index, just as it provided some of the initial support to the development of the US survey 50 years ago. The University of Michigan should be proud of its role in the production of a Russian national institution and of having as dedicated and competent an individual as Dr. Curtin on its faculty. As a Treasury official, and also a Michigan graduate, I am proud of both.

Vic Miller
Washington, DC

Gentlemen and Scholars

IN EARLIER years, the University of Michigan graduated students who were both professionally competent and socially adept. Any organization who hired a Michigan graduate was assured of getting a well-qualified worker and a person who would be familiar with and at ease in any social situation.

How was this accomplished? The academic training by the faculty and facilities of the University has always been, and continues to be, legend in the world of academia. However, the social skills of some recent graduates are either nonexistent or seriously lacking.

In the 1940s-50s, then-president Alexander Ruthven established the Michigan House Plan, which was designed to develop a young person socially, along with his academic training. All freshmen and sophomore students were required to live in dormitories on campus. These dorms were subdivided into smaller units (called Houses) of approximately 25-30 students each. Each House had a counseling staff consisting of a Resident Advisor, a Counselor on each floor and an Associated Advisor (Housemother). Students were required to dress (coat and tie) for the evening meal, which was served in the formal dining room with nice china, tablecloths, napkins and silverware. This meal was the opportunity to practice the social graces under the guidance of the above-mentioned staff. Weekly meetings (attendance required) were held for small groups of students in each House, where the social graces were taught. Not only meal manners, but the whole gamut of social amenities was covered at these meetings. The result was that after two years a student knew and practiced those social graces that labeled him a "gentleman."

For whatever reason, this plan slowly deteriorated until today a dorm is merely a rented room with fast food type meals. The facilities are badly in need of maintenance, repair and redecorating. Gone are the formal lounges, the social events and, especially, the Housemothers, who were the social trainers and developers.

While the return to the "golden era" may not be possible today, I feel that the University has some responsibility for developing "the whole person" in its graduates. I would like to see a program developed and activated that would truly produce alumni who are both gentlemen and scholars.

H.G. Phillips '56 Ed.
Mesa, Arizona

Miscellaneous

SUGGESTIONS to *Michigan Today*: 1. Combine with the slick-paper alumni magazine. 2. Include a classified section and other advertising to increase revenue. 3. Emulate *Harvard Magazine*—it combines general interest and university/alumni news.

W. K. Davenport '53 Law
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

COMPLIMENTS on your varied and learned publication. (I'm happy to be in a footnote even—Edgar McCormick's editing of Emily Wolcott's letters recently appearing.) It's worthwhile to have history tales of Michigan as well as the most recent research. Alumni are avid readers. "Letters" from them show continued interest. I hate to mention the fact that distribution is uneven—for the first time I did not receive an issue, Summer 1997. Good luck on your new ventures.

Georgia C. Haugh
Ann Arbor

You probably did not miss an issue. Budgetary realities forced us to reduce to three times a year. But we now publish 24 pages compared with 20 pages in our quarterly form—Ed.

I RECEIVE no fewer than 25 publications from various units of the University. They arrive, variously, weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, trimesterally, semiannually and annually. None is more informative, more educational and, indeed, more entertaining than *Michigan Today*. I particularly appreciate its eclectic context, with its bal-

ance of historical and contemporary themes. I welcome the incremental improvements in reproduction quality, although photographs continue to reproduce poorly on the new stock. Perhaps someday the exchequer will support a coated paper and sharper pictures.

Marvin Epstein '51
University Heights, Ohio

Oversight of Physics Department

YOUR PIECE on U-M's involvement with the ATLAS detector at CERN's Large Hadron Collider was nicely done and an important recognition of Michigan's contributions to the frontiers of particle physics. The piece might also have mentioned that Dr. Homer Neal is (probably first and foremost, to his view) a professor of physics. This project, which occupies a significant number of our 60 physics faculty, was covered in a U-M publication without once making mention of or linking to the Department of Physics. For interested parties, there's an article detailing U-M's involvement with ATLAS at <http://www.physics.lsa.umich.edu/news/9802/>.

Frank DeSanto
Editor, U-M Department of Physics

The Mystery of a Pool Shark

This issue of *MT* somehow got invaded by fish, but the following tale is more than just another fish story. It's a mystery, too. In 1978, Wally Moilanen found a dented silver-plated trophy while fishing a creek near Tapiola in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It bore the inscription: "1924, University of Michigan, Straight Rail Billiard Tournament, Won By Curtis D. Becker."

The loving cup hung in Moilanen's barn for 20 years. Recently, Moilanen asked a friend to surf the Internet for Curtis Becker or a member of his family. The search yielded only a "Curlycue Mike" who manages a Website, "Billiards in Michigan."

Curlycue Mike contacted Betsy Sundholm, manager of Michigan Union's Billiards Room. Sundholm pored over University records but could learn only that Curtis Becker had enrolled at U-M but never graduated. Who was Becker? Was his prowess at pool linked to academic troubles? How did his trophy get from Ann Arbor into a creek in the Upper Peninsula? The mystery remains.

Meanwhile, Becker's trophy is in a display case outside the Billiards Room. Anyone with information about Becker is asked to call the Billiards Room at (734) 763-5786.—**Joanne Nesbit, U-M News and Information Services.**



Ernie Pyle's War: America's Eyewitness to World War II

By James Tobin '78, '86 PhD, *The Free Press*, New York, 1997, \$25 hardcover, \$16.95, paper, University Press of Kansas.

For those who weren't reading newspapers during World War II, it is difficult to understand the phenomenon of Ernie Pyle (1900-45). Or at least it was before James Tobin's biography was published last.

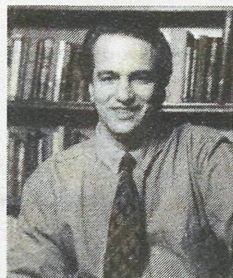
A former editor of the *Michigan Daily* (see Fall 1997 MT), Tobin became interested in Pyle while working on his U-M doctoral dissertation, "Why We Fight: Versions of the American Purpose in World War II."

Deploying the skills of a reporter (he was a Pulitzer-nominee on the Detroit News) and historian, Tobin movingly portrays both Pyle and an era in which perhaps two-thirds of the American reading public followed the fate of their men and boys at war mainly through Pyle's six columns a week.

When Pyle was killed by a sniper on a small island near Okinawa on April 18, 1945, after surviving more than four years of warfare in London, North Africa, Italy and France, why did Americans mourn him equally with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had died a week earlier? How did a short, scrawny, hypochondriacal Hoosier farm boy who had dropped out of Indiana University to work on a newspaper win such affection and respect?

We asked Tobin those questions shortly after he had won the 1998 National Book Critics Circle Award for *Ernie Pyle's War*.

Pyle developed his spare, restrained prose style in his nationally syndicated aviation column from 1928 to 1932, Tobin said. And from 1935-39, Pyle was a roving reporter whose beat was the Western hemisphere. A hallmark of his writing was his focus on the little guy, the average Joe, the gritty, noncomplaining, dutiful, practical and skillful unsung heroes working along the highways and byways and in the boondocks of the Americas.



Jim Tobin has left newspaper work to become a fulltime popular historian. His first contract is for a biography of aviation pioneer Wilbur Wright.

When the war came, this character emerged as GI Joe, the Common Man Triumphant, a mythical figure, yet not an untruthful one. Tobin said Pyle communicated "the feelings of comradeship and fraternal love that exists among soldiers."

"Pyle followed the precepts of the journalism of his day," Tobin continued, "which was to write what they saw. They were not consciously ideological in the sense imposing an interpretation on the war. When Arthur Miller worked on the screenplay of *The Story of GI Joe*, a movie based on Pyle's war columns, he wanted to project the war through a New Deal lens that cast the war as an anti-fascist, liberal crusade. Pyle knew that most of the guys doing the fighting had no sense of the war like that. What they knew about the war was that the only way to survive was to help each other."

Pyle's skill and insight fit the reigning news medium. "When the U.S. forces invaded Iraq during the Gulf War," Tobin noted, "the American public could follow the action on TV. But on D Day, all the American public knew was that on June 6, 1944, some undetermined amount of forces had landed in some unidentified place on the northern coast of France. It was several days before anyone told them any details or described the scene. And the first thing they read was Ernie Pyle's 'Walk on the Beach' column."

The column began: "I took a walk along the historic coast of Normandy in the country of France. It was a lovely day for strolling along the seashore. Men were sleeping on the sand, some of them sleeping forever. Men were floating in the water, but they didn't know they were in the water, for they were dead."

Pyle's sense of tragedy, his fatalism and underlying hatred of war, runs through Tobin's tale, which is told in a disarmingly plain prose that masks powerful emotion, a match for Pyle's own style. Serving as a strong subplot is Pyle's liquor-lubricated, painful yet deeply romantic marriage with Jerry Siebolds, a complex woman who

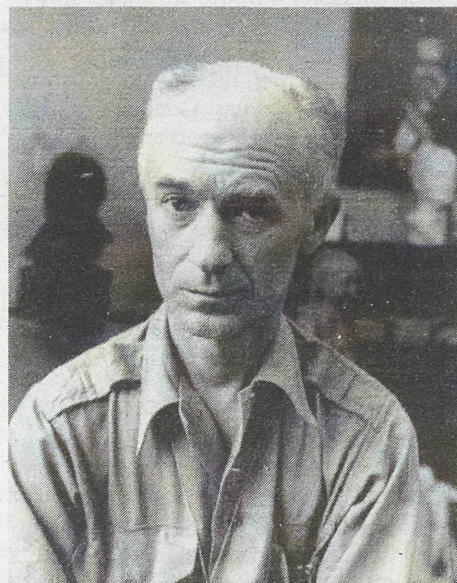
BOOKS

Tobin says "may have had, in today's terminology, a bipolar or borderline personality disorder overlaid by alcoholism."

Tobin said the book's reception has surpassed his expectations. "I just hoped it would make the History Book of the Month Club and get reviewed in the *New York Times Book Review*," he said. It did that and more, with reviews and interviews in radio, TV and press.

"But what has pleased me even more," Tobin said, "was to see people like my dad and father-in-law embrace their memories after reading the book. Their generation followed a don't-brag, don't-tell-bad-stuff norm. But now I think the World War II generation wants people to know what they went through. And they're right. We can join them and look back at it and appreciate the meaning of what they did. After all, if they'd lost—well—just think what the world could have been like."

—John Woodford.



Ernie Pyle

Photo by Alfred Eisenstadt

The Last Jewish Shortstop in America

By Lowell B. Komie '51, *Swordfish*, Chicago, 1997, \$12.95.

Baseball and other sports are the major motif in this alternately poignant and satirical tale of David Epstein, a deal-maker loser from Chicago who succeeds somewhat in organizing a hall of fame for Jewish athletes. The author, who is also a Chicago attorney, is at his comic best in the scenes in which Epstein consummates the deal with North Shore suburban Jewish professionals. The hero's attempts to cope with his roles as father, divorced husband and lonesome would-be lover prove him to be somewhat of a schlemiel and schmuck, but blessed with enough chutzpah to wind up as a real mensch. —JW.

Film Essays and Criticism

By Rudolf Arnheim, *U of Wisconsin Press*, 1997, \$18.95.

These essays by the retired U-M faculty member Rudolf Arnheim mainly span the 1920s and '30s, but are as incisive as ever. His 1940 discussion of anti-fascist satire is possibly the briefest of critical masterpieces. He finds in the shortcomings of Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* the political limitations not only of Chaplin's effort, but also of our common Western popular film tradition in general. At the end of the film, Arnheim observed, we are left with the notion that the dictator Hinkel is an individual "whose elimination would restore peace and order to this pain-wracked world. This is a view expressed at this very hour by many misguided people. It must surely be apparent now that much more was involved than the fight against a few criminals. This is a fight against a system against fascism. Anyone who wants to make effective his fight against Hitler has to know this, and to show this." Arnheim's beef is not against the use of satire to attack fascism, however. Instead he prescribes the kind of satire needed to expose fascism's "meanness of spirit, the hollowness of its boasting, the co-existence of enormously contrasting social elements. I remember at least a dozen wisecracks invented by the victims of fascism themselves that convey a deeper insight and more essential interpretation than anything in *The Great Dictator*." —JW.

SAMURAI OF SUMMER Continued from page 24

The Japanese discover *besuboru*

In the wake of the "opening" of Japan to the West, the Japanese were introduced to that most American of sports: baseball. As Robert Whiting observed in *You Gotta Have Wa* (Random House, 1990), the emphasis on team building and group equilibrium found baseball especially well-suited to Japanese sensibilities. Whiting traced the beginnings of Japanese baseball (*besuboru*) to the 1870s, and noted that by the "early twentieth century, intercollegiate baseball was the country's major sport. . . a symbol of the nation's progress in its efforts to catch the West."

The leading Japanese teams came from Ichiko, Keio, Waseda and Meiji universities. International intercollegiate baseball exchanges began in 1905 when Waseda University toured the West Coast. Over the years, Michigan hosted Japanese teams in Ann Arbor: Keio visited in 1911, followed by Waseda in 1921, Meiji in 1924 and Osaka Mainichi in 1925. Finally, in 1929, Michigan Coach Ray Fisher received a letter from Meiji University Coach George J. Otsuki inviting the Michigan baseball team to tour Japan as "ambassadors of good will," compliments of Meiji University and the Japanese Ministry of Education.

On the recommendation of Fielding Yost, the Board in Control of Intercollegiate Athletics accepted the invitation at its February 9, 1929, meeting. The agreement included an understanding that Michigan would host two games against Meiji University in Ann Arbor on May 6-7.

Athletic Director Fielding H. Yost with the Japanese saddle offered by Meiji University of Japan in 1932. The saddle went to Yost's den next to the Japanese suit of armor presented in 1929.

The *Michigan Daily* featured front-page coverage as the Maize and Blue narrowly won the first game with a game-winning hit by Capt. Don Corriden in the bottom of the ninth before packed



The dugout of the Hosei University baseball team at Ferry Field, 1932. Hosei U. invited U-M for the Wolverines' second Japanese tour.

Alumni Association Collection, U-M Bentley Historical Library

grandstands at Ferry Field. The Wolverines rallied in the sixth inning of the second game to overcome a two-run deficit and win by the same 3-2 score.

Coach Fisher commented that the Japanese players were "noticeably weak at batting" but displayed a "remarkable defense." The *Michigan Daily* of May 7, 1929, described the Meiji team as a "fast and colorful. . . team" with "fast fielding" and "lightning-like throws" that made them "the equal of most American college teams."

Led by Corriden and star pitchers Bill McAfee and Fred Asbeck, the 1928 Big Ten Conference Champions left Ann Arbor on July 31, 1929. After playing several games on the West Coast and one in Hawaii, the Wolverines arrived in Japan for a 30-day visit. Lodged at the Imperial Hotel, the 14 team members and Coach Fisher and his family were received lavishly by Meiji University.

Against a variety of Japan's best college teams the Maize and Blue won 11 of 13 games, with losses to Meiji and Waseda. In a *Michigan Alumnus* article describing the trip,

Straub opined that "Japanese pitchers are not as effective as our college pitchers in America. But their catchers are of a much higher standard." He added that the umpires "were usually very efficient and absolutely impartial."

In 1932, the team traveled again to the Land of the Rising Sun, winning 11 of 15 games. This time, there was much less coverage in the campus press, but the Wolverines returned with a trophy no less worthy than the first: a Japanese saddle.

An article in Yost's scrapbook described his plan to display the saddle in his den, alongside the armor he received from Meiji University in 1929. This newspaper clipping effectively explains how the armor, which had been presented to the team, had come to be in the possession of Mrs. Fielding Yost when she "donated" it to the University in 1952.

The Samurai Spirit

When the suit of armor was first prepared for exhibition in 1932, curator Benjamin March explained to the *Michigan Daily* (October 26, 1932), "This gift is especially significant when one considers the code of the samurai, or knights of old Japan, and the implication made by its presentation to one of our invading baseball teams. Their code was called 'bushido,' and contained the elements of sportsmanship. . . . The gift, therefore, is a recognition of the 'samurai' qualities in Michigan athletes."

For several decades the Japanese suit of armor has remained an enigma, inspiring curiosity from museum visitors left to seek meaning in vivid imaginations nourished by popular culture. By reclaiming this artifact as a part of Michigan's great history, initial impressions of exoticism or fear may recede in favor of the familiar: baseball, Fielding Yost and the fabulous legacy of Michigan athletics. Although the armor is no longer on display, perhaps the University will offer it a new home. **MT**

Valerie Nao Yoshimura '94 MA is a doctoral candidate in Romance Languages and Literatures (French). She thanks Greg Kinney and the reference staff at the Bentley Historical Library; Carla Sinopoli and the Museum of Anthropology; Marshall Wu and Carole McNamara, UMMA; and Andrew Conti, the Consulate General of Japan at Detroit, for their help with this article.

SPORTS

Trio finish great U-M careers Marty Turco, Sara Griffin and Kevin Sullivan, three of the most successful athletes in Michigan history, completed their careers this spring.

Marty Turco, a physical education major (Division of Kinesiology) from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, led a young ice hockey team to a national championship in April, when U-M defeated Boston College 3-2 in overtime. Turco is the all-time NCAA game-winning goalie; his 127 victories are 16 more than fellow Wolverine Steve Shields '94. It was Turco's second national title.

Photo by Warren Zimm, Michigan Daily



Photo by Bob Kalmbach, U-M Photo Services



Sara Griffin, a communication studies major (LSA) from Simi Valley, California, notched her 105th career win against 17 defeats when she pitched a three-hit shutout May 17 to lead the 56-7 Big Ten champion Wolverine softball team into the College World Series where they won one and lost two. Griffin was victorious 35 times this year and lost just 3. The eighth-winningest pitcher in NCAA history, Griffin is also a .400 career hitter and holder of six school pitching and batting records.

Photo by Bob Kalmbach, U-M Photo Services



Kevin Sullivan, an academic All-American civil and environmental engineering major (College of Engineering) from Brantford, Ontario, ended his Ann Arbor career with a Ferry Field record 3:36.62 in the 1,500 meters. The mark was also tops in the nation this year heading into the NCAA championships. An Olympian in 1996 and training for a return in 2000, Sullivan won 11 Big Ten titles and 10 All-American honors in the 1,500, cross country and distance medley relays. He already has four NCAA titles and was fifth in the world in 1995. "He's probably the finest, most prolific runner to graduate from Michigan since Bob Ufer in '47," Asst. Coach Ron Warhurst told a reporter.

The 'missing link' to a favorite campus artifact is found in a 1929 journey to Japan by U-M's baseball team

SAMURAI OF SUMMER

By Valerie Nao Yoshimura

Is it Darth Vader? A Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle? A samurai from Shogun? Long one of the most popular objects at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), a Japanese suit of armor inspires such interrogation from children and adults.

An imposing presence of black lacquer and chain mail fastened with colorful laces atop an indigo blue undergarment upon which golden dragonflies alight, the mysterious armor is topped by an awesome black helmet that undeniably evokes the arch-villain of the *Star Wars* trilogy. What visitors don't realize, however, is that this armor has a University connection—and it's not James Earl Jones. Indeed, just as Darth Vader recovers his true identity after decades of obscurity, so, too, has this enigmatic suit of armor been unmasked: Far more than an appealing Asian artifact, the armor is, in fact, a tournament trophy awarded to the University of Michigan men's baseball team in 1929 by Meiji University in Japan after the Michigan nine won 11 of 13 games on its first tour of the Asian archipelago.

While enrolled in a graduate course in "Connoisseurship" offered by the Museum Practice Program, I selected the fascinating suit of Japanese armor as my object of inquiry. Little about it was known. Although it had been on display at the Museum of Art for a decade, UMMA maintained no files on it because the armor officially belongs to the U-M Museum of Anthropology (Accession No.2034, Catalogue No.36793).

The information available from the Museum of Anthropology was similarly scant: The file contained a single letter dated July 1, 1952, to Mrs. Fielding Yost that acknowledged her gift of the armor in memory of her husband, Fielding H. Yost (1871-1946). U-M football coach for a quarter of a century and then athletic director, Yost guided Michigan athletics through the first four decades of this century and was the inspiration behind Michigan Stadium, the U-M Golf Course and Yost Field House—the first indoor practice facility, now the ice arena that bears his name.

In an attempt to uncover the armor's provenance by identifying the family or prefecture from which it hails, I researched its composition, artistry and symbolism. The decorative aspects suggest that



Photo courtesy of Valerie Yoshimura

Always popular with children, the Japanese suit of armor that is a Michigan baseball trophy! In 1994, Christies auctioned similar suits of armor at prices ranging from \$7,000 to \$26,230. (U-M Museum of Anthropology, Catalog no. 36793.)

it dates from the late Edo period (1600-1848), a time of peace when ceremonial artistry superseded protective function. As color schemes and icons mark familial and regional identity, I investigated the family crest (*kamon*) on the helmet (*kabuto*), the 18 dragonflies painted in gold that adorn the indigo cotton undergarment and the dark blue and flame-colored lacing (*kon-ito-odosi*).

Traditionally known in Japan as *katsumushi*, or the "invincible insect," the dragonfly is a favorite symbol of strength and victory, admired for its elegance and lightness. Since the 14th century, the dragonfly has been the symbol of the Kaneko family from Kaneko village near Tokyo, yet it is also a symbol of Japan herself, as the shape of the islands are said to resemble this intriguing insect.

While such military and cultural associations help explain the predominance of the dragonfly on this armor, my investigations of provenance remained, nonetheless, inconclusive. In the end, the answer was right here in Ann Arbor. Thanks to the incredible collection of University history preserved by the Bentley Historical Library, I was able to peruse Fielding Yost's scrapbooks and correspondence, as well as the scrapbooks, minutes, photos and records of the Athletic Department, the Alumni Association,

and past issues of the *Michigan Alumnus* and the *Michigan Daily*.

Together, these records testify to a remarkable series of baseball exchanges between U-M and Japanese universities that began in 1911 and peaked in 1929 and 1932, when the Wolverine squad journeyed across the Pacific.

The *Michigan Daily* of October 16, 1929, describes the very special "trophy" brought back to Ann Arbor: "Probably the most unique trophies that will ever be displayed in the Yost Field House are two sets of Japanese armuor [sic] over 500 years old which were presented to the team at the University of Meiji. These awards instead of cups were given to Michigan because they are very highly prized in Japanese sporting circles and because the Meiji university baseball teams who have played here several times were of the opinion that Michigan had enough cups anyway."

(Continued on page 23)

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