

# Michigan Today

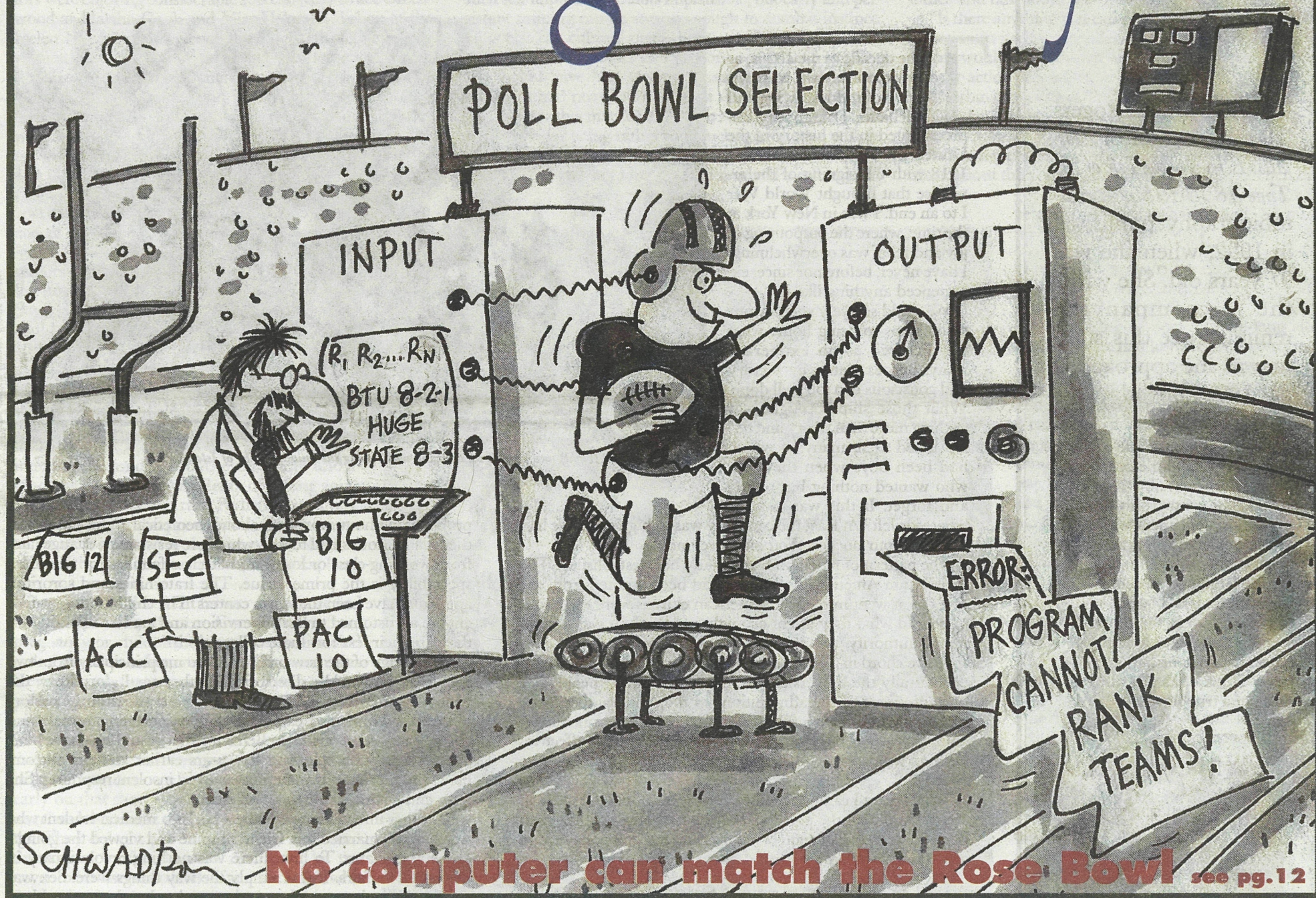


Illustration by Harley Schwadron

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*'I am a child  
of the century,  
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Frances Broene Rogers '18 is the author of *Footfalls: Echoes of the Life of My Time 1895-1985*, an autobiography published in 1992, when she was 97 years old. She wrote the accompanying reminiscence this summer as she approached her 103rd birthday this November.

*Footfalls* recounts a life of the 20th century and the century's own history as well. ("I am a child of the century, my thinking almost coincident with it," the author notes.) It is an inspiring book without deploying the jargon or preachiness of such tomes. It is a "woman's book," but not in the condescending, audience-limiting sense that term usually connotes. Think of its pleasures as those of a true novel.

*Continued on page 4*



Rogers

# CAMPUS LIFE 70

## *Viewed From a Woman*

By Frances Broene Rogers

**T**he decade of the 1920s, as everyone knows, was a period of reckless living and defiance of authority unprecedented in the history of the United States. It began in late 1918 with the signing of the armistice that brought World War I to an end. I was in New York at the time, where the outpouring of joy and relief was overwhelming. I have never, before nor since, experienced anything like it.

We could scarcely wait for our troop ships to bring home what we pictured as an exuberant army, heroes elated by victory and conscious of a job well done. What those ships brought was nothing more than weary and disillusioned men, many of whom had been boys when they left, who wanted nothing but to rest and forget. If this was victory, what was left? At least the economy was in high gear. We had money in our pockets. You only live once.

The pattern of rebellion had already been established. The Prohibition Amendment of 1917 had been ignored from the first day it went into effect. American citizens were not about to be told what they might or might not drink. It was a flouting of authority, a gesture of self-assertion that struck a responsive chord in a disappointed and disoriented generation.

Naturally the universities were affected. Young people not only disregarded the admonitions of their elders, they were often rude and disdainful. Traditional rules were unenforceable. In the dormitories, old-style directors were ineffective. Perhaps women more nearly the students' age might be more effective.

That is how I came to be the director of Alumnae House in 1926. Until then the position, known as "house mother," had been the preserve of genteel widows and spinsters of a certain age and indisputable virtue.

### AN ISLAND IN THE STORM

**T**o my surprise, Alumnae House, on Washtenaw Avenue between Geddes and Wilmont, proved to be an island almost untouched by the storm. In retrospect, this should not have been surprising. Alumnae House was a cooperative dormitory designed for students who most needed financial support. Such are serious about their studies, and they have enough



Francis B Rogers (right) and friends on a spring walk along the muddy banks of Island Park.

Photos courtesy Frances Broene Rogers

problems without worrying about theoretical rights. Many of them came from small towns, which are resistant to change, and from working-class or lower-middle-class families for whom respectability is the prime virtue. The fraternities and sororities appear to have been the storm centers. The children of the affluent are accustomed to less supervision and are less tolerant of it than are their less fortunate colleagues.

Knowledge of the new order came to me principally from two sources. One was the director of another small dormitory, the widow of a minister. She had volunteered to monitor the parlors of the new Women's League building one evening a week, and she was in a state of shock. Behavior that would not have been tolerated in public places a few years earlier was not uncommon, and reprimands sometimes evoked insolent responses. She frequently came to me to let off steam.

My other informant was Robert Hicks, a medical student who was happily married to a friend of mine and viewed the goings-on as a spectator. To him, there was nothing revolutionary in the state of affairs. It was simply the way things were. Sex was an unruly instinct; youth was short-sighted and often reckless. Time would take care of that soon enough. He saw no need to get excited.

One day, when we had been talking about the latest escapade of a mutual acquaintance, I exclaimed, "What happens to such women when they leave college?"

He replied, "They get married and are very strict with their daughters."



# YEARS AGO

## en's Dormitory MY EXPERIENCES AT ALUMNAE HOUSE, 1926-28

In the large dormitories the new-style, younger directors were enjoying considerable success. Miss Grace Greenwood at Martha Cook and Miss Helen C. Bishop at the Helen Newberry Residence were both attractive young women with easy good manners; they were well liked; they had the gift of inducing in their charges a desire to please, and they understood that the old rules could be effective with a less submissive generation only if applied with a generous admixture of common sense.

### THE CURFEW AND COMMON SENSE

Miss Greenwood said to me one day at the end of a school year, "This is a senior honors house, yet my girls must keep hours. One of my seniors who must be in tonight at 10:30 is driving home tomorrow on a two-day trip with her boyfriend. Besides, I can think of nothing she could do at 10:45 that she couldn't have done at 10:15."

She was right. Almost always, the rules were not enforceable in all situations. A favorite pastime in warm weather was canoeing up the river, where one quickly passed, on a summer evening, into an empty, shadowy world that lent itself to intimacy. Beyond a doubt, even in my undergraduate days, there was plenty of petting going on, but pregnancy was rare. Perhaps once a year, some girl might disappear from campus, never to be seen again. Her departure was often attributed to "acute appendicitis," if an explanation was required.

A number of deterrent factors were more formidable than they are now. Complications from pregnancy or childbirth that are easily handled today were not infrequent then. Ostracism was inevitable unless marriage followed quickly. And probably most important of all, for both men and women, was the training from an early age in self-control, and it was drilled in incessantly that this was the first commandment, that good behavior was our own responsibility. Boys knew early on that they were expected to be "gentlemen" and there were things that gentlemen didn't do. They did not put "nice girls" at risk. And this appeal to chivalry was reinforced by the never-to-be-discounted risk of an irate father who demanded marriage at once, ready or not.

The girls' viewpoint was neatly summed up in a limerick that circulated in the dormitories:

*There was a young lady named Wild  
Who kept herself quite undefiled  
By thinking of Jesus  
And venereal diseases  
And the danger of having a child.*

I don't doubt that many young people today might find such self-imposed restraints implausible, but early and persistent training can be strong enough to combat instinct. How else can cultural patterns be accounted for!

At Alumnae House I had just one sex-related incident that might have had serious consequences. One of my freshmen had not been in town a week when she began going out with a man 10 or 12 years her senior who had a reputation for being rather too much interested in college girls—nothing factual, just a lot of speculation and raised eyebrows. It was not long before I received a call in 1929

from Alice Lloyd, the new dean of women, to come to her office and talk about the situation.

"Is there anything you can do about it?" she asked. That question in itself was evidence of the new order. Former deans would have known what to do and seen to it that proper action was taken.

"Nothing," I told her. "Whatever we may say or do, she will make her own decision. I am keeping an eye on it." She left it in my hands.

What happened was that the relationship continued throughout the young woman's college years. Then they got married and lived happily for 20 years, until the husband died. So much for intervention!

### UNDERSTANDING UNDERGRADUATES

The young woman told me long afterward that she had known I was concerned, "but if you had said a word, I would have gone overboard right then." The point is that undergraduates tend to be touchy about their new status as adults. They resent any suggestion that they may not be mature enough to handle their own affairs. The only way they can assert themselves is to do what you fear. If you do not interfere, however, the tables are turned. If they want to prove you wrong, they must mind their step.

The biggest problem of anyone in charge of a random assortment of young people is to keep the peace. Sooner or later, he will encounter every form of human contrariness: persons with so little self-esteem that they are able to survive only by continually criticizing others; persons so unhappy that they begrudge the happiness of anyone else; little darlings who ignore rules and consider it their birthright to monopolize the showers and the telephones. They are a source of continual disturbance. I could only try to placate such students for the time being and to soothe the feelings of the wounded. The most one can do, with sufficient tact, is to maintain a kind of truce. If the overall feeling is good, and peace reigns most of the time, one has done all that is possible.

One of the girls of Polish background was continually teased about her English. For her it was a second language, learned in school, and it was rather formal. She needed reassurance from time to time. I could only tell her that the teasing would pass and her English would be an asset when she got out into the world.

*Continued on page 4*



*A 1918 tea at Helen Newberry women's residence. 'The young woman seen most clearly in the background was old-fashioned even back then,' says the author, who is at left in foreground with Ada Fitch and Mildred Mighell. A fellow Daily staffer with Rogers, Mighell 'was little and had an air of innocence that made people want to protect her. It was the most deceptive guise I have ever seen.'*



# CAMPUS LIFE

Continued from page 3

Another girl, Elaine, who had been the exclusive object of her mother's affection, felt rejected when her mother married again. She wanted attention continually. When she decided to take to her bed for a few days, demanding service right and left, the whole house would be thrown into confusion. Consultations with her mother and Dean Lloyd didn't solve the problem. Fortunately, another student, a little older than the others and even-tempered, offered to live with Elaine. She was pleased to do so, and there was no more roommate trouble.

In my opinion, this is a director's most important business. It is never-ending, occasionally time-consuming, and success is limited, but if it can be viewed as a challenge, it is worth the trouble. A few young people will have learned some invaluable lessons.

## ROUTINE

For the rest, my duties were routine: I was a housekeeper; I made out work schedules for the girls who cleaned or cooked, supervised the cleaning women who came in from time to time to do heavy cleaning, took inventory at the end of the school year, purchased supplies as needed, kept a cash journal that was turned over to the University treasurer in June, etc.

One of the cleaning women the second year was apparently unable to resist perfume. She must have brought a bottle in which to deposit a bit from a number of bottles. Surely such a small theft could be a sin! Every time she came, I had the same complaint. I sometimes wondered what she smelled like in church on Sunday!

Most of these things took little time, maybe an hour now and then, but we had two crises that demanded first place in my attention: a fire and a case of chicken-pox that had to be cared for in the house. The fire, caused by the explosion of a coal-fired hot-water heater in the basement, was put out quickly by firemen. The aftermath kept me busy for a month, however. Every garment in the house had to be dry cleaned; and since the cleaners could take just so many a day, it required the wisdom of Solomon to adjudicate the claims of 17 young women for priority service. My own clothes went last. For several weeks, everywhere I went, someone said, "I smell smoke!" Such things, when they occur, have priority over studies. I lost three hours of credit toward my master's degree the first year and never caught up.

Leone Prochnow, a teacher of domestic science, served as both dietician and teacher of the girls who cooked our meals. She was amiable and attractive, a role model, I think, for many of the girls. The food was first rate. The only complaint I ever heard was too much whipped cream. It cannot be called a serious criticism. **MT**

"Prof. Leo Strauss of the English department in my time used to say that he read Thackeray for his 'wicked' (Strauss's word) old women. They had seen everything, their social position was secure, they could afford to say what they liked about anything and anybody—and they did. This is Strauss's verdict. I seem to be getting there." —F.B.R.

# On Another Subject

While I am about it, I would like to comment on the impression I received of student residences when I was last in Ann Arbor after an absence of 38 years. I had come with my husband for three days in October 1990 for the Michigan Daily celebration of its 100th year.

We did not get around much, because we had expected fine October weather and it had turned out to be rainy and cold, but I made it a point to visit Helen Newberry Residence where I had lived during my undergraduate years.

The first thing I noticed was that the porches where we had our afternoon tea in fine weather and lingered between dances at parties, had been removed. An addition had been built across the front of the building facing State Street and there was no front door. When we found the entrance, there was no doorbell, only a panel with numbers to punch in if you knew the code.

Eventually a group of students came along and let us in to a corridor adjoining an office. We asked for the director. There was none. One of the girls, a senior, asked if we would like her to show us around. We were pleased to accept the offer.

The comfortable parlors with sofas and fireplaces had been replaced by an impersonal room filled with small tables and dining chairs. It could have been in any kind of public building. Might we see the dining-room? There was none. Everybody ate in the Betsey Barbour dormitory next door. I had seen all I wanted to see.

We were then escorted to Betsey Barbour. There was a director, but she was away for the week. We were shown the cafeteria: glaring light, any cafeteria anywhere. There was nothing whatever that I could relate to.

In my view, a university is ideally a world in itself, a shelter where young minds may expand undisturbed and conversation flourish. This is not to be had in comfortless rooms, unbeautiful, impersonal, or in dining-rooms designed for eating with an eye on the clock. Nor can it be had without a director who is something more than an efficient executive—a hostess whose presence inspires good manners. I found that a few students never learned, never even noticed, such matters of behavior, although lacking manners is definitely a handicap to anyone who aspires to top-level positions. But more of them were observant—you could see them observing. In no time they were in step. A small matter, but not insignificant.

Daily life, for the most part, is the sum of small matters. If such things are not pertinent to higher education, the term has lost its meaning.

I know that today's students are far more sophisticated than any before them and impatient of restraints, that supervision is unacceptable. But we need not go to the opposite extreme and provide quarters with no more amenities than a commercial hotel. I would like to see my alma mater give some attention to comfort and aesthetics. If I were 30 or 40 years younger, I would be pleased to be on a committee to promote this end.—F.B.R.

## Child of the century, continued from page 2

Some of the ordeals Rogers faced over the first half of our century corresponded to the extent to which she accepted or rejected the conventional roles for women. She was born in 1895 in a strict Dutch Calvinist family and community in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Resisting pressures to attend a religious college, she arrived at U-M in 1914, as World War I was breaking out in Europe.

In her junior year, Rogers joined the *Michigan Daily*. In her senior year, she and three or four other female students succeeded, over the opposition of several male students, in assuming key editorial duties because the war had sharply depleted the ranks of male students. She had felt painfully awkward around young men, but by the end of college, "I had lost my shyness," Rogers wrote. "Going to work on the *Daily* was the smartest thing I ever did."

When Rogers returned to U-M as a graduate student in 1927 and applied for an instructorship, she recalls how Oscar Campbell, head of the English department, discouraged her: "There will never be a woman on the staff of the department while I am in charge."

During the Depression years, she said in an interview, she went wherever she thought she might be able to find work, "and survived one way or another, buoyed up by a sense of freedom and infinite possibility." There were "low moments," too, she added. One of these was occasioned by a visit to Grand Rapids, when she realized the difficulties her father was experiencing in his salesman's job.

One day in the early '30s, when she was waitressing on campus and taking graduate courses, Rogers asked Dean of Women Alice Lloyd if the U-M Health Service might put her up for a week because she was too tired to function. After questioning Rogers about her life, a Health Service physician wrote a note that Rogers peeked at. It read: "Diagnosis: intolerable economic situation." Rogers spent the next week with "nothing to do but eat and sleep."

There is a heroism in ordinary life that people the world over are called upon to display every day. Few who are lucky enough to take the necessities of life for granted appreciate this quotidian drama. Reading *Footfalls* could change that.

*Footfalls* by Frances B. Rogers is available from the Sunstone Press, P.O. Box 2321, Santa Fe, NM 87504, Visa and Mastercard accepted, \$12.95.



## Math Department Outreach? The State Can Count On It

By John Woodford

**T**he Michigan Math Scholars High School Program for 9th to 11th graders has recently completed its second summer of operation, and applications are already being taken for Summer 1999.

Math Scholars began in Summer 1997, with funds from the Provost's Initiative for Community Outreach. According to Carolyn Dean, the program's director, "We aim to provide talented high school students with a research experience that gives them an idea of the scope of modern mathematics and a feel for why it is so exciting. In many high schools, a student's enthusiasm for math can mark him or her as unusual. That can be difficult. One of the best things about Math Scholars is the friendships that form here based on the shared interest in our subject."

During the 1998 Summer program, Math Scholars had 76 students in six two-week courses. "We choose topics that students typically don't see until they are well advanced in the college math curriculum but that can be made quite accessible to high school students," says Executive Director Phil Hanlon, professor of mathematics.

Courses this year included the science and art of counting, mathematics and DNA, the theory of secret codes, the mathematics of curvature and surfaces, number theory, the nature of infinity, and the new geometry that contrasts with the geometry formulated by Euclid in 300 BC.

Courses are small (at most 15 students) and taught by a leading mathematician who is assisted by one or more graduate students or undergraduate seniors in the math honors program. Students have at least 30 hours of faculty contact—about two-thirds the contact time of a University course—and another 30-40 hours doing lab work with the course assistant. Dean emphasizes that "it's active learning—projects, contests, lab work—not just listening to lectures."

High school students come to Math Scholars with a wide variety of backgrounds. Some are advanced, but students with an average background that includes some algebra and geometry can be successful and have a great time if they are motivated, Dean says.

"Social opportunities abound," she continues, "with sports, concerts, picnicking and other activities. But a small core of students work on their math for as much as 16 hours a day. Their enthusiasm is exciting for all of us."

In keeping with the mandate of the Provost's Initiative, the majority of the Math Scholars are Michigan residents; however, 1998 brought students from Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, Illinois, Ohio, Mississippi and South America. As the program continues to expand, Dean and Hanlon plan to continue the mix.

Special attention is devoted to recruiting students from areas of Michigan that are histori-

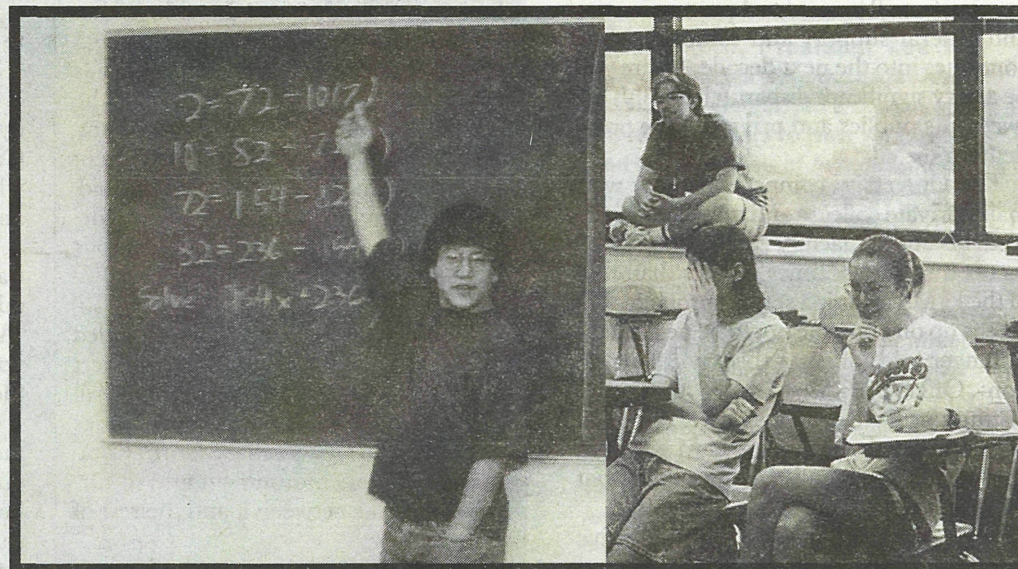
cally underrepresented at U-M. "This Summer, we had our first student from Wolverine, Michigan, Ashley Hill. That was exciting for us, since in recent years only one student from Wolverine has attended Michigan. We want to achieve this type of impact in many small towns throughout the state."

Dean credits the small-town backgrounds of Hanlon and Prof. Al Taylor, chairman of the department, with motivating the department's intensive outreach efforts: "Both Al and Phil are acutely aware of the difference our program can make to the life of a student from a small town," Dean reports. "As Al says, U-M should attract the best students from throughout our state. It's wrong that there are areas of Michigan with little or no connection to our University."

The Math Scholars philosophy stresses group work and cooperation. Nevertheless, the 1997 Math Scholars excelled in the 1997 Michigan Math Prize Competition taken by 14,000 high school students. Of the 52 students in the 1997 summer program, 13 placed in the top 100 on the MMPC, including gold medalist and incoming U-M Bentley Scholar Rob Easton of Lapeer and silver medalist Betsy Huebner of Grosse Pointe Shores.

For more information about the 1999 Math Scholars program, or to request application materials, please send e-mail to [math.scholarWFs@math.lsa.umich.edu](mailto:math.scholarWFs@math.lsa.umich.edu), or phone Cornelius Wright at (734) 647-4461. To discuss the content or philosophy of the program, please send e-mail to Dr. Carolyn Dean at the above address or phone her at (734) 763-5034. Also, see the program's Website at <http://www.math.lsa.umich.edu/~mathsch/>

*Michigan high school students Betsy Huebner of Grosse Pointe Shores (seated right) and Chris Wagner of Novi (on windowsill) were back for their second summer sessions. In Tim Hsu's course Codes, Ciphers and Secret Messages, they moved historically, beginning with simple codes, which involve substituting other symbols for the symbols in a word, through modern encryption methods like those used to protect credit card data, confidentiality on the Internet and so forth.*



Photos by Bob Kaimbach



## Bollinger outlines issues that face the University

By Jane R. Elgass  
University Record

**A** renewed focus on private support and increased efforts designed to help legislators and the public understand the importance of support for public higher education are among major issues confronting the University that were outlined by President Lee C. Bollinger at the Sept. 28 meeting of the Senate Assembly of the faculty.

Detailing budget issues, Bollinger explained that about one-third of the U-M's overall \$3 billion budget is related to the Health System. State support, federal grants, income from endowment and tuition are the other primary revenue sources, with the state accounting for about \$350 million or one-third of the general fund budget.

Cost-cutting efforts, reorganization and the creation of new partnerships enabled the Health System to avert the "feared fiscal crisis" of several years ago and the System "is in the black, but not deeply," Bollinger said.

The National Institutes of Health are the primary sources of federal support and suggested increases for the NIH budget ranging from 9 to 12 percent "present a rosy picture if we are positioned academically."

Thanks to an aggressive investment policy implemented over the past decade and the highly successful capital campaign that was completed last fall, the endowment stands at about \$2 billion, he said. If, however, the current course of increases ranging from 2 percent to 4 percent in state and federal support and tuition income continues into the next decade, "there will be a very significant disparity in wealth between the publics and privates," the president predicted.

The University competes directly with major private colleges and universities—for students and for faculty—that have endowments three to six times greater than that of the U-M. "This is a serious problem that creeps up on you, one not to be neglected," Bollinger said, offering this vivid illustration: Offers for LS&A faculty from other institutions have been averaging about 45 percent more than what the U-M has been able to offer. "There is a reality there that we have to pay attention to," he said.

The U-M must make a more effective case with both government officials and

the citizens of the value of higher education for everyone, the president continued. Higher education's primary competition for state funds is the prison system, which poses a difficult problem. The prison population stands at about 40,000 and is expected to increase to 70,000 by 2005, a result of what Bollinger termed "a very unfortunate set of laws and public policy."



Bollinger

"We need to make sure that the benefits of higher education and the risks involved in not supporting it are well known," the president said. Rather than going head-to-head in a prisons vs. education battle, Bollinger said the debate should focus on "deciding what we should be doing and how effectively we can do it

with the resources we have."

The president noted that criticism over the past decade that higher education costs are out of control has manifested itself in the "insistence to not raise tuition higher than the Consumer Price Index," characterizing this approach as a way of "artificially disciplining" colleges and universities.

Annual giving now stands at about \$200 million and while the U-M may lead public colleges and universities in this area, "we are not close to the privates," Bollinger noted, adding that he anticipates the launch of another capital campaign within the next two to five years.

Priorities for funding would include faculty compensation, which goes beyond salary and includes "all the things that make possible scholarship and teaching," and support of "core institutions" such as the libraries and the renovation of the Rackham Building and Hill Auditorium. These are "crucial places" that the recent capital campaign "tended to neglect," he said.

Phase I activities necessary for the development of a comprehensive Campus Plan for the University have been completed by Venturi Scott-Brown and Associates, Bollinger reported, and have yielded a great deal of basic information in a project that, given the scale of the institution, will be long-term. An initial focus of activities likely will be on ways to make North Campus a more vital environment and to furnish better links between it and the rest of the University.

Many Medical School laboratories are

in need of renovations, particularly in light of the increased focus on the life sciences that Bollinger announced earlier this year. The Life Sciences Initiative will allow the University to focus on a "really vital areas of human discovery, and it is extremely important that we be good at this," Bollinger said, adding that it is the "scale of the University and the willingness of people to work together that makes this possible. We should be really, really good in this important area for human society." The Life Sciences Commission is scheduled to report to Bollinger in November.

The undergraduate admissions lawsuit is still in the discovery stage and will likely come to trial next summer, the president noted. There will be "no settlement" with the unsuccessful applicants, Bollinger said. "This is a matter of deep principle." Diversity, racial and otherwise, is crucial to a modern education, he said, and it would be an "unspeakable loss" if U-M lost that attribute.

Bollinger announced that the President's Office will sponsor the annual Davis-Markert-Nickerson Lecture on Academic Freedom, and that the Regents are "absolutely and fully supportive" of his action.

"There are parts in our past we wish weren't," he said. These faculty were "unjustly treated in an era of rabid intolerance."

In 1954, Chandler Davis, Clement Markert and Mark Nickerson were called to testify before a Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities. All invoked constitutional rights and refused to answer questions about their political associations. The three were suspended from the University. Markert was subsequently reinstated and Davis and Nickerson were dismissed.

The lecture has been sponsored by the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund, the U-M Chapter of the American Association of University Professors and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs.

## The University provides security within which to explore: Cantor

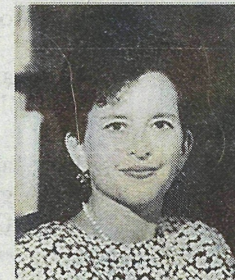
By Jane R. Elgass  
University Record

**D**iscussing the challenges facing the University from her perspective as provost, Nancy Cantor described to a University audience the three contexts or values from which she views the issues that daily cross her desk.

The University creates a structure and community that encourages undergraduates "to stretch beyond their intellectual comfort zone, and that is one of the special things a great research university has to offer," Cantor said in September, as the second speaker in the 1998 lecture series on American values sponsored and hosted by the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. "This is at the core of why we need to cherish interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary."

This, at the same time, produces a contradiction. "Exploration rarely comes without a sense of place and security," she said. "A toddler, for instance, rarely ranges beyond the security of a caregiver unless there is a sense of security."

Cantor was quick to point out that this mixing of ideas, people and experiences, pushing all members of the community beyond comfortable boundaries, is not easy. "Exploration is hard," she said. "It is tension-provoking. Our most fundamen-



Cantor

tal problem is how we get together and learn from one another. This is hard because it's new. It's uncharted territory. There are no rules for stretching beyond boundaries."

Cantor noted that, as a public research university, U-M also plays an important role in shaping society's values. This impact goes well beyond the traditional concept of a university as a place where knowledge is created and transmitted. "A place like Michigan, which has an historical imperative to be inclusive and wide-ranging, does more than that," she said. As institutions, universities really are "grand societal experiments" in which we do things for society that it would like to do but cannot.

Universities, she said, "have the luxury to play with crossing boundaries and building new, different communities, and Michigan has always played that role." We take people in at a time in their lives when they are leaving a community that is very well-defined and "bump them against each



# In Honor of Arthur Miller '38

By John Woodford

"I've always been interested in Arthur Miller, even before coming to Michigan," Prof. Enoch Brater said in his Angell Hall office festooned with playbills, posters and other paraphernalia of the theater. "He's considered, along with Eugene O'Neill and Tennessee Williams, one of America's greatest playwrights, and it's remarkable that he is still a figure in the present, still writing."

This fall, Brater, an expert on modern drama, is teaching a course, *The Stages of Arthur Miller*, devoted to the work of the alumnus of the Class of 1938. The course is one of several U-M activities honoring Miller, whose *Death of a Salesman* premiered on Broadway in 1949. "Everything about Arthur Miller can fascinate students," Brater said. "Take, for example, the question, why did he come here? The son of a coat manufacturer, he was born

other to create a new community and smaller subcommunities."

The University is a layered community, Cantor said. It is one university but has nested layers of communities within. One of the challenges imposed by this structure is to determine how to "preserve engagement in the University as a whole while also preserving the layers."

Cantor said that the budget model she and her staff have developed is one of the ways in which she confronts this challenge. The units have their own resources, which they can use as they see fit, but "they all have a common fiscal fate." There are units that are vital to the University that cannot be self-supporting—what Cantor calls public goods—so others must in some way share in their support.

These public goods include visible institutions such as the libraries, museums, Hill Auditorium and the stadium, as well as less obvious ones—the transportation system, safety, student financial aid, a civil community in which the rights of all are respected—that all combine to create the whole of the University. Maintaining and enhancing the public goods requires sacrifices from all parts of the University.

in 1915 in New York City. When it was time to choose a college, he found that Michigan would embrace someone from his background. He grew up when many schools, especially elite private institutions, had quotas on Jews, Italians and other recent immigrants. Michigan has had a long tradition of affording access to people who have found it difficult to attain the kind of education they wanted."

Brater believes this to be the first course ever devoted to a U-M graduate. "Meanwhile," he noted, "efforts are under way to establish an Arthur Miller Theater here. President Bollinger and Vice Provost for the Arts Paul Boylan are leading a committee devoted to that project, and I'm pleased to be a member of it."

Miller attended Michigan with financial assistance from the National Youth Administration, a federal program that paid him \$15 a month to tend mice in a cancer research laboratory. He also washed dishes for his meals and worked as night editor for the *Michigan Daily*. He has said that he would have had to leave the University had it not been for the assistance of the federal program. Because of that experience, in 1985 the two-time winner of U-M's Avery Hopwood Award established the Arthur Miller Award to aid aspiring writers with their U-M studies. The award includes a \$1,000 tuition credit.

As famous as Miller is in this country, where *The Crucible* is probably the first play young people read and many perform, his renown abroad has been even more consistent throughout his career. Students are surprised to discover the strength of



Photo by Matthew Mauro

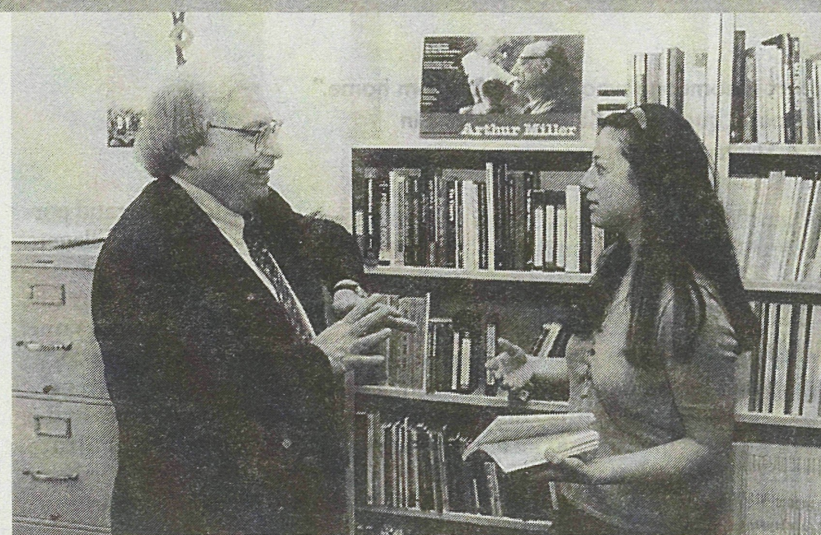


Photo by Paul Jaronaki

Enoch Brater and Aphrodite Nikolovski '99 of Birmingham, Michigan, discuss Nikolovski's plans to compare the works of Miller and Samuel Beckett in her term paper. Brater's book, *The Stages of Arthur Miller*, will be published by Thames and Hudson of London next year.

Miller's international reputation, Brater said. "In a typical pattern with many great American artists, he has even greater respect abroad, where he is celebrated as a writer who critically champions the American experiment, the idea that people in a democracy can build a better society. Students, too, respond to this idealism in Miller; a lot of them come from backgrounds that, well, let's just say they can benefit from the mind-opening experience that a Miller play delivers."

"Every French student must read *Death of a Salesman* to do well on the qualifying exam for college," Brater said. "In China, *Salesman* is a mainstay of the theater; they see it as a great family play. In fact, Arthur Miller is the most produced playwright all

over the world, Shakespeare notwithstanding. I've found that a Miller play makes my students think about essential questions in an uncluttered way whether they are liberals or conservatives. One of the best experiences a teacher can have is to have a student come up and say, 'You know, I never thought of these issues before.' And that's not a rare experience when you assign a work by Arthur Miller."

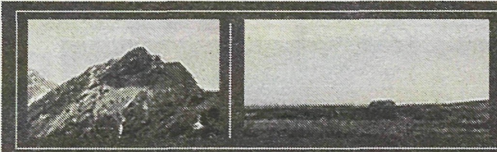
In early October, the Michigan Quarterly Review published a special issue, edited by MQR editor Prof. Laurence Goldstein, devoted to Miller. (The issue features interviews with Miller; photographs by Miller's wife, the photographer Inge Morath; a playwrights' forum; and essays by John Barth and Brenda Murphy. Copies may be ordered at \$7 from the MQR, 3032 Rackham Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070, or by phoning (734) 764-9265.)

Last April, President Lee C. Bollinger and his wife, the artist Jean Magnano Bollinger, led a contingent of U-M supporters to New York to attend the premiere of Arthur Miller's play *Mr. Peter's Connections*.

In the accompanying photo, the composer William Bolcom, professor of music, and his wife, the mezzo-soprano Joan Morris, flank, from left to right, the Bollingers, Arthur Miller and Miller's wife, the photographer Inge Morath.

Bolcom composed the score for an opera based on Miller's *A View From the Bridge*, with libretto by Miller and Arnold Weinstein. The work will premiere at Chicago's Lyric Opera company next October.





Anthropologist Tom Fricke looks homeward from the Himalayas

# A Man For All Horizons

By Diane Swanbrow  
U-M News and Information Services

"An expert is someone who's fifty miles from home."  
—Anonymous, quoted by Kathleen Norris in  
*Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*.

**T**rapped behind a desk for the last 12 months, Tom Fricke is dressed for the field. His hiking boots are broken in, his jeans are worn and faded. For much of his career as an anthropologist, Fricke (pronounced Frick-ee) has worked in a remote Himalayan village, on a narrow shelf of land 7,500 feet high near the Nepal-Tibet border. Soon he'll be heading off to stranger territory for his profession: a remote town on the Great Plains in North Dakota, near his hometown.

Fricke, 43, is an associate professor in the top-ranked anthropology department in the nation. He recently founded and now directs the Michigan Center for the Ethnography of Everyday Life, funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and based at the U-M Institute for Social Research (ISR). Writing the proposal that attracted nearly \$3 million in funding, refining an ambitious research agenda and attending to all the details involved in starting up a new research center have kept him in Ann Arbor for more than a year now. "I feel claustrophobic here," he says, "with all these trees around me."

Fricke is one of a new breed of anthropologists who are ready to test the discipline's power to illuminate the familiar, mundane and prosaic as well as it always has the exotic. Over the years, with veteran colleagues at ISR and elsewhere, he has refined a fresh approach to fieldwork called "microdemography." It combines the scope of demographics with the scrupulous statistical protocols that are the hallmark of Michigan survey projects and the classical technique used by cultural anthropologists, ethnography. His work on Himalayan households is praised for being at once individual and representative, rich in personal detail and cultural context. The approach also makes it difficult to exploit anthropological subjects, partly because it demands "total immersion" by researchers. For the last two decades, Fricke has spent years in the field, six months at a stretch, living among the Tamang, the ethnic group who live in the Nepalese village of Timling, population 650. To get there, he walks for six days through rugged mountain passes, then sleeps in a hut and shares the meals of boiled pota-



Outhouse of a family farm near Bismarck, North Dakota.

toes, beer and porridge the villagers have to offer.

Now he's ready to use the same approach to document the wrenching changes in the rituals, culture and daily lives of middle-class, mainstream families who live in the 12 states defined by the US Bureau of the Census as the Midwest: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. He's picked out his first field site—the town of Richardton, North Dakota, near the Heart

River, population 650, the same as Timling. "It's time for anthropology to bring the ethnography of everyday life to the United States where it promises to add desperately needed concreteness to public debates about work and family life," Fricke writes in the October issue of the *American Anthropological Association Newsletter*.

Up until now, acceptable Americanist research in cultural anthropology has been consigned to one of two categories: either it's concerned with the eddies and margins where a purported "other" exists—the homeless, the drug culture, outsiders, past civilizations—or it's engaged in "studying up" the power chain, examining dominant social groups. Any work that's left is thought to be second-rate—either training projects for graduate students or close-to-home projects for senior researchers who've run out of energy or funding.

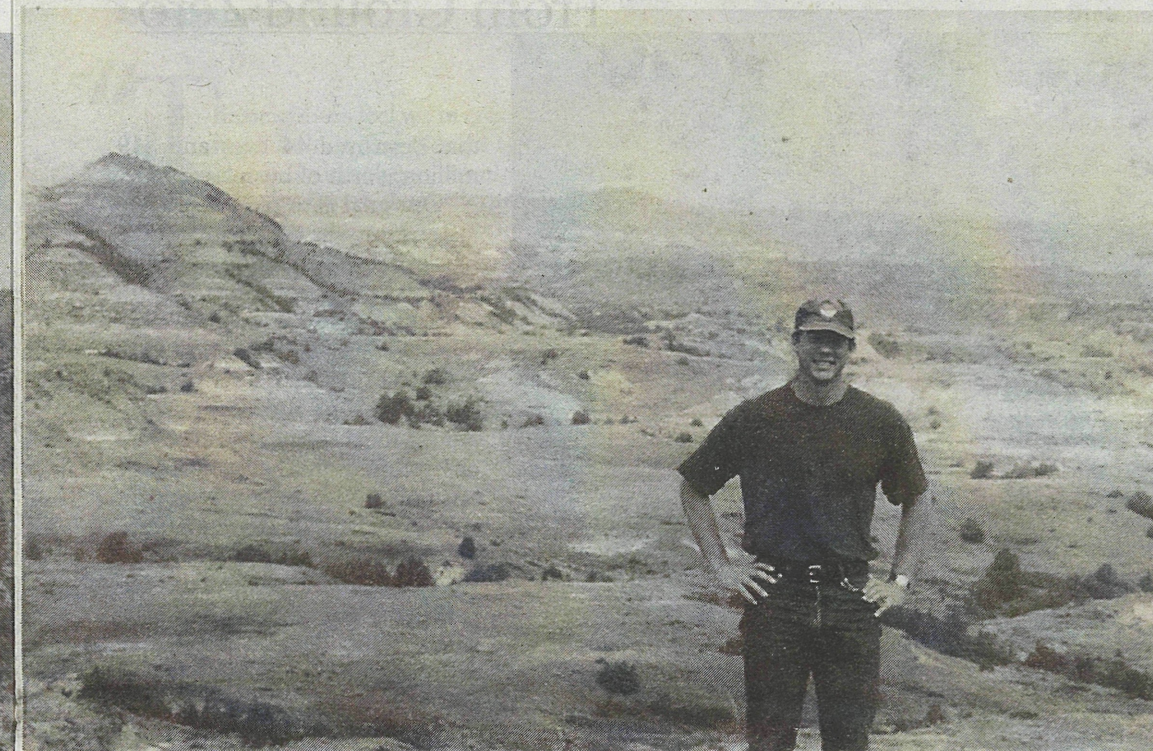


It's a six-day walk to Fricke's fieldsite in a Nepalese village on the border with Tibet.

Even more than most academics, anthropologists like to travel, and tend to discount fieldwork done too close to home.

Since the establishment of the Michigan Center challenges these assumptions, it's probably fitting that its founding director is a blue-collar intellectual and onetime farmer-poet who enjoys breaking new ground on the borders of his field. Anthropologists always see others in comparison to themselves, the argument goes, transposing an obverse image of themselves onto others. "Going home to study your own people is really just acknowledging this in a direct, open way," Fricke says.

Still, it seems like a stretch to go from studying working families in an obscure Himalayan village to studying working families on the Great Plains. "Even though the topography is radically different in Nepal and North Dakota," says Fricke, "the human situation is strangely similar." A marginalized community in one of the poorest, most inaccessible countries on earth, Timling has been going through a period of dramatic social change. Its economy has gone from a village agrarian to an urban industrial model, triggering an exodus of young workers to the cities. "Many small towns in the Midwest are similarly marginalized and isolated," Fricke notes. For decades, young workers and their families have been leaving, moving to Minneapolis, Columbus and Bismarck or out of



Fricke in the North Dakota Badlands.

the region entirely. So a lot of towns in the middle of the country are filled with people who raised big families and now find themselves growing old alone. The Census Bureau estimated in 1996 that the elderly make up 20 to 25 percent of the population in many rural Midwestern counties.

Fricke's parents are among them. His father's family farmed around Baldwin, North Dakota, population 39, in the center of the state. Grandfather Fricke lost the family farm in the early '50s, just before Tom was born. The second of six brothers, he grew up in Bismarck, riding his bike around the Great Plains, exploring abandoned Mandan Indian villages and the nearby ghost town of Sanger, population one. When he was 19, Fricke wrote a poem, "Driving Toward Sanger: Prophecy Fulfilled" about that last resident. It includes these lines:

*And there is the last man in Sanger  
once a farmer  
corn shaman dreaming the future  
until the medicine ran out and the land was gone  
banks and mortgages all that's left.*

*He gets drunk alone  
Growing older in his house on the hill,  
Burial scaffold etched against sun.  
... It is fall  
Leaves  
The colors of Armageddon.*

Tom Fricke worked in the field long before becoming an anthropologist, baling hay at his uncle's farm and driving farm machinery. Then, like so many others of his generation, he moved away to get an education, studying poetry with Tom McGrath at Moorhead State University on the Minnesota-North Dakota border before attending graduate school in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin. "It was time to broaden my horizons," he says. "It's hard not to think about horizons when you live in North Dakota." Fricke's new focus on Midwestern families may yield results that influence 21st century public policy debates about everything from childcare subsidies to Social Security benefits.

But it also invites a certain scorn for the inhabitants of "fly-over" country, the flat bread-basket between the coasts. Colleagues experienced in large-scale survey research warn Fricke how hard it is to get taciturn Midwesterners to open up and talk about anything. But he's convinced their reticence is partly self-protection against mockery by outside "experts." "I noticed the same thing in Nepal," he says. "When a government official from Katmandu would show up to ask questions, people in Timling would clam up. A lot of people who don't know farmers have a certain attitude about them. They think they're bumpkins."

Soon after Fricke came to Michigan, a long time after he left Dakota and learned not to talk like a character from the movie Fargo, he got a fresh taste of what this feels like. He was reading a book written by a respected East Coast anthropologist about the contentious abortion debate in a small North Dakota town. "It was an eerie feeling," he remembers, "seeing people like my own family portrayed as 'others.' The account wasn't exactly wrong, but it was grotesquely incomplete. The people were presented as cardboard characters."

Through his own research, which will examine the changing culture of work and family from the perspective of older Americans, and through other ethnographic studies sponsored by the new center, Fricke hopes to present a fully rounded view of the lives of everyday, mainstream, Midwestern families "at a level of concreteness and complexity that shatters existing stereotypes."

"I don't think you have to come from a place to get it right," he says. But sometimes before you can go back home again, you have to go thousands of miles away. **MT**

## Studying Everyday Life

The U-M Center for the Ethnography of Everyday Life is the fourth center on working families to be established by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Others are affiliated with the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Chicago and Cornell University. The match between Fricke, the U-M and the Sloan Foundation was made last spring by U-M anthropologist Sharon Stephens through a Scandinavian colleague. Three days after receiving word that the Center would be funded, Stephens died of cancer. "Her sudden death at age 46 is a tragedy we're all still dealing with," Fricke says.

U-M researchers who form the core faculty of the Center include Frank Stafford, Abigail Stewart, Jennifer Robertson, Conrad Kottak, Sandra Hofferth, Arland Thornton, Leslie Perlow and Lawrence Root.



The remains of the Driscoll State Bank near the farm of Fricke's uncle in North Dakota.



**A** slim young woman in sweat pants and a T-shirt is walking purposefully across a newly plowed former elementary school playground on the west side of Detroit near ground zero of the 1967 riots—Claremount and 12th. She's bringing hand gardening tools to a small group of teens who've volunteered to work in a community garden she is making happen by securing city permits, finding equipment and recruiting volunteers.

It's July and late for planting, but Tonya Meyers '99 is absolutely determined that the garden bear fruit this year even if only from a single plant. (It did better than that, as the accompanying photo shows.) After distributing the tools, she joins the volunteers in breaking up big chunks of turned-over turf.

The path that led Meyers, a U-M senior, to this inner-city garden—and ultimately to an honors thesis on community organizing—began at the University's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).

UROP Director Sandra Gregerman says that Meyers blossomed in the program. "I have seen Tonya grow," Gregerman says, "from a young woman new to research, to one who can eloquently describe the difference between scientific and community-based research and comfortably discuss the results of her research and its implications with community leaders, government officials, business leaders and foundation directors."

When it comes to blossoming, Tonya Meyers is a perennial. The 21-year-old was raised in a quiet working-class Detroit neighborhood with her younger sister by their mother, Estella. Throughout her daughters' early school years, Estella Meyers worked full time while pursuing a bachelor's degree in special education, and began teaching after receiving her degree. But there were no latchkey kids in her family.

"Being home alone after school was simply not an option for us," Tonya says. "Mom made sure there were after-school activities and when there weren't any, she organized ones and sought out teachers who were willing to supervise us. And at home, there was no question about getting our schoolwork done. Mom sometimes had to be insistent, but she managed to instill in us the value of education."

Mrs. Meyers says, "Tonya has always been ambitious. She was reading at two—and I mean reading. And she always wanted to do the best. She'd say, 'I'm going to be the boss,' or 'I'm going to be in Congress someday.' Tonya's very determined and community-oriented. In fact, when she's home she volunteers for so many things, I still have to pull rank on her—even at 21—to get her to rest. Voter registration is one of her big interests right now along with church activities and the community garden."

Meyers also credits two science teachers, Frank Pavia and Miriam Turner, at Detroit's magnet school, Renaissance High, with inspiring her. "To get the kind of education that's equivalent to the suburbs you really have to have teachers who are willing to go the extra mile—even using their own resources. I was very fortunate we had those kinds of teachers at Renaissance."

After accepting Michigan's offer of admission Meyers received a mailing that included information about UROP. "The minute I read about the program I knew I wanted to do it. I chose a project that involved taking soil samples in minority neighborhoods in Flint to determine whether there was a greater level of metal contaminants than in non-minority areas. The environmental justice aspect ap-

# BUILDING UP

## From Ground Zero

By Joel A. Seguire  
U-M News and Information Services



A former city playground transformed. Arrayed behind Meyers are tomatoes, mustard and collard greens, turnips, squash and peppers.

Photos by Bob Kaimbach

Detroit's Tonya Meyers '99 takes her interest in community regeneration beyond the call of assignments

that destroyed 44 lives and \$49 million worth of businesses.

"Our goal is to reconstruct the lost institutions that made up the fabric of the community—families, schools, neighborhoods, health services," says Al Edwards, executive director of ILC/PATCH. "We want to bring back a sense of togetherness in the community among the residents and create an environment that will encourage businesses to come back. For instance, we have few food markets, but they're charging convenience store prices. That's one of the reasons why we're working with Michigan to develop alternative sources for food that's nutritional and available at reasonable cost. Tonya's been working with us to develop three of those projects—

the community garden, a fish farm in the basement of an old school and a farmer's market. And she's been a godsend. The community garden would simply not have happened without her."

Making the garden happen required Meyers to wrestle with the Detroit bureaucracy, securing permits and permissions. She relished the challenge and was excited by her successes. "It all got me to think about a different direction for my education," says Meyers. "I decided to try changing my major to political science last year as a junior—kind of late, but it worked out. Then I discovered the Honors Thesis program. I applied for that and was accepted. My topic will be on the subject of grassroots organizing—what I hope to be doing after I graduate." **MT**

pealed to me, but my class schedule didn't allow me to take part in the sampling process. So after my first year I looked for another program."

It was her second year as a student in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, and she worked with Prof. Patrick West, the Samuel T. Dana Associate Professor of Outdoor Recreation. The project addresses consumption of toxic fish taken from the Detroit River by residents of the predominantly low-income neighborhood in an area of the west side now called the Rosa Parks District in honor of the civil rights activist who moved from Montgomery, Alabama, to Detroit.

"It's about nutrition," West says, "but it's also about environmental justice." The project involved interviewing people fishing in the river, educating members of the community about the toxicity of the fish and creating a fish farm in an unused school building in the neighborhood.

Meyers enjoyed interviewing people fishing in the river, "but I really got into the action phase of the project. I helped to develop the educational component and did some presentations to community agencies I contacted. I became so involved in the project that I wanted continue after my UROP term was up. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation enabled me to work on my own with the community action group the past two summers," says Meyers, who was supported by a Kellogg grant to UROP that funded students conducting biomedical and community-based research full time in the summer.

The action group Meyers worked with, Institutional Leadership Conference/People Aspiring to Create Hope (ILC/PATCH), was founded by the Rev. Richard P. Wilson of the Tried Stone Baptist Church after the 1967 riots

### UROP

Introduced in 1987, the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program was designed to create research partnerships primarily between first- and second-year students from minority groups and senior faculty. There were 14 student/faculty partnerships that first year. The program continues to grow and is now offering more than 800 students from all backgrounds the opportunity to work with more than 450 faculty researchers. In 1997-98, the program admitted juniors and seniors for the first time.



Meyers with her UROP research partner Patrick West. Action research in the Rosa Parks District of Detroit.



By Susan Ludmer-Gliebe

# C BIG WHEEL IN CHEESE



Beth Carlson with a 10-pound wheel of the award-winning Vermont Shepherd Cheese she produces with David and Cindy Major on the 85-acre Major Farm near Putney, Vermont. Their prize-winning, nutty cheeses sell for about \$8 to \$20 a pound. Connoisseurs have called them American treasures surpassing French and Italian mountain cheeses.

Photos by Veronique S. Krueger

"The neighbors feel we're crazy for building a hole in the ground and putting cheeses in there," explains Beth Carlson, as she enters the underground cave bordering a stand of maple trees on a snow-covered Vermont hillside.

Ever since she began working behind the counter at Zingerman's delicatessen in Ann Arbor in 1989 (she graduated from Michigan in 1984 majoring in economics), Carlson has had an ongoing and ever-evolving interest in cheese, that dairy product one wit has described as "milk's leap toward immortality." Her passion left some people, including her nine siblings, shaking their respective heads. "My mother thought I was nuts and should have been an elementary school teacher," laughs Carlson, who grew up in St. Joseph, Michigan.

After she left Ann Arbor, Carlson traveled to England and worked at Neal's Yard Dairy, London's most famous cheese shop. Her time there was spent not on the shop floor, but underneath it, managing over five dozen kinds of cheeses, ranging from familiar Cheshires and Stiltons to delicious and obscure British farmhouse cheeses like Cotherstone, T'yn Grug, and Llangloffan. "Working in the cellar at Neal's Yard, I learned to get a true feel for the cheeses," she notes.

Learning how cheeses were made was one thing; what Carlson really was interested in was what to do with them after they were made. "I learned how to adjust for quality and age using humidity and temperature. I learned how to wash and bathe the cheeses. I learned when to turn them." She was becoming not just a cheese maker but something more sublime, what the French call an *affineur*, a word that has no exact English equivalent.

"You could call me a cheese maturer, curer or ager, but it's kind of awkward," she laughs. But whatever term you use, Carlson's trade is a delicate mix of art and science. "I take newly made cheeses and put them in a proper environment to maximize their flavor and texture so they're sold at their peak."

## Joining the Majors

Carlson would have liked to remain in England but her temporary work permit didn't allow it, so she moved back to the United States in 1996. She hooked up with Cindy and David Major, young Vermont farmers who were making a name for themselves with their aged sheep's milk cheese under the label Vermont Shepherd Cheese.

Steve Jenkins, America's cheese guru, has called Vermont Shepherd Cheese "spectacular." It's won numerous blue ribbons from the American Cheese Society, and demand for their 10-lb. wheels, which are aged a minimum of four months, always exceeds supply. Customers plunk

down as much as \$20 a pound to get a taste, which some describe as nutty with a hint of thyme, clover and sunshine. Last year, they sold about 13,000 pounds.

In spite of their blue ribbons and other accolades the Majors felt that much more could be done. When Beth Carlson came aboard, the three of them (plus a translator) visited several cheesemaking centers in Europe, primarily in the French Pyrenees, where shepherds have been making a raw aged sheep's milk cheese, called Ossau-Iraty Brebis, very much like Vermont Shepherd for the past 500 years.

"I had a million questions," Carlson recalls. Many of them were technical in nature and related to the specifics of setting up and operating a cheese cave. She found out what kind of wood to use for shelving. ("You need to use a wood that has very little resin," and she chose ash.) She discovered the multiple reasons white-wash was used on the walls of local cheese cellars: it allows concrete to breathe while prohibiting harmful mold from growing on the wall surface, and French *affineurs* strongly believe that it helps the desired mold, *candidum penicillium*, flourish, which in turn inhibits undesirable molds from establishing themselves on the cheeses.

Just as significantly, the trio explored how individual cheese producers worked together for the benefit of all. "In Switzerland we really learned about community curing and marketing," explains Carlson. "That helped us enormously because we needed some sort of model for what we wanted to do in Vermont."

When they returned stateside their work began in earnest. Although the Green Mountain state has a significant

cheese industry—with 21 producers—the Majors and Carlson wanted to create something unique, something that combined Yankee ingenuity and individualism with Continental cooperative experience.

Working with the state, the Vermont Land Trust (a nonprofit organization that supports working farms), the University of Vermont and the University of New Hampshire, they first established a center for education, research and promotion called the Sheep Dairy Center at the Major Farm. The center helps other Vermont farmers become proficient in profitable sheep dairying and farmhouse cheese production.

## 'Controlled spoilage'

Parallel with the creation of the Sheep Dairy Center was the construction of a central curing facility, or cave, which Carlson oversaw and now manages. Wheels and blocks and bars of cheese sit in various stages of "controlled spoilage," as one expert has described the chemical process that takes milk into cheese.

The cave can hold 70,000 pounds of cheese.

Carlson keeps a keen and proprietary eye on each wheel, block and bar of her charges. Turning to a page in her inventory book, she points out that for some cheeses she can even determine which ewes produced the milk from which the cheeses were made, which pasture they were grazing on and what the weather was like.

Carlson doesn't get mad at much, but she does have one pet peeve. "I'm on a mission to eliminate the use of plastic and wax in American cheeses," she says emphatically. "Cheese is a living thing, and if you use plastic or wax you trap all the natural emissions that cheeses release and you can end up with a bitter product."

More than a few Vermont locals pooh-pooed the notion of developing a sheep dairy industry in a state known for its herds of Holstein milk cows. But the Majors and other sheep farmers might be on to a good thing. Americans consume over 66 million pounds of sheep's milk cheese annually, almost all of it imported. "Our dream," says Beth, "is to make Vermont the Napa Valley of cheeses."

MT

Susan Ludmer-Gliebe is a writer living in New York and southwest France.

## 'Blessed are the cheesemakers' —Monty Python's *Life of Brian*.

Readers can order Vermont Shepherd Cheese by the wheel at (802) 387-4473 or at (800) 447-1205 by the pound or ask their grocer to order it. Tours of the Sheep Dairy Center cheese cave are in Putney, Vermont, on Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, August through October. —S. L-G.



THE ROSE BOWL HAS A DIFFERENT ROLE—FOR NOW. SO LET'S GAZE BACK ON ITS DAYS OF FULL BLOOM:

**M**ichigan's conquering heroes of 1997 achieved a goal long known in the Big Ten and Pac-10 conferences as "the perfect season," a season of victory in every regular season game and in the Rose Bowl. This year a scheme for declaring a national football champion (described below in "A Football House of Cards") cuts in its swath the ties binding those conferences to their historic pursuit.

One hundred years ago this Thanksgiving, Neil Snow's extra point secured a 12-11 victory for Michigan over Amos Alonzo Stagg's Chicago Maroons. The kick followed Charles Widman's escape from a pile of players and 65-yard sprint to the touchdown heard round the world. "Far we their praises sing for the glory and fame they've bro't us," wrote Louis Elbel in "The Victors," the tribute that echoes still. This 1898 victory earned Michigan her first Western Conference championship and first undefeated season since 1891 (the year routinizing a season of nine or more games).

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association inaugurated "postseason" football by inviting the 1901 Michigan team of new coach Fielding H. Yost to play Stanford, whom Yost had coached the year before. On a hot New Year's Day, 1902, in Pasadena's Tournament Park, All-American fullback Snow established what remain the Rose Bowl records for touchdowns and points while the incomparably fast freshman halfback Willie Heston led in rushing yardage. With eight minutes remaining and trailing 49-0, Stanford's captain sued for surrender. For the Wolverines this concluded an 11-0 season and a level of perfection described by Yost as "almost an impossibility." They had yielded not one point to any opponent. Given the defensive line play, the Michigan fullback, in Yost's words, was "called upon to make a tackle but once this season." Only two opponents crossed the Michigan 30-yard line, and they only by penalties for Michigan forward passes. Since formation in 1896, the Big Ten has seen only one other unbeaten and unscored upon team, the 7-0 Illinois squad of 1910.

Staging a polo match in 1903 and then enamored of *Ben Hur*, the Tournament of Roses presented chariot races following the 1904 Rose Parade. At least they averted one-sided football. The "point-a-minute" Wolverines marched through another 11-0 season in 1902 and achieved nine shutouts, including a 119-0 pasting of Michigan Agricultural College. Michigan remained undefeated until, after holding its first 12 opponents scoreless, the 1905 team lost on a safety at Chicago, 2-0. In only six games during 1901-1905 did a Michigan opponent score. There was one tie. Officials halted a bruising battle at Minnesota in 1903 after the Gophers evened the score at 6-6 with two minutes remaining, whereupon thousands

# THE PERFECT SEASON

By Louis M. Guenin  
© 1998



Michigan surges toward the Stanford goal in the 1902 Rose Bowl.

stormed the field. The legacy of that confrontation endures in the form of Michigan's countermeasure against Gopher perfidy with the drinking water, an implement left on the field in the postgame swarm. Minnesota goaded Michigan into competing for return of "the Little Brown Jug."

**H**arrowing encounters eventually suggested to the Tournament of Roses that chariot racing might be more dangerous than tangling with Wolverines. The organizers decided to have a go with more docile contestants, and in 1913 offered a race of mounted ostriches. In another between a camel and an elephant, the pachyderm gained the lead only to balk. Surely a halfback pursued by tacklers would never do that. And pigskins were now known to fly through the air. Late in a scoreless confrontation in 1910 at Ferry Field, the Wolverines became the first to employ the forward pass as a pivotal weapon as they surprised Minnesota with two consecutive completions enabling a touchdown plunge for a 6-0 victory.

The Tournament of Roses reinstated football by inviting Michigan and California for New Year's Day, 1916. Michigan's Senate Council disapproved the trip, where-

upon Washington State met Brown. Shortly after a 28-0 California win over Ohio State on New Year's Day, 1921, the Big Ten voted to forbid all postseason games. Despite periodic entreaties thereafter by the Pacific Coast Conference, the Big Ten stood firm. In the opinion of many faculty, the regular season was long enough. The Rose Bowl, dedicated in 1922, welcomed a string of eastern and southern visitors.

Meanwhile Michigan completed undefeated, untied seasons in 1918 and 1923. But Yost declared the 1925 Wolverine contingent "the greatest football team I ever saw." Against them, by Yost's estimate, Red Grange of Illinois "did not gain enough ground to bury him in." Including All-Americans Benny Friedman, Bennie Oosterbaan (a sophomore), Harry Hawkins, Bob Brown and Tom Edwards, this penultimate Yost squad shut out all opponents except in a 3-2 loss to Northwestern. Its meeting with the Wildcats in Chicago finds no counterpart in Michigan lore save for the 1950 Snow Bowl. By virtue of torrential rains, a battle of punts was played, or rather navigated, on a submerged Grant Park field that, in the words of one writer, "presented conditions suitable to the launching of a steamer." Oosterbaan, twice more thereaf-



ter an All-American in football and basketball and the only athlete ever to lead the Big Ten in touchdowns, baskets, and base hits, declined numerous offers from professional teams to remain at Michigan as assistant coach. Later he would become head coach of basketball and then football. Fullback Wally Weber, who with undue modesty would later declaim that "my sole function in the drama was to inflate the ball," served for long as an assistant coach and for decades proceeded to "regale with dubious rhetoric" audiences before whom he would thunderously and whimsically "expatiate upon" Michigan's storied history. Praising a piledriver spotted among a current crop of Wolverines, the coach would exclaim, "When he hits 'em, generations yet unborn feel the shock of the impact!"

Invited to the Rose Bowl was the 1931 Wolverine team of coach Harry Kipke, All-American captain of the 1923 team. In accordance with Big Ten policy, Michigan declined. The Wolverines achieved undefeated seasons again in 1932 and 1933 (although the latter included a scoreless tie with Minnesota), but still no postseason play. When Big Ten commissioner Major John L. Griffith died in 1944, Northwestern athletic director Tug Wilson favored Michigan coach H. O. "Fritz" Crisler as successor. Crisler, also athletic director since succeeding Yost in 1941, was content at Michigan. The choice, to Wilson's surprise, was Wilson. Soon discussion returned to the Rose Bowl. Michigan professor of law Ralph W. Aigler, emissary in the hiring of Crisler from Princeton in 1938, presented to his colleagues a plan containing three precautions: a conference representative could not leave for California until the fall semester ended, no member could appear in consecutive years, and proceeds would be divided equally among members. On this basis the Big Nine (Chicago having withdrawn earlier in the year) voted 7-2 on September 1, 1946 to compete in the Rose Bowl.

On October 20, 1946, Fielding Yost died suddenly in Ann Arbor at age 75. Yost had led 25 Michigan teams to nearly unrivaled excellence. Ever the enthusiastic teacher, of which a glimpse remains in his studious Football for Player and Spectator, Yost as athletic director was prolific in correspondence and reports. As Hepheistos was to Olympus, so was Yost to Ferry Field. Athletic in manner, Yost bore no resemblance to the awkward gait of the god who built the palaces of the gods, but Yost shepherded to completion Michigan Stadium, Yost Field House, the Intramural Building, other facilities realizing "athletics for all," and the University Golf Course. To build the Hole That Yost Dug, he "lived on the job from first to the last." Yost specified linear walls to bound the Michigan Stadium field because curved walls (as in the Rose Bowl) would place the seats farther from the field. What would otherwise be an ellipsoid frustum thereby lacks a standard name, and may deservedly be called a "yostoid." By symmetry, its distinguishing architectural feature, and an understated exterior beckoning visitors across its grassy knolls to the subterranean vastness within, the yostoid peerlessly fulfilled a faculty committee's wish for a structure of "the utmost simplicity." Now the annual target for those competing there would be the New Year's venue of Yost's first Michigan team.

Tough negotiations over ticket allocations and other issues among the Tournament of Roses, Big Nine, and Pacific Coast Conference concluded in an agreement for interconference competition in the next five Rose Bowl Games. California sportswriters leapt on the agreement for consigning to the Rose Bowl the "second rate" 7-2 Illinois team of 1946. The writers preferred Army. As Michi-

gan knew from losses at Yankee Stadium in 1945 and at home in 1946, the Cadets were a powerhouse. Speaking at a Los Angeles banquet in December, 1946, Army's Glenn Davis remarked upon his dream of playing in the Rose Bowl. As Wilson rose to speak, the audience booed. The Illini overwhelmed UCLA, 45-14.

The next year, the Rose Bowl presented a team acclaimed as one of the greatest in the history of the game. The 1947 Wolverines had earned the Maize and Blue's first outright Big Ten championship since 1933 with an undefeated, untied season in which they shut out four opponents—including Michigan State, 55-0, and Ohio State, 21-0. Crisler as master of gridiron orchestration had invented platoon football (against Army in 1945), the two-point conversion, and ingenious plays too numerous to mention. Renowned for almost comically bewildering prestidigitations disguising the ball, the "Mad Magicians" of 1947 ran Crisler's ingenious single-wing and presented a fierce defense. "The greatest right halfback I ever saw" is how Crisler described Chalmers "Bump" Elliott, the team's and Big Nine's most valuable player and the only Wolverine to play offense and defense. Fellow All-American and left halfback Bob Chappuis was runnerup for the Heisman Trophy. In the 1948 Rose Bowl, the Wolverines presented a work of Crislerian precision as they defeated highly regarded Southern California, 49-0, and closed a perfect 10-0 season. "It was a remarkable group of people," Crisler later wrote, "who came as close to perfection as any coach could expect."

Retiring as coach, Crisler entrusted the single wing to assistant coach Oosterbaan. His 1948 team, including All-Americans Pete Elliott, Alvin Wistert and Dick Rifenburg, achieved five shutouts in another undefeated, untied season. By virtue of the "no repeat" rule, they did not play in the Rose Bowl. Various sportswriters acclaimed them, as they had Michigan's previous undefeated teams, the national champions.

In later years when the Maize and Blue clinched an invitation to Pasadena, opinion polls seemed no match for the challenge evoked by the Revellians' exuberant postgame "California Here We Come." When the Wolverines attained victory in the Arroyo Seco, Elbel by his euphonious "champions of the West" seemed prescient. The Michigan teams of 1950, 1964, 1980, 1988 and 1992 won both the Big Ten and Rose Bowl championships. Save for the 1992 team, which played three ties, each of the foregoing champions entered the Rose Bowl with a loss. Michigan's Big Ten champions of 1976-78, 1982, 1986, 1989 and 1991 also suffered at least one loss prior to losing in the Rose Bowl. Through the decades there have passed many other outstanding teams, hundreds of victories, and scores of award-winning players. But

after the Mad Magicians' remarkable feat, another perfect season was proving an elusive quarry. Since 1946, the Big Ten and Pac-10 together have witnessed a perfect season only slightly more often than once a decade.

Two Wolverine squads barely missed the prize. On October 17, 1964, in Michigan Stadium, a Purdue squad quarterbacked by sophomore Bob Griese was decisively outgained by the undefeated Wolverines. But by virtue of turnovers, the Boilermakers held a 21-14 lead with five minutes remaining. Michigan All-American senior quarterback Bob Timberlake, following his coach Bump Elliott to the honor of most valuable player in the Big Ten, set sail through the left side on a trademark option that ended 54 yards later in the end zone. Purdue now led 21-20. On a two-point conversion attempt, the lanky Timberlake carried on the option to the right. When felled, he came to rest one foot short of the goal line. This formidable Wolverine team went on to win every other game, including a 34-7 victory over Oregon State in the 51st Rose Bowl. The next year, Griese led Purdue over Michigan again, 17-15, and then again, 22-21, in 1966. If, in Michigan lore, the 1964 Wolverines are the team that finished one foot short of a perfect season, Griese's place is that of nemesis.

Michigan's first undefeated regular season since 1948 concluded in 1971 when Billy Taylor's touchdown sweep with 2:17 remaining achieved a thrilling 10-7 victory over Ohio State. Begun in a hailstorm, the game ended in a Hayes storm. After a leaping interception foiled OSU's last possession, Woody Hayes stormed to midfield, protested pass interference, provoked a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct, and was dragged to the sideline by assistants. There he successfully counterattacked against those redoubtable foes, the down markers. The following day, a photograph revealed his receiver's helmet jerked upward on the play. It also revealed the culprit. Reaching for the ball, the receiver had inserted thumb in face mask.

The 11-0 Wolverines stood on the verge of a perfect season as they led Stanford, 12-10, with 1:48 remaining in the 58th Rose Bowl. A safety following a kick into the end zone—the same eventuality that snapped Michigan's 56-game unbeaten streak in 1905—had provided Michigan what appeared the winning margin. But this time Stanford used all the clock. As the Indians took possession following a punt, Michigan switched to a "prevent" defense, a strategy said to prevent nothing but victory. From its 22-yard line, Stanford completed five passes to the Michigan 14, and, with twelve seconds remaining, kicked a field goal to win, 13-12.

Another team that missed by a whisker, or two whiskers, was the 1980 Michigan

*Continued on page 14*



Bennie Oosterbaan, Fielding Yost, Benny Friedman.



squad that lost two consecutive games on the final play. After John Wangler's touchdown pass to Craig Dunaway gave Michigan the lead with 41 seconds remaining, a pass interference call against the Wolverines allowed a 51-yard field goal with 0:04 remaining that snatched a 29-27 win for Notre Dame at South Bend. In Michigan Stadium the next week, at the conclusion of a heart-stopping closing drive, Wangler's pass from the South Carolina five-yard line bounced off a slanting Anthony Carter in the end zone as time expired. The Gamecocks prevailed, 17-14. The Wolverines won every remaining game, including a 23-6 Rose Bowl victory over Washington in which shone Wangler, arguably the greatest passer in Michigan history, Carter, arguably the greatest receiver, and Butch Woolfolk, the 67th Game's most valuable player.

Nearly a generation later, the Michigan faithful watched Lloyd Carr's young team having fun in its 1997 opener against Colorado. The defense repeatedly rushed the passer, an innovation following years of "bend not break." The offense ran unpredictable sequences, controlled the ball with midrange passing, and reintroduced a rushing fullback, an historic Michigan strength. As in 1947, Michigan clinched the Big Ten title in the penultimate game on a cold, blustery day in Madison, Wisconsin, and the Rose Bowl bid followed the next week in victory at home. The 1997 season concluded another string of three consecutive victories for a Griese-quarterbacked team against a single opponent—these by Brian Griese for Michigan against OSU.

Against five decades of missing a perfect season—even by a foot or a point—Michigan's seventeenth appearance in the Granddaddy of Them All loomed large. In the 1990s, the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame had inducted Snow, Bump Elliott, Chappuis and Bob Griese. During its performance preceding the 1998 Rose Bowl, the Michigan Marching Band welcomed the 1947 Wolverine team, reunited for its golden anniversary, onto the field on which it had triumphed. The circumstances could not have seemed more auspicious. Brian Griese threw three touchdown passes, scrambled for a critical first down in the fourth quarter, and became the most valuable player of the 84th Game. Concluding with a 21-16 victory over Washington State, the champions of the West had played a perfect 12-0 season.

## A Football House of Cards

Coming soon to a television near you is the Poll Bowl, a postseason meeting of the purportedly best and second best college football teams. Every fourth year, in the evening of January 3 or 4, the Rose Bowl will be the Poll Bowl. In all other years, the Rose Bowl will forego, and the Poll Bowl will claim, any Big Ten or Pac-10 champion judged the nation's best or second best.

Shortly after the Soviet Union splintered, an official opined that to map the region would now require at least five colors. One mathematics journal quoted this remark under the headline, "Have We Got a Theorem for You." The editors referred to a famous result establishing that, if one wishes to map a plane of disjoint regions such that no adjacent regions appear in the same color, at most four colors are needed. Things quantitative also hold allure for sports enthusiasts. From broadcasters' competition in statistics *du jour*, soon we may learn of third down efficiency against opponents whose mascots hibernate. Neglected in this quantitative flurry is more fundamental mathematics, mathematics that punctures the Poll Bowl bubble.

**THE PROBLEM.** It is tempting to assume that every set of things esteemed contains a best member. A plausible claim to identify the best or *n*th-best of a set implies that one has imposed an ordering on the set. We express an ordering of the natural numbers when we write "0, 1, 2, . . ." For many sets (e.g., the set of paintings), there is no obvious ordering. For football teams, the ordering sought is some "better than" relation. Perhaps one could pronounce a team better than another if it has defeated or can be predicted to defeat the other. The premise that pairwise victory is decisive undergirds every national championship scheme. Yet pollsters who pledge allegiance to that premise often conclude, obviously to the self-contradiction, that a game's loser is better than its winner. Such is often their verdict even as to season-ending games (e.g., Michigan victories over OSU in 1993, 1995 and 1996). Their theory, it seems, is that *x* is better than *y* if *x* has "achieved more." But what does that mean?

**THE INDETERMINACY.** For two reasons, we possess no rational method of ordering college football teams. [1] There is no reliable *measure* of team strength. (a) How good is a team that averages 4.9 seconds in the 40-yard dash and includes a placekicker with 75% accuracy up to 60 yards? Better or worse than a bigger team with a more experienced passer and a defense averaging twelve points allowed? While there is no lack of game performance data, the data are all opponent-relative. No team's sequence of opponents and playing conditions is the same as another's, to say nothing of chance. As there exists no uniform standard of comparison, the data are incommensurable. (b) Striving to overcome this, some imagine that won-lost records or victory margins can be rendered commensurable by adjustment for "the strength of opponents." To reckon an opponent's strength, the only data available are its opponent-relative performance data. Consequently any such adjustment would require that one first as-

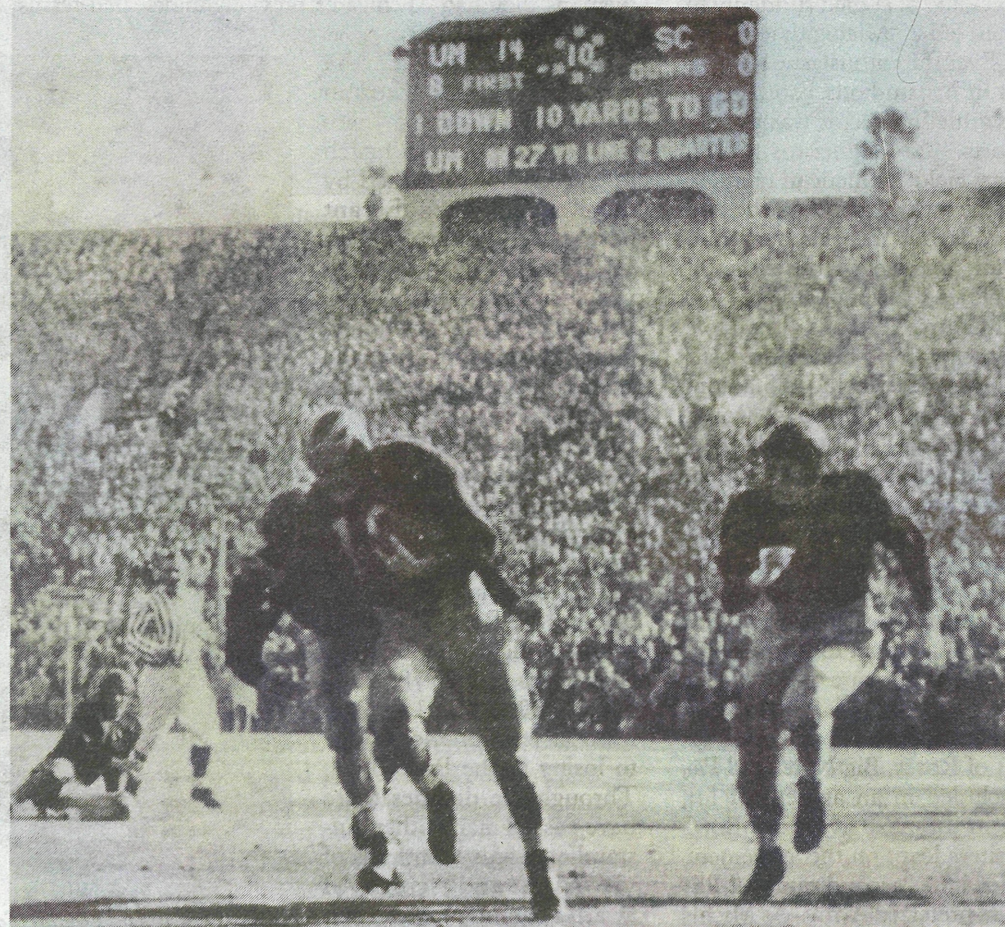
certain the strength of the opponents' opponents, which would require first ascertaining the strength of the opponents' opponents' opponents, and so on in an infinite regress. A purported measure or ordering of opponent strength is nothing other than a measure or ordering of teams, which it was the purpose of this exercise to construct. To define team strength by reference to opponent team strength is circular, a case of smuggling into the definition that which is to be defined. (c) In comparing teams by game outcomes, even consistency is unattainable. In a 1997 cycle, Wisconsin beat Iowa which beat Purdue which beat Wisconsin. Victory is not transitive. Without transitivity, one could scarcely hope to complete a total ordering of 111 Division I-A teams who play but a dozen games apiece, and in all events, transitivity is a necessary condition of an ordering. Presented annually with numerous cycles, pundits venture that pairwise competition is inconclusive, again contradicting a premise of a national championship event.

[2] Suppose that, conceding inability to measure team strengths, one elects to impanel voters and to accept as the conclusive ordering of teams an ordering derived from voters' orderings such as they may be. Published in 1951 and recognized with the Nobel Prize in economics, Arrow's impossibility theorem establishes that for two or more voters declaring their positionings of three or more candidates, no function exists that, by nondictatorial pairwise comparisons respecting unanimity, compiles any such positionings into one. By compiling ballots, one will sometimes generate a cycle—in graphical form, Floyd of Rosedale's tail. (Awarded to the winner of the Iowa-Minnesota game, Floyd is a pig.)

Given the circumstances of college football, we possess no rational method to determine, by measurement or voting, the participants in a championship event. This conclusion is general, as applicable to a computer algorithm as to a scheme executed with pencil and paper.

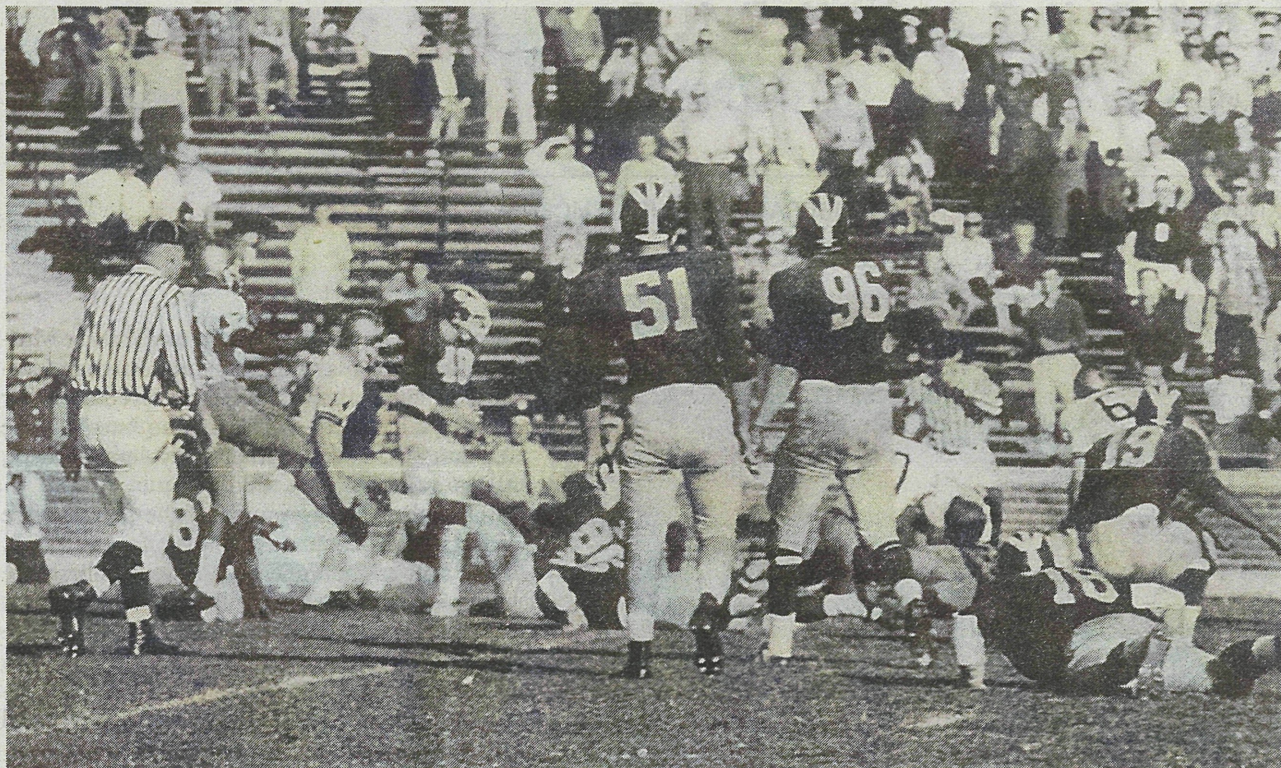
### THE IMPOSTORS. [1]

Football polls propound orderings of teams at the cost of breaching one of Arrow's rationality conditions. The polls operate by the Borda count, a tally of points awarded candidates as follows: the most (or fewest) for a first place vote, the second most (or second fewest) for a second place vote, and so forth. Proposed as a means for electing members to the *Académie Royale des Sciences* by Jean-Charles de Borda, French investigator of fluid mechanics and naval captain in the American Revolutionary War, the Borda count today is otherwise practiced only in society elections. It breaches the rationality condition that says this: in a positioning of candidates derived from ballots, the order of *x* and *y* may depend on the positions in which *x* and *y* appear on the ballots, but not on the position of any *z* other than *x* and *y*. De-



After catching a pass from Bob Chappuis, Bump Elliott sprints upfield in the 1948 Rose Bowl.





The pile at the Purdue goal in which Michigan's Bob Timberlake is stopped one foot short of a game-winning two-point conversion in 1964.

batable in other contexts, this condition is difficult to dispute here. When a voter lists team  $x$  above  $y$ , one cannot plausibly associate precision with how many teams, if any, the voter puts in between. Coaches and reporters never see many teams for which they vote or decline to vote. They seem obligingly to list teams by won-lost records, a method insufficient even to avoid ties. Imagine how shaky would be the discriminations of a teacher asked to list 25 students in order of merit. One would have difficulty believing, for example, that students whom the teacher lists fifth and seventh should be treated as differing more in merit than those listed first and second.

The manipulability of a Borda count is notorious. To use an example recently alleged to be actual, suppose that a coach considers team  $x$  best and  $y$  second. In a Borda count poll, the coach can boost  $x$ 's ranking by voting  $y$  third or lower.

[2] Poll Bowl participants will be chosen (in the "Bowl Championship Series") by a Borda count of seven weighted ballots. The ballots will be the positionings respectively produced by the following: (a) two extant Borda count polls (one of coaches, another of sportswriters), (b) three newspapers' "computer ratings," (c) an attempted measure of strength of opponents, and (d) each team's number of losses. This scheme like all others fails to accomplish what Arrow's theorem shows to be impossible. As for its components, the algorithms used to generate (b) manipulate a modicum of opponent-relative data—for example, *The New York Times* relies on game outcomes, including scoring margins—in the vain attempt to measure teams. Last year one algorithm yielded Tennessee as best after the regular season; after the Rose Bowl, the three declared Michigan second, third, and fourth, respectively. The method of (c) is merely to add won-lost records of opponents and opponents' opponents while arbitrarily assigning the latter half the weight of the former. In abandoning after two steps what is necessarily an infinite regress, this yields only incommensurables.

When three or more impressive teams next finish a season with identical records—as did five in 1996—the bright light of public attention may turn on this hocus-pocus with

incommensurables. Sportswriters have already adopted the mantra that indeterminacy about the top two teams commends a playoff of the top eight. But that overlooks the main point. What the foregoing shows is the inability to determine the top  $n$  football teams for any  $n$ .

**CONTRASTS.** Why is the NCAA basketball championship feasible if a football championship is not? The former includes fully one-fifth of eligible teams (64 of 306) and spans but 19 calendar days. Arbitrariness in selection and seeding is tolerated in a tournament conducted in the absence of an ordering, if—as in the medieval jousts from which a tournament takes its name—the sport permits a highly inclusive draw played in a flash. What is feasible in football, an incomplete round robin tournament, already occurs as the "regular season."

The point of bursting the playoff bubble is not to suggest a misplaced scientific precision for sports. Rather the point is to ask, given that a reckoning of a best team is unattainable, whether the traditional, determinate Rose Bowl competition should go by the board. For C. L. Dodgson—Oxford mathematical don, observer of voting anomalies, and gifted illustrator of illogic better known as Lewis Carroll—fascination with No. 1 would have presented an easy mark. Upon the Messenger's return from a trip in *Through the Looking Glass*, the White King asks the Messenger whom he passed on the road. "Nobody," the Messenger replies. "So of course," responds the King, "nobody walks slower than you." Startled, the Messenger pauses, then ventures, "I do my best. I'm sure nobody walks much faster than I do." To this the King replies, "He can't do that, or else he'd have been here first!"

MT  
Louis M. Guenin '72, lecturer on ethics, Harvard Medical School, is the third Michigan generation of a family including Yost's players Clement P. Quinn '13 and Cyril J. Quinn '14.



## What If???

**W**hat would have occurred had the incipient bowl scheme controlled in the past? Had the 1947 and 1997 Michigan teams played in any of the three of every four years not given over to the Rose-Poll Bowl, the teams' high rankings would have barred them from the Rose Bowl. The 1997 team would have landed in Miami. Michigan's 15 other Rose Bowl teams were all ranked third or lower (including the 1901 team, ranked below Harvard and Yale by Casper Whitney), and any that played in a Rose-Poll Bowl year would not have reached Pasadena. In the aggregate, depending on the beginning year of the four-year cycle, at least two and as many as seven Michigan Rose Bowl teams would not have appeared in the Granddaddy of Them All. So too might the Rose Bowl never have presented the 1963 Wisconsin-USC game, the more recent appearances of Northwestern, Wisconsin, or Oregon, or Purdue's single Rose Bowl team, a conference runnerup. (When a conference champion heads for the Poll Bowl, the Tournament of Roses will no longer be obliged to invite the runnerup.)

Heretofore approbation by polls, as in that graciously accepted by the 1997 Wolverines, was an anticlimax. The new scheme will subordinate a competition set in the unmatched aesthetic experience of the Tournament of Roses and staged between collections of research universities distinguished for combined academic and athletic excellence. What was the impetus to trade the Tournament of Roses for a tournament of rankings? It was the surprising notion that Penn State's invitation to the 1995 Rose Bowl was a burden. As an independent, Penn State might have gotten its wish to play Nebraska elsewhere, but instead a contagion about rankings catalyzed a decision in 1996—by unanimous vote of the Big Ten and Pac-10 presidents—for the Poll Bowl. Presently as the Big Ten struggles with schedules disrupted by enlargement, a new notion is that the conference should enlarge further so as to divide. It might instead be noted that for a season of eleven games, ten teams is optimal.

The Rose-Poll Bowl will allot merely 12,500 tickets to each participating school because the Poll Bowl is a corporate megaentertainment. At "The Rose Bowl Presented by AT&T," video monitors already upstage the marching bands. Fans accustomed to Bullwinkle J. Moose's official band could have imagined no worse at the 1998 Rose Bowl if Boris and Natasha had infiltrated the press box.

Or so they may have assumed until surprised at Michigan Stadium this fall. There promotional announcements via a stentorian new sound system now consume the interludes between plays, the Band and cheerleaders standing mute. Audiences hoping for intervention may envy Pasadena's resident pranksters. On one recent New Year's, the Rose Bowl scoreboards went dark. Soon reilluminating, they reported only the Cal Tech-MIT score. The Beavers, of course, were leading.

In order to make choices by vote, societies tolerate imperfect voting procedures. But should one conduct an election that need not be held? For the Big Ten and Pac-10, the question may be how long to enlist in an exercise in futility. It might seem that nothing can slake the market's appetite for more games, but former Michigan athletic director Donald B. Canham has warned that colleges will be surprised to discover that a national championship scheme fails to be a financial boon. This year the Rose Bowl again surpassed all rivals, paying \$9.5 million per team. Unlike the Big Ten-Pac 10-Tournament of Roses pact, each of the "bowl alliances" has been short-lived.

For colleges, recent negotiations evince not merely the allure of a mirage but neglect of bargaining power. Crisler, by contrast, once led a Big Ten committee that banned televised football. Another precedent suggests the possibilities of patient diplomacy. Objecting to new rules in which Yost's rival Stagg had a hand, in 1908 Michigan withdrew from the Western Conference. In later years occurred vigorous campus debates, and eventually negotiations, on a return to the fold. By the time these concluded, a decade had passed.—L.M.G.



# B R I G H T S H E N G COMPOSER

'PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGE ARTISTIC LICENSE; I EMBRACE CULTURAL LICENSE'

**S**ince moving to the United States from China in 1982, the composer Bright Sheng has steadily built a world reputation for his fusion of Eastern and Western musical styles. Sheng's gifts of adaptability and openness were nurtured and steeled in his youth, as he struggled to maintain his passion for music in the anti-cultural climate of the Cultural Revolution. At Queens College, the City University and Columbia, his main teachers were Leonard Bernstein, Chou Wen-Chung and George Perle. Sheng's one-act opera *The Song of Majnun* with librettist Andrew Porter was recorded on the Delos label by the Houston Grand Opera. His discography also includes a first runner-up for the 1989 Pulitzer Prize, *H'UN (Laceration): In Memoriam 1966-1976*, an orchestral portrait depicting the crimes and losses inflicted by the Cultural Revolution (New World label), and *Two Folk Songs From Qinghai* (Kock International). He was again first runner-up for the Pulitzer in 1991 for *Four Movements for Piano Trio*. *Michigan Today's* John Woodford interviewed Professor Sheng in Sheng's office at the School of Music.

**Michigan Today: How did you become a musician?**

**Bright Sheng:** It began with lessons from my mother when I was four. It was a luxury to have a piano at home. It's not like here where middle-class people have pianos in their homes. Later, I got a private teacher. I wasn't thinking of becoming a musician. I was studying the classical repertoire. When I was 11, the Cultural Revolution came, and our piano was taken away. I didn't miss it, though. I thought, well, now I don't have to practice.

But one day I heard a piano playing on the radio, and I got music-sick. I sneaked into the junior high classroom one day to play the school piano. The teacher locked it up every day, so I would break it open.

Only professional pianists were permitted to play the classical repertoire, however, and I wasn't a professional. That meant you could get into trouble if you played something besides Chinese traditional melodies. Madame Mao [*the wife of China's leader Mao Tse-tung-MT*] began to cultivate a pianist who accompanied the Peking Opera. As a result of her influence, it became permissible to use Western romantic harmonies with Chinese melodies.

Junior high was the highest level of education permitted under the Cultural Revolution. Mao feared people who knew too much. When we kids reached 16, we had



Bright Sheng

no educational prospects and no jobs. Obviously we were becoming a social problem, so Mao said, Go to the country to be re-educated by the peasants. Only professional artists who were protected by Mao's wife could escape working as a peasant, so I decided to audition on piano, and my piano kept me from becoming a farmer.

**Did that allow you to remain home in Shanghai?**

No, I still had to move far away—to Qinghai Province near Tibet. I joined a folk song and dance troupe controlled by the provincial government. They gave me a three-year contract and the use of the province's best piano. I quickly found out I was the best pianist in the province—and I wasn't good.

Looking back, I see I learned a lot in the seven-and-a-half years I spent there. In addition to "regular" Chinese,

the province is home to Tibetans, Chinese Muslims, Mongolians and even some Russian Cossacks. I found that I had not received a proper musical education, so I learned to "steal," to be self-taught. I'd watch others play, imitate them, ask questions.

The ethnic backgrounds of the people were rich, but the people were poor. Life was tough. Their only entertainment was singing folk songs. One of the categories of folk song in Qinghai is called the *hua'er*, or flower, song. I got a chance to study them very well. Each group there has its own folk songs in its own language, but everyone sang the flower songs in the provincial dialect of Chinese. These songs had a distinctive melodic structure, and the songs were a jelling point for the different ethnic groups. They all lived close to each other; there was no ethnic tension or fighting at all before the recent Tibet conflict.

In some of my compositions I use the melodic style of the flower songs. In my opera *Song of Majnun*, two of the main themes are based on Qinghai Tibetan motifs. Since the story is set in ancient Persia, I wanted an Asian sound, I don't know Persian music, so I used Tibetan. I didn't want to listen to Persian folk music tapes when I was composing *Majnun*. I knew there was no way I could do an authentic job of it.

**Is there a generic "Asian sound"? And if so, what are its elements?**

It's interesting to listen to the ways various composers try to sound Asian. In *Turandot*, Puccini uses the five-tone, or pentatonic, scale to sound Chinese—it would be CDEGA on the piano white keys, or play the black keys starting with the set of three. Actually, the Chinese scale is not pentatonic. The pentatonic is its basic background, but there is no central tone in a Chinese scale. It's like jazz—there are notes between

the cracks of the Western notes. One can use the 12 tones of the Western chromatic scale to analyze and notate the Chinese scale, but the Chinese loses some of its flavor when you do that. In Chinese music, each of the five tones has several variants; they aren't half-steps away as in the West. There are names for the central note and for each of the variants. Which of the several tones you play vary with factors such as the mood of the day, the style of the school of the composer. I didn't learn things like that growing up. But in Tibet no one explained them either. I had to pick it up myself.

Chinese theory is hard to explain. You can't apply Western theory to Chinese music; each has its own logic and theory. Each is animated by a different aesthetic idea. Bernstein said that what is called classical music should

Photo by Wah Lui, courtesy of G. Schirmer, Inc.



be called “exact music,” since a primary objective is to compose it so that ideally it can be repeated in essentially the same way in all performances. You can apply Western theory in an attempt to explain Chinese music, but in applying it, you are limiting the Chinese music.

Western music emphasizes harmonies, it combines many sounds, is polyphonic, and it looks for a purity of pitch, for being properly in tune. Chinese music is mostly in unison, and purity of pitch does not matter. In my composition *Spring Dreams* [premiered last year with cellist Yó-Yó Ma and the National Traditional Orchestra of China in Carnegie Hall—MT.] I use Chinese musicians, and in learning the piece they initially played according to their own style. They didn’t pay attention to pitch, didn’t count. Each feels himself a solo instrument.

**What did you do when the Cultural Revolution ended in the mid-1970s?**

After the Cultural Revolution, I returned to Shanghai. I assumed my musical education would be better there, but it was worse, I thought, because they didn’t know anything about Chinese music. They were writing Western 12-tone avant-garde style of the 1960s. They were surprised that I said you could express your own emotions in music. Chinese music is meant for the performer’s self-indulgence, not for entertainment. It’s like Chinese painting. You see a little pagoda, the sky, a mountain; there is no audience. The main philosophy behind the music, or the painting, is that it is a way to cultivate yourself, a way to soothe your mind and spirit. In traditional Chinese music the rhythm is not notated. The beat or meter in

Western music evolved from the dance. Traditional Chinese music is not meant to be danced, so its rhythms were to be imposed by the feelings of the performer. The rhythms are not meant to be reduplicated at other performances.

This tradition changed after 1000 AD, after the Tang dynasty conquered all of Asia and part of Russia. They accepted and encouraged exchange with other nations. Two important instruments are the *pipa*, which is similar to the mandolin, and a double-reed wind instrument that is a counterpart of the oboe. People speak about fusion as if it’s a 20th-century thing. It was always there. When China was closed to the world, it was not because of geography or tradition, but because the emperor was afraid.

**How had you changed in the 14 years between your leaving China and your return to work on *Spring Dreams*?**

In working with the traditional instruments and Chinese musicians, I found that my hearing had changed. I hear more contrapuntally and linearly now. I needed to reconnect with Chinese culture. I spent every day with the traditional musicians for one week. What I wanted to do gradually dawned on me, but I had never written anything for Chinese instruments before and had to look up the register for each instrument, so I could write the music for it accurately.

I am going to restate what I said in an interview with the music publication *Full Score*: I am a mixture not only of Eastern and Western influences but of Tibetan and

Chinese within the Eastern. Why shouldn’t my music reflect that? People acknowledge “artistic license”; I embrace “cultural license”—the right to reflect my appreciation and understanding of both cultures in my work. You can either struggle with cultural identity or make good advantage of it. I do not know what my music will be like in five or ten years, or even in which direction it is going. But I think less and less about whether some element I am using is Chinese or Western. I write whatever excites me while continuing to study both cultures. It is crucial that one knows both sides truly well and in depth, therefore Western audiences don’t feel they need to understand Chinese music in order to appreciate you, and Chinese audiences that they need to understand Western contemporary music. In my opinion, what makes Bartok’s music great is not only that he used Hungarian folk tunes (many composers had done that already), but that he managed to keep the beauty and savageness of these folk elements while blending them to the “fine art” Western classical music. So the listener realizes that both are equally great, one doesn’t borrow from the other. The result enriches both.

**What is the story behind your unusual first name?**

My name in Chinese is Sheng Zong-Liang, with the family name first. My first name means something like “bright lights.” I once read a book that referred to an Englishman named Mr. Bright, so I thought it might be good to be known as Bright Sheng where people speak English. I did not know the connotation of smartness at the time. **MT**

**‘Chinese music is meant for the performer’s self-indulgence, not for entertainment. It’s like Chinese painting. You see a little pagoda, the sky, a mountain; there is no audience. The main philosophy behind the music, or the painting, is that it is a way to cultivate yourself, a way to soothe your mind and spirit.’**



Photos by David Smith Photography







Seeing as there were no landmarks that I could recognize, I soon radioed the Ypsilanti airport asking them for help. They responded immediately by trying to help me identify some landmarks. They even started turning their landing lights off and on, hoping that I would see them, but I did not. Soon another pilot came on the air and said he would start searching for me. He couldn't find me. While all this was going on I kept heading due west trying not to panic and looking down for a landmark.

By now it was very dark, and shapes were hard to see. Just when there seemed to be no hope, immediately below me I could see in the dark a shape that no one could mistake. It was good old Michigan Stadium. Cheered on by my good fortune, I immediately turned around and notified Ypsilanti that I was heading in.

Being rather flustered at this point, I chose to not press my luck with the grass strip and landed at the paved Ypsilanti airport instead. It just happened to be that this would be my last flight. Money was tight and soon I was married and raising a family. Now that my oldest has just graduated from U of M, who knows? I may be flying again soon.

Stephen P. Smedes '72 U-M Dearborn  
Kentwood, Michigan

#### Campus Plan

TOTAL agreement with Dean Johnson's article questioning why the University overlooked JJR, Landscape Architects to deal with current Master Plan needs. They, indeed, are a nationwide leader in these issues as any professional design or planning organization can attest.

Kent G. Worley '67 Landscape Architecture  
Duluth, Minnesota

I READ with great interest the article in the most recent *Michigan Today* about President Bollinger's idea to have a master plan for U of M. The story mentioned that the architectural firm was taking comments, including those via email. The article failed to provide any details. I would love to send my suggestions; could you write back with details on how to best contact the firm regarding this? Thanks for your help and keep up the excellent work.

Scott H. Finch '86, '93 Business  
From e-mail

The e-mail address for responding to the Campus Plan project is [campusplan@umich.edu](mailto:campusplan@umich.edu). The comments will be read by Venturi, Scott Brown and Assoc. (the Campus Plan consultants); Robert Beckley (chair of the Campus Plan Advisory Committee) and Anne Knott, special counsel to the president.—Ed.

#### Credit Due for 'Let's Go Blue'?

THE SUMMER issue included a letter discussing the origin of the "Let's Go Blue" cheer. I have long claimed to have originated in the 1950s the "Lets Go Blue" cheer that we hear at every U-M football, basketball and hockey game. Attached is an article on

this subject from the old *Go Blue* magazine, plus press notices. It might be fun to challenge your readers for any earlier documentation as to the origin of "Lets Go Blue."

Richard Harper '50 BBA, '51 MBA  
Beverly Hills, Michigan

*Alumnus Harper enclosed an undated Detroit Free Press column by Bob Talbert and also a photo of Harper and two friends posing behind a "Let's Go Blue" sign at the 1955 football game at Minnesota, Ohio, newspaper describing Harper's "Let's Go Blue" banner held aloft at the OSU game that year. Talbert said Harper "probably started" the cheer. The musical phrase accompanying the cheer was written later, Talbert wrote, "in the Dennis Franklin era," by tuba player Joe Carl, according to fellow tubaist Dan Iannaci.—Ed.*

SEPTEMBER 1950 was not the first time "Go Blue" was shouted to encourage the Wolverines to greater effort [See letter of Peg Dungan '48 in Summer '98 issue—Ed.]. I originated the cheer during Michigan's 1947 baseball season.

At that time, M-Club members would sit together at various athletic events to support the members of other varsity teams. We even had a special M-Club section at the basketball games, then played in Yost Field House. Members of the athletic teams were quite supportive of all of the other teams during the 1946-51 period.

During the 1947 baseball season, I began cheering, "Go Blue" and "Let's Go Blue" as an alternative to the lengthier cheers, such as "locomotives," in use at the time. The brief "Go Blue" and "Let's Go Blue" could be cheered while batters came to the plate without disrupting the flow of the game.

Other members of our M-Club section picked up the cheers, and we had quite a loud, supportive group. Next fall, I continued the cheer in support of the 1947 National Champion football team. And during the 1947-48 basketball season, our M-Club cheering section rooted the team to Michigan's first Big 10 basketball championship in many years with lots of "Let's Go Blue's."

After graduating in 1951, I was away from Michigan for several years. When I returned for a football game in the early 1960s, I was astounded to hear thousands of Michigan fans chanting, "Let's Go Blue." I have been a football season ticket holder since 1965, and during that time I have felt a sense of pride each time I've heard the Michigan fans cheer the "Let's Go Blue" I first cheered in the Spring of 1947.

Charles J. Moss '51  
Midland, Michigan

#### Views on Affirmative Action

I CONGRATULATE you for an even-handed presentation of views on affirmative action as presented in the Spring 1998 issue. Although I have received nothing but positive e-mail and phone messages on my letter, I expect a real outcry from the politically

correct. I have attended at least one meeting at U-M in which California was identified as the source of unrest against racial and gender preferences. When President Bollinger sponsored the forum during Rose Bowl week, I suggested that he invite Ward Connerly to provide a balanced debate but that was not to be.

As the smoke begins to clear, people are beginning to note that only the best get into UC Berkeley or UCLA, but minority enrollment is strong at the other UC campuses. Elimination of bilingual education will eventually strengthen this diversity.

Donald F. Reeves  
Rancho Palos Verdes, California  
Ward Connerly, a highly publicized African American opponent of affirmative action and a regent of the University of California, spoke on campus early this year.—Ed.

I GRADUATED in 1939 (Engineering) as a racial minority, and I never received any government handout, loans or preference. My family was quite poor financially, and I worked my entire way through the University doing any simple job from grocery clerking to spending three years working full-time at the Ford Rouge Works, and taking a full schedule in the Engineering College. I did all this entirely on my own. And if I could do it, anyone can do it!

Therefore, I have decided to make no cash contribution to the University until President Lee Bollinger gains enough foresight, wisdom and courage to abandon his stand in upholding affirmative action. The latter is absolutely wrong, unfair, discriminatory and purely racist.

I have the greatest respect, feeling and love for education, but in my long career and experience I feel strongly that no one should pursue higher education purely for financial gain; on the contrary, higher education should become a shining beacon, a pure love and desire to broaden a person's mind in understanding life, civilization, nature and all the world's problems and what the world has to offer. With this goal and hunger, nothing can or should stand in the way of the true student. Indeed, education should be a major part of life whether attending a university or not.

A. L. Hodge '39E  
Glendale, Arizona

*President Lee Bollinger replies: Thank you for your letter of April 22. I always appreciate hearing from alumni. I am forwarding a copy of your letter to Michigan Today. The central issue at stake in the lawsuit filed by the Center for Individual Rights against the University of Michigan is of great significance to higher education, to our University community and to me, personally. Since its founding, the University has been committed to educating a wide range of students. Throughout our history, we have aspired to provide a first-rate education to a diverse student population.*

*The University has taken a variety of steps to achieve this aspiration. We vigorously recruit talented minority high school students from Michigan*

*and throughout the country. And we take race into account as a factor in our admissions decisions. Yes, race can affect an outcome when determining whether to admit a minority applicant. This use of race is lawful, and it is the way we achieve a diverse student population.*

*The University has one system of admissions, within which every applicant is evaluated, using the same criteria. All of the criteria are taken into account in the case of every student. An applicant's high school academic record is overwhelmingly the most important factor in an admissions decision. In addition to race, other criteria include test scores, residency, being from an underrepresented Michigan county, the quality of a high school program and the extent to which an applicant has taken advantage of challenges it offers, alumni relationships, essay quality, personal achievement, whether the student comes from an educational environment that is socioeconomically disadvantaged, and athletic ability.*

*Although race is a significant factor in our admissions, neither race nor any other characteristic for which an applicant receives extra consideration overwhelms the significance of the high school GPA. No one is admitted unless we believe the student will be able to do the work that is required to graduate.*

*There are many strongly held views around the issue of using race in admissions, and there will be disagreements. I believe that a racially diverse student body is fundamental to achieving our educational objectives. It is essential for the preparation of students to function constructively and thrive in an increasingly multiracial and multicultural world. For this reason, I am prepared to defend the University's policies.*

*Although we may disagree, I would like to thank you for sharing your views on this important matter.*

#### Gordon Record Setters

WHEN MY youngest sister graduated from U-M in 1984, the *Detroit Free Press* did a feature article about our family. At that time they quoted the Alumni Association as giving our family the record for most siblings attending U-M.

In the Gordon family all six children were raised in Detroit and went directly to U-M out of high school. No one attended college first anywhere else. Everyone graduated on time in their respective colleges. Their names and graduation info is as follows:

Michael '72 BA - Computer Science

Jil '74 BA - Fine Arts

Gail '77 BS - Pharmacy

Ted Jr. '79 BA - Speech Communication

Lisa '83 BS - Psychology; '86 MPH -

Health Physics

Lynne '84 BA - Communication

It's hard to imagine that our parents had at least one child at U-M for 19 straight years! We think we still probably hold the record because not too many families have six children any longer. Everyone is still active in U-M alumni activities. And we usually make it back for at least one football game each season. At least two or three make it out to the Rose Bowls every year too! We hope we still can claim to have the U-M record!

Gail Gordon Bosch  
Traverse City, Michigan



P.S. Jil was the artist who painted the Block "M" at Michigan Stadium above the outside entrance to the tunnel back in 1973-74, when she was engaged to a U-M football player. We're sure glad to see that it's still there today.

#### Sold 'Sole' to Nike

IN MY opinion, Lawrence Niblett hit the nail on the head in his letter, "Nike Relationship Grubby" (Spring 1998 issue). For some time I have felt that the Michigan Athletic Department sold its "sole" to the Devil when it made its deal with Nike, all in the name of money.

It all began with the passage of Title IX US Code when the University realized that it had to raise more funds in order to comply with Title IX. Today, I will not purchase "M" items if they have the Nike logo on them.

Harold W. Sherman '50E  
Ypsilanti, Michigan

#### Jewish Athletes; V12 History

THANKS FOR the memories in Karen Rutzky Back's Spring '98 articles about the Mad Magicians 50 years ago. But this professor would postpone an A+ pending minor corrections.

Bob Chappuis didn't make the cover of *Time* as a "defensive left halfback." It was, as subsequently identified, "as the leader of the power house single wing offense." That was the end of the era when virtually all played both offense and defense for 60 minutes!

Coach Elliott is accurate that V-12 was designed to provide military officers for World War II, but there was an additional purpose that differentiated V-12 and the Army's ASTP units from the 90-day Officer Candidate Schools on military bases. The accompanying time-consuming university education emphasized socially vital knowledge and skills such as engineering, medicine, dentistry, lest the war last forever, which seemed probable in the two and one-half years between Pearl Harbor and D-Day. That possibility was not put to rest until a lot of people were buried at Hiroshima. This was before society removed its blinders and acknowledged that Rosie could learn more than riveting and be an engineer, physician and a lot of other things other than linebacker.

Ms. Back's appropriate emphasis on the era's racial and gender injustices would be balanced by a fuller description of the Marshall Plan. Noting its mid-century economic and geopolitical motivations is on target. But what seems most significant today and tomorrow is the historical/epistemological reality that what President Truman named for General Marshall (for political reasons) is the first time in recorded history that a victorious conqueror treated an unconditionally surrendered, hated enemy humanely.

My last pedagogic nit pertains to the nuances inherent in the generalizations about Jewish athletes. While I am familiar with some of Dan Dworsky's athletic and architectural accomplishments, I have no knowl-

edge of his experience as a Jew in that era of polite anti-Semitism. The Academy Award winning *Gentlemen's Agreement* depicts the upper middle class version before widespread cognizance of the Holocaust rendered the polite end of the anti-Semitic spectrum less acceptable. But your readers shouldn't be led to believe there weren't Jewish athletes in that era before African Americans had access. (Organized sports pioneered an integration path followed by civil society. Jackie Robinson preceded Rosa Parks.)

While Jewish football players may not have been as frequent as Jewish boxers and basketball players, they were not unique in the immigrant and first generation population. During my boyhood in the 1930s, there was a year in which Jews held half of all the world boxing championships. That is documentable, as are the several years when Jews were more than one-third of the boxing championships.

Vol. 52 of the 1948 *Michigan Ensign* celebrates that year's team along with all Maize and Blue All-Americans. They begin with Willie Heston in 1903 and included my contemporary Merv Pregulman, who was Jewish. The legendary Bennie to Ben passing combination was a Jewish All-American named Friedman passing to Oosterbaan (later Coach Oosterbaan). Was Harry Newman Jewish?

The immigrant American experience has never been easy, with three major paths out of ethnic ghettos: education, sports and crime. Again, thanks for the memories.

Saul Isaac Harrison '48 MD  
Pacific Palisades, California

AN ADDITIONAL footnote to the V12 story is the fact that many of us were transferred to U-M from smaller colleges in 1945. The entire unit at Park College in Missouri was split up into three groups and sent to Northwestern, Notre Dame and U-M. I became acquainted with Pete Elliott at Park because of my mother's cookies. Consider it the luck of the draw, because we had no choice.

We were on our own in the Spring of 1947, so I arrived early in September for a lodging hunt. It was a hopeless enterprise until I finally discovered looking for available basements was the strongest possibility. Three other V12 classmates and I sweet-talked a wonderful House Mother at 610 S. Forest St. into renting the basement to us for \$20 a week.

Talk about convenience: we all got part-time evening jobs at the Brown Jug and easy walking to the Diag. The Jug was run by students, and the pay was three meals a day from the menu. This group really became quasi-fraternal and good friends. All tips were saved and a super picnic concluded the '48 JUG class. And, oh yes, the John Dewey house was being run as a Girl's League House.

Herbert Shields '48 BSE  
Hesperia, California

#### Samurai Armor

ENJOYED the article on the suit of samurai armor ("Samurais of Summer" by Valerie Nao Yoshimura), which I had noted the last time I was in the U-M Museum of Art. Thanks.

Joan O'Mara  
Lexington, Virginia

I SEEM to have missed something in "Samurais of Summer." The author opens by describing her motivation to investigate the origin of a suit of Japanese armor displayed at the University of Michigan Museum of Art. She then quotes the Michigan Daily of October 16, 1929 as indicating that there were two sets of armor presented to the Michigan team by the University of Meiji. The article eventually explains that one set was retained by Fielding Yost and later donated to the University by Mrs. Yost. OK. But what happened to the second suit of armor? Did Ms. Yoshimura try to trace this one? If she did what did she find? If she didn't attempt to locate it, why was that?

A. R. Fredette '57 BBA  
Tallahassee, Florida

*Valerie Nao Yoshimura replies: The question of the "second set of armor" remains an enigma. The University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology does own another suit of armor, which I examined in consultation with Carla Sinopoli and Lars Fogelin of the Museum. This second suit, however, was not donated until July 9, 1956, much later than the original visits to Japan and four years after Mrs. Fielding Yost's "donation." Nor is it known whether the donors, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph K. Sano, had any affiliation with the U-M baseball team. Unfortunately, the location of the Japanese saddle is also unknown.*

#### Honor Due to '51 Underdogs

BASED ON the letters I have been reading, I regret that memories seem short with regard to a 1951 unexpected Rose Bowl victory. I lived in Los Angeles until 1956 and attended most of the Bowls beginning with the 1947 start of the arrangement between the Big Ten and Pacific teams. That 1951 game is not to be forgotten when an unsung Michigan team, season record 5 wins, 3 losses, 1 tie, pulled out a second half win over a favored U of California (9-0-1) team 14 to 6. U-M was piloted by a not too famous single-wing quarterback named Chuck Ortman. [*Ortman was 15-for-19 passing for 146 yards, and MVP Don Dufek scored two TDs in the fourth quarter. With U-M trailing Cal 10-2 in first downs at halftime, Coach Bennie Oosterbaan had assured his troops, "Victory is still ours."—Ed.*] While admittedly this team did not come up with the memorable performances of the '48 and '98 Bowl winning teams, there could not have been a more exciting, harder fought performance.

Arthur Kohn '34E  
Mayfield Heights, Ohio

#### Ernie Pyle and a Miracle

REALLY ENJOYED article on Jim Tobin's life of Ernie Pyle [*Ernie Pyle's War* reviewed in Spring '98 issue]. Sure brings back memories of another time. I happened to see a flash of fire out of a hydraulic pump on bomb bay wall of B-24 while ferrying back to States from Valley, Wales, to Gander, Newfoundland. No chute; no room for it. Grabbed CO2 extinguisher, put out fire and pulled wires while straddling 10,000 feet on catwalk. No brakes in Azores, but we rolled to a stop and were towed in to base. Kissed ground, got a shot for black plague, went into town and got smashed.

Used to wake up dreaming about the miracle for years. But are we not all miracles every day, with gratitude for another day? One day at a time. Cheers to Liberal Arts. It's the only way to fly!

Gil Yates '48  
Mesa, Arizona

P.S. Fishing article great, too. M GO BLUE!!!

#### Linguists Celebrate

Alexander Z. Guiora (left) and John C. Catford, professors emeriti, were among the scholars in the field of applied linguistics who celebrated in September the



50th anniversary of the founding of Language Learning—A Quarterly Journal of Applied Linguistics at the University.

"In the 1940s, the University of Michigan was a major center for teaching and research in linguistics, as it still is," Catford said in his opening address in the Michigan League. "Faculty members Kenneth Pike, Charles Fries and Albert Marckwardt were leaders in the field and enthusiastic teachers."

The field of applied linguistics addresses not only the processes of learning native and foreign languages, but also the social function of language, such as "correct" or standard forms of languages, dialects and vernaculars, as well as questions of meaning and symbolism, translation, mythology, comparative anthropology and the role of language in the prehistory of humanity. In recent years, advances in neurobiology have opened new lines of inquiry in the highly interdisciplinary field, Catford noted.

The journal began, Catford said, when a group of graduate students, "moved by the exciting new ideas about language and language learning" they were receiving from their teachers and also by their work in ELL, formed the Research Club in Language Learning.

In 1996, Guiora, who was the journal's general editor from 1980-98, negotiated the transfer of the journal to Blackwell Publishers.



# THE HISTORIES OF THE Henry Ford Estate

A NATIONAL TREASURE ON THE U-M DEARBORN CAMPUS

By Doug Moffat

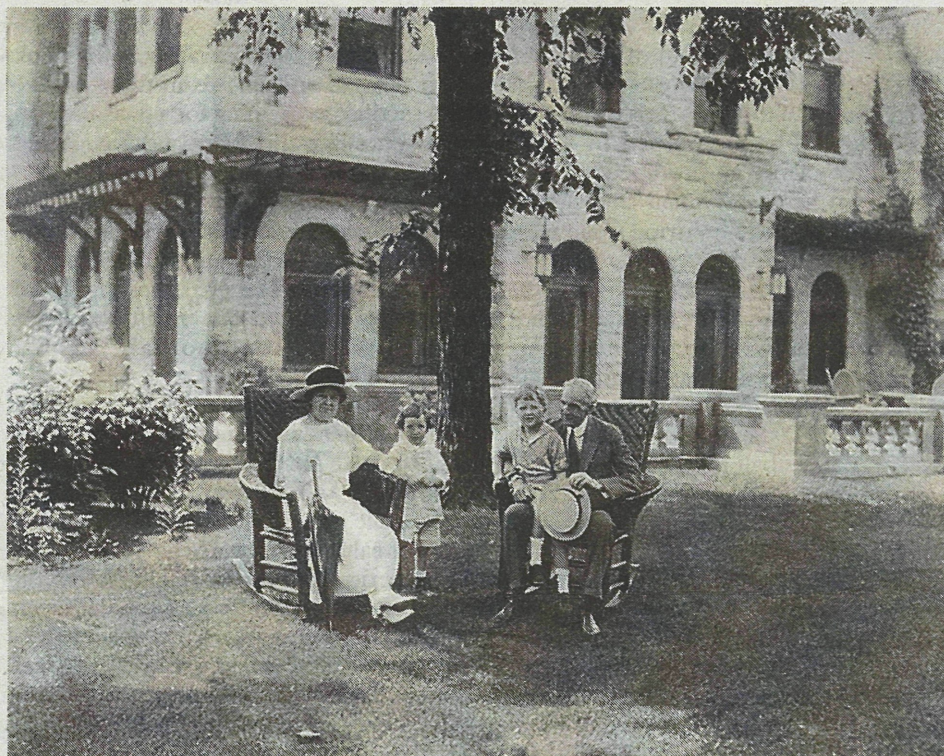
Few sites on the University of Michigan campus, or any other university or college campus in this country, can inspire the range of feeling people experience when visiting the Henry Ford Estate at U-M Dearborn. Amongst all the formidable men who put their mark on industry and the country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Henry Ford most endures for us as a person. Fair Lane, his home during the years when his power was at its zenith is, therefore, a place of great fascination.

Ford embodied fundamental tensions that we still wrestle with as a society and as individuals. He loved nature deeply but also championed mass production of the automobile, which has transformed our relationship with nature and, some would argue, has destroyed it. He believed in the goodness of old-fashioned, robust physical labor but was also in the vanguard of technological change and the development of the production line that depersonalized labor for millions of factory workers in a worldwide industrial process historians now call "Fordism." He valued simple utility but maneuvered successfully in a complex world of vast business interests and political influence. He was fabulously wealthy yet deeply suspicious of the traditional institutions associated with wealth. In many ways the Henry Ford Estate reflects the contradictory passions of the man who built it.

## U-M GAINS ESTATE IN 1957

Henry and Clara Ford began planning their country home in 1909. They wanted to remove themselves from the bustle of Detroit and chose to relocate in Dearborn, a few miles from where Henry grew up. Construction began in 1914 and was completed by the end of the following year. The Fords lived there for the rest of their lives; Henry died in 1947 and Clara in 1950. After Clara's death the couple's grandchildren auctioned off the furnishings of the Ford mansion and, in 1952, sold the estate to the Ford Motor Company. For five years the mansion served as the company's corporate archives. In 1957, however, it donated the buildings on the Estate, some 200 of the original 1,300 acres, and \$6 million to the University of Michigan to serve as the site of the Dearborn campus.

Today the Henry Ford Estate is located on the western edge of the U-M Dearborn on 72 acres of land. The Estate is open to visitors year round, and it would be difficult to imagine any such visitors leaving without a complicated combination of impressions to do with wealth, nature and utility. To some extent these impressions re-



Henry and Clara Ford at their estate with sons Henry II (in father's lap) and Benson.

sult from the confused architectural history of the mansion itself.

## WRIGHT ELOPES; MAHONEY IS FIRED

Ford approached Frank Lloyd Wright to design Fair Lane. However, Wright was about to elope to Europe with the wife of a client, and the project fell to a follower of Wright's Prairie School, Marion Mahoney. She planned the house to stretch along the bluff overlooking the Rouge River, and foundations were poured. But after a trip to Europe—and some embarrassing publicity about the cost of his new home—Ford dismissed Mahoney and hired William Van Tine to construct a more baronial structure replete with heavy stone battlements, dark wood paneling and stained glass.

Van Tine used Mahoney's location and some of her design and foundations for his different, if not antithetical, style. As a result, one finds remarkable contrasts. After the formality of the main floor dining room and parlor, one is surprised, for example, by the lightness of the space that used to house the indoor swimming pool, a feature retained from the original plan. (Ford Motor Company filled in the pool after it bought the Estate, and the area now serves as the dining room for the Pool Restaurant.)

The rustic field room below the main floor, with its log-paneled walls and massive stone fire place, also contrasts

sharply with the more formal rooms of the house. It was a site where the Fords engaged in simpler pleasures such as square dancing.

## EDISON LENDS A HAND

With the help of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford constructed a powerhouse to generate electricity for the Estate, and at one time it could provide sufficient power for the village of Dearborn as well. A low dam in the Rouge River is the energy source. Close by the powerhouse is the garage where Ford kept, and worked on, automobiles powered by both gas and electricity. His private workshop was located above the garage. But nature surrounds these utilitarian buildings. A walk along the Rouge back toward the mansion, or elsewhere on the grounds of the Estate, provides fine opportunities to enjoy nature, a pleasure Ford himself loved.

In 1915 Ford hired the landscape architect Jens Jensen, the foremost exponent of naturalistic approaches to shaping landscape. Jensen sought to use native flowers and trees to recreate a pre-settlement feeling at the Estate. This is not to say that he espoused a wild artlessness. His most spectacular "natural" effect at Fair Lane is the meadow that leads to the porte-cochere of the mansion, from which

one can view, on the summer solstice, the sun setting perfectly into an opening over a pond into a grove of birches and alders.

## CLARA FORD PREVAILS OVER JENSEN

But Jensen's subtle art was at odds with the desire of the Estate's mistress, Clara Ford, for formal gardens. Clara wanted careful arrangements of flowers, and lots of them. She created a number of formal gardens near the house, but in 1921 she and Jensen came to loggerheads over her wish to create a gigantic rose garden. Clara prevailed. Jensen resigned. She had 11,000 rose bushes installed in what had been Jensen's wildflower meadow, and many other of his naturalistic sites were likewise transformed.

In recognition of the profound impact that Henry Ford had on the United States and, indeed, the world, the Henry Ford Estate was designated in 1966 as a National Historic Landmark. This act signified the Estate's potential to become a site of true historic interest and educational value.

However, by the 1960s Fair Lane was in very poor condition, bearing little resemblance to what it once had been. One of the Estate's current benefactors, Bruce Simpson, knew the Fords and their home. He recalls the mansion's dismal condition in the early '60s: "It was very plain and

*Continued on page 22*



**Suggested reading: Books by U-M faculty and graduates, and works published by the University of Michigan Press.**

# U M B O O K S

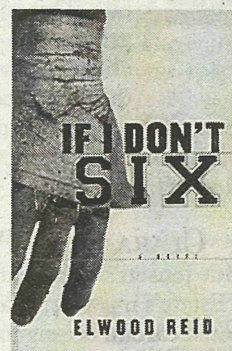


**If I Don't Six**  
By Elwood Reid '89,  
'96 MFA Doubleday,  
1998, \$22.95

Elwood Riley, the narrator of this novel, is on his way to the top. A "rockhead" (to quote Riley's high school buddy Stork) that talks good, 6' 6" of prime Cleveland hope, Riley is one of the lucky high schoolers recruited by big-time college football. For this blue-collar kid, a four-year full ride is the only way to attend college. If, that is, he doesn't "six," which in team jargon means to call it quits, whether from injury or by choice.

Humorous and sobering by turns, Reid's first novel is full-time immersion into fictional, Reid emphasizes, football at the University. The Team is all-consuming: practice eat sleep play drink fight practice. From the classes players are expected to take ("Rocks for Jocks" in geology) to lifting weights (doing squats until they can't walk for hours afterwards), the players' lives are regimented by the coaches. Extras are not allowed—not socially, not academically—"until our lives get pared down to one thing. Football," explains the narrator.

As always, rules are made to be broken; there are team rules outside the coaches'. It's peer pressure with the added twist of being larger than life, both physically and socially. From



creaming guys in practice to drinking 20 beers, comparing broken noses and black eyes, commitment to the Team is complete, and this loyalty is manifested in ways tinged with violence and competition. "If I back down from this small challenge," Riley says to himself during practice, "Robeson will own me. Another rule of the jungle is to never let someone get over on you. Do that and I risk becoming one of the permanently f\*\*\*ed: a scrub team b\*\*\*h." Torn between fitting in and wanting something more, Riley eventually feels compelled to pick: the team or himself.

Reid was a football player at Michigan for two seasons, until an injury knocked him out. "You come of age in college, and you come of age with a certain peer group," he said in an interview. "And for me, certainly, I came of age with this jock peer-group. All life is compromises, and I think you learn in college how to compromise your dreams with reality. You know, some people, their dream is to have that Mercedes and drive that car."

At some point Reid decided that he would "be a person who does what they're happy with. I spent 10 years trying to write. And the way I did that was I took blue-collar jobs. I took jobs that I could use my back for: a bouncer, a bartender, a carpenter. That was a way of forcing myself to write.

"There are a lot of parallels in the book with religion and that team thing, where you sacrifice everything for a goal and you don't question, and there's a doctrine, and you buy into it," said Reid. "I was a person who questioned everything, and the team ethic of football was just not something I was probably mentally or physically cut out for. The questions that I had and what I wanted out of life were not compatible with football."—**Cara Spindler '99.**

#### **Money & Morals In America**

By Patricia O'Toole '68, Clarkson Potter, New York, 1998, \$30.

O'Toole explores the relationship between wealth and ethical behavior throughout American history, from John Winthrop and James Oglethorpe in Colonial days, through Ben Franklin, women textile workers in Massachusetts, Emerson and Thoreau, plantation slavery, the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford's \$5 Day, the Tennessee Agrarians, shipbuilder and-accused-war-profiteer Henry J. Kaiser, Whitney Young of the National Urban League, William C. Norris of Control Data Corporation, and shareholder activists of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

O'Toole argues that how a wealthy nation and its richest citizens handle and distribute their property and funds affects whether citizens are optimistic, active and involved in society or indifferent, cynical

and destructive. She notes that today, at perhaps the end of a six-year boom that has given the rich "a bigger slice now than they've ever had," many Americans are not as well off as they were 25 years ago. Nonetheless, she says that Americans are "indefatigable social and economic experimenters," and thus will come up with plans to harmonize "the interplay between wealth and commonwealth." O'Toole will send an autographed copy of her book to *MT* readers and donate 10% of the proceeds to the LSA Enrichment Fund. Checks (\$30 postpaid) can be sent to her at 215 E. 95th St., Apt. 32B, New York, NY 10128.

#### **An Anthology of Great U.S. Women Poets 1850-1990: Temples and Palaces**

By Glenn Richard Rühley '49, '55, '63, *The Mosaic Foundation*, P.O. Box 7801, Ann Arbor 48106, 1997, \$50; \$30 multiple copies.

This handsome, 567-page volume, featuring an absorbing portrait of Edna St. Vincent Millay on the cover, contains 477 poems by 18 American poets ranging from the renowned (Dickinson, Lowell, Stein, H.D., Moore, Teasdale, Wylie, Millay, Bogan, Swenson, Sexton, Plath, Kumin and Brooks) to the lesser known (Edith Thomas, Lizette Woodworth Reese, Anna Hempstead Branch, Leonie Adams). The selection, buttressed by more than 100 pages of highly rewarding biographical/critical essays on each poet, advances Rühley's fervently argued assertion that female poets have been demeaned and that "their best poems have a value different from but equal to the writings of the most admired male poets."

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

*The long day sped;  
A roof; a bed;  
No years;  
No tears.*

—Lizette Woodworth Reese (1856-1935)

## Ford Estate *continued from page 21*

empty, very institutionalized," he remembers. It has taken a great effort to recapture the Estate's appearance during its heyday and further to begin to tap its educational potential.

Donn Werling, the Estate's current director, has played a crucial role in both areas. He has overseen successful restoration efforts for both the buildings and the grounds, although much more is still needed to complete this work. In regard to education Werling has developed a program for elementary through college-age students to visit the Estate and has recently begun the Ford Festival, which

coincides with Ford's birthday, July 30, and brings history to life through volunteer re-enactors who play the roles of famous people associated with the Fair Lane. His goal is to make Fair Lane a site for scholarly research and interchange on the first half of the 20th century, and he gives considerable credit for the positive developments at the Estate to a devoted group of volunteers and donors who share his senses of Fair Lane's historical importance.

#### **EDSEL FORD II LEADS EFFORT**

Perhaps the most prominent of these is Edsel Ford II, the great-grandson of Henry and Clara, who worked with



*Edsel Ford II*

great dedication as chair of the Henry Ford Estate capital campaign and is now chairing the Estate's strategic planning committee. Ford's desire to restore the home of his forebears is linked to education. "The stories which are embodied in the Henry Ford Estate about our common heritage enrich our lives," he says.

The Estate's grounds are its greatest attraction for many people, both historically and aesthetically. Pamela Morrison, who coordi-



## THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY RUN IN PRACTICE

# Walking On

By John Woodford

Junior Manus Mark Anthony Edwards could have played his first and last down on the Wolverine football squad when he went in for the last play of Michigan's 59-20 victory over Eastern Michigan at Michigan Stadium in September. Either way it turns out, he couldn't be happier.

Edwards, a tailback from Henderson, Nevada, offered himself to the team as a walk-on player in October 1996, the fall of his freshman year. Walk-ons are any of the players on the team besides the 85 scholarship players allotted by the NCAA. The movie *Rudy* told the story of a walk-on who finally got to play for Notre Dame at his last opportunity. Quarterback Brian Griese and co-captain Eric Mays from last year's squad began their U-M careers as walk-ons and progressed to earn scholarships, starting status and stardom.

Walk-ons are good high school players who choose to attend Michigan for academic reasons and who have either turned down athletic scholarships elsewhere or, like Edwards, have received no athletic scholarship offers. A torn-up knee before his senior year at Green Valley High discouraged colleges from recruiting Edwards.

"Believe me, it's hard to be a walk-on here—especially if you have to pay out-of-state tuition," says Edwards, who is majoring in a pre-business program in LSA and plans to get a law degree and MBA. He became president of his high school student body after moving from the Chicago area to Nevada at the beginning of high school. His mother



Edward says he and most of the team think the stadium redesign makes playing in the Big House 'even more fun and exciting.'

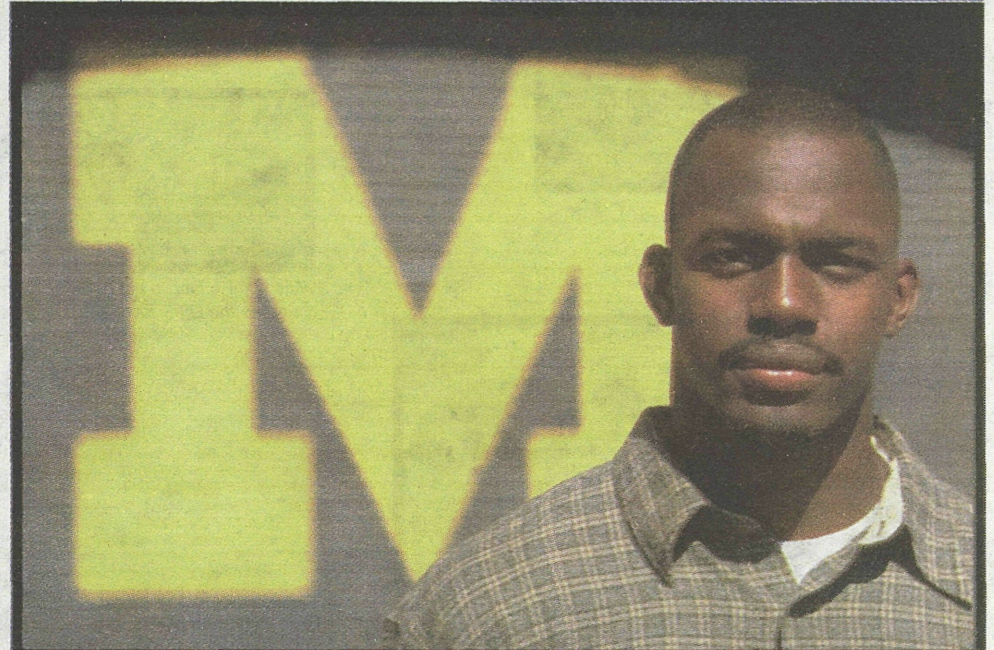
sent him to live with an aunt and uncle so he could avoid gang violence at his local school. He was a four-year honor student, member of the U.S. National Student Council and a Top

Teen of America in high school.

"Usually, there are about 20 walk-ons on the team," Edwards says, which means only a handful make it a year. After being interviewed by strength coach Mike Gittleson, Edwards trained on his own until January 1997, then entered a winter trial period, during which he ran, lifted weights and analyzed game film just as if he was on the team. After subsequent trials in spring and summer, he became a walk-on in the fall of U-M's championship 1997-98 season. He didn't play, and he wasn't on the traveling squad, but he did get to go to the Rose Bowl.

The main duties of walk-ons are to play on the demonstration team, which imitates upcoming opponents in team scrimmages. Edwards, who is 5'8" tall and weighs 180 pounds, must run plays against Michigan's defensive first team. Under coach supervision, he studies the stances and mimics the tendencies of the opposing backs. "Sometimes the defense knows where we're coming. Sometimes they don't know, but if they mess up, we run it again and again, and they know where I'm going." That means he gets hit a lot.

If a defender needs advice on how to avoid a block and hit Edwards sooner, Edwards offers the information, "and sometimes he'll almost knock me out on the next play—a



The stars of Michigan football tradition build their skills by tackling practice squad players like Manus Edwards. It's all in the family, Edwards says. 'My teammates are brothers to me, and the coaches are like uncles.'

Photo by Peter Mathews

walk-on has to prove himself to his teammates first."

Selflessness and hard work are the hallmarks of a walk-on, Edwards says. "Coach [Lloyd] Carr tells us, if you work hard, you will play." And Carr was as good as his word, sending Edwards in as a defensive back as the game clock wound down in the Eastern game.

"I was on pass defense," Edwards says, reliving the play as intensely as if it was the decisive action of the day, "and the quarterback rolled left in my man's direction. I guess my coverage was OK, because the quarterback never threw the ball. I was loving every three seconds of it. I'll love being on this team even if that's the only down I ever play and I'm on the practice squad the rest of my career."

MT

nates the efforts of about 20 volunteer gardeners, has seen dramatic changes since she began volunteering in 1983. At that time the grounds were suffering from years of neglect: there was no greenhouse, a tiny budget and little help. Now the Estate's rose and herb gardens, the blue garden (filled with blue flowers, Clara's favorite color), as well as the lilac hedge have been revitalized, and work continues on restoring Jensen's designs. Tours of the grounds led by volunteers are now available, a service that Morrison hopes to expand in the future.

The most remarkable examples of the volunteer spirit at the Estate involved a large contingent of U-M Dearborn engineering students led by one of their colleagues, Burt

Burley. By 1977 the Estate's powerhouse had fallen into complete disrepair. Flooding had rendered the equipment inoperable, and "it was in terrible shape from the point-of-view of appearance," Burley recalls. He engaged the interest of former Dean of Dearborn's School of Engineering, J. Robert Cairns; a few faculty members, especially Prof. Lou Boffi; and a great number of volunteer students like himself, 20 or 30 at any one time, to try to reactivate the powerhouse. The students had no drawings to work from and very little money, but zeal and persistence overcame all barriers. By the fall of 1978 the powerhouse was once again operational. Subsequent efforts have revealed the remarkable aesthetic appeal of its

gleaming brass pipes and dials and decorative wood carvings. With the help of private donors, Ford's garage is likewise restored, complete with vintage automobiles.

The Henry Ford Estate, then, has two histories. There is its largely hidden recent history as part of the University in which vigorous efforts by devoted staff, volunteers and donors have combined to reveal its other, more prominent history as the residence of one of the most influential figures of the 20th century.

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Doug Moffat is a development officer for the U-M School of Public Health and the co-author of *A Guide to Editing Middle English*, U-M Press, 1998.



# ERIN GOES BLUE

Photostory by Peter Matthews



Keeping Molly Malone company near Trinity College.



John Bruton's son appears at a 1997 campaign rally in Dublin's Temple Bar district sporting an undefeated team's jersey. The luck didn't rub off on his father, however. Bruton, the incumbent prime minister of Ireland at the time, lost the election.



Next to the medieval city walls of Dublin.



Fruit and vegetable stand on Camden Street in Dublin.



Waiting for a Dublin bus alongside the Liffey River.

In Ireland these days you would be hard pressed to spot a Notre Dame jersey, hat, T-shirt or jacket. But turn a corner, enter a mall or hop onto a bus and there's a good chance you'll come face-to-emblem reading **MICHIGAN**.

Many of those who don U-M apparel are huge fans of football—but it's the football Americans call soccer. Most buy the University of Michigan gear from stores like Champion Sports and, when asked about their styling choice, are unsure of what the University, or even the state, is.

Dubliners say they like the colors and design, and find the sound of the word "Michigan"—which they pronounce in varied ways—"brilliant" in its exoticism.

Of all universities that report such information, the University of Michigan has for a number of years received the greatest amount of royalties on sale of its licensed merchandise, according to figures from Collegiate Licensing Company. Martha Chaddock of the University's Trademark Licensing Office says royalties for the first three quarters of 1998 totaled \$3.3 million.

*Peter Matthews grew up in Ann Arbor, and is now a Dublin-based photographer for the Black Star agency.*



He may have Oasis in his heart as he waits to enter the British-band's concert at The Point in Dublin, but he wears Michigan over his chest.



A horse seller at Dublin's Smithfield Horse Market.



Paul is a regular vendor on the O'Connell Bridge in Dublin.

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