

Michigan Today

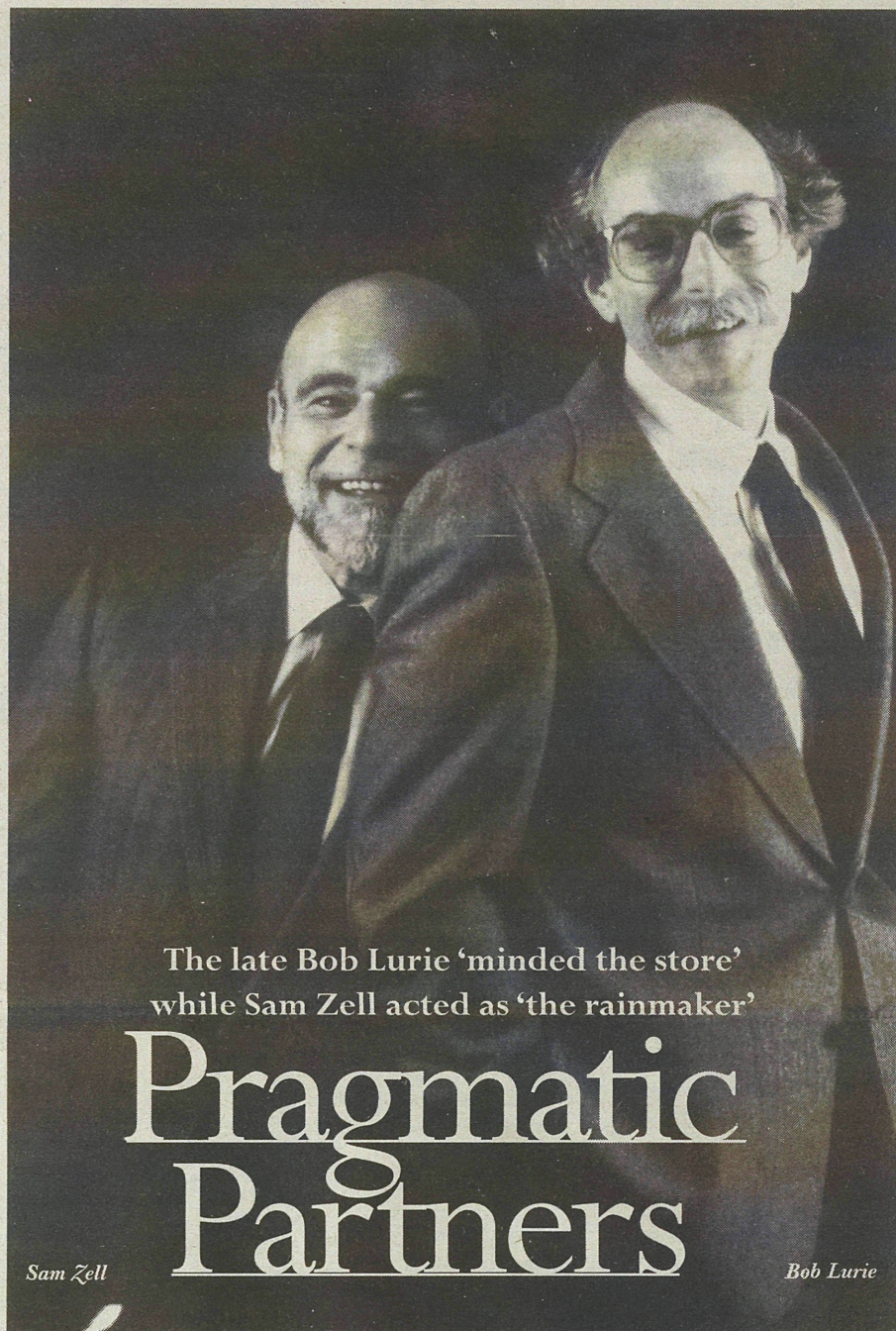
The Language
of the
Desert

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By Bill Vlasic

They were an unlikely match from the start. Sam Zell '63, '66JD, was the classic entrepreneur on the make. Kinetic and brash, Zell boasted that he had been in business since peddling magazines in sixth grade. He studied law, called it boring, and couldn't wait to test his skills in the rough-and-tumble world of real estate. Bob Lurie '64BSE, '66MSE, couldn't have been more different. The introspective son of an electrician, Lurie possessed a quiet brilliance that seemed perfectly suited to the engineering career he was planning. His intellectual curiosity and casual manner were a marked contrast to Zell's rambunctiousness.

Yet when Zell and Lurie met as Michigan students during the 1960-61 academic year, something clicked between them. They were both pledging the same fraternity (Alpha Epsilon Pi) and serving on the Soph Show Central Committee, but there was a different kind of kinship brewing.



The late Bob Lurie 'minded the store'
while Sam Zell acted as 'the rainmaker'

Pragmatic Partners

Sam Zell

Bob Lurie

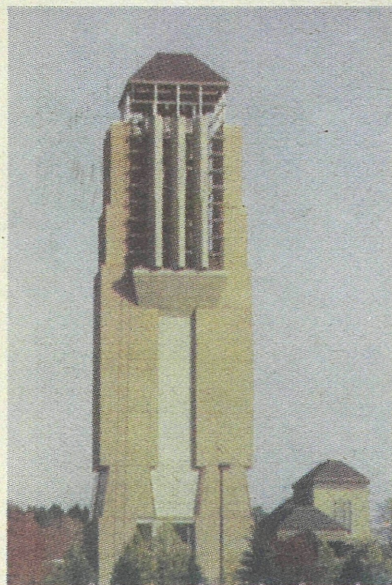
Courtesy of the Lurie family

Lurie later joined Zell's fledgling real-estate outfit, and a great friendship and business relationship was born. "The one thing we shared, when push came to shove, is that both of us were extremely pragmatic," Zell says. "We understood each other."

Over the next 30 years, Zell and Lurie embarked on an extraordinary dual career that combined Lurie's financial and organizational genius with Zell's innate salesmanship. Together, they built a sprawling network of companies that spanned the breadth and depth of American business: commercial real estate, insurance, vacation cruise lines, agricultural products, drug stores, radio stations and sporting goods. They made billions of dollars, and worked together so closely that they literally shared the same checkbook.

Lurie's Legacy

Unfortunately, their unique partnership was cut short prematurely when Bob Lurie died of cancer at the age of 48 in 1990. His legacy lives on through his wife, Ann, and their six children, through Zell's work, and in the new Robert H. Lurie Engineering Center on the U-M North Campus. "Bob used to say, 'What I really learned at the University of Michigan is how to think,'" Ann Lurie says. "He learned how to take advantage of his intellectual gifts."



The 165-foot, \$5.2 million Lurie Tower houses 60-bell carillon with a five-octave range.

Photo by Per Kjeldsen

Towering Achievements

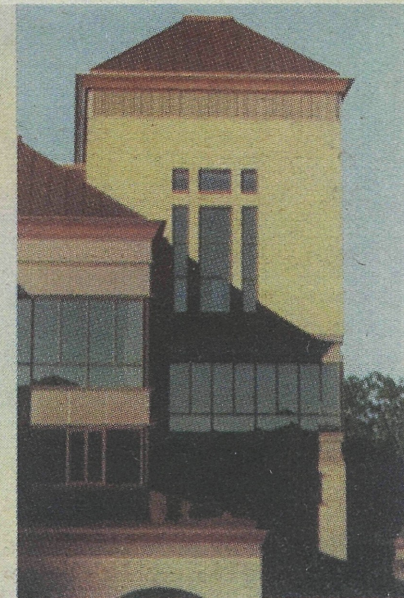
By John Woodford

Not long before he died in 1993, the renowned architect Charles W. Moore '47, '92 PhD (Hon.), of the Moore-Andersson firm in Austin, Texas, sent a conceptual set of drawings of the design for Lurie Tower to the Ann Arbor architectural firm of Hobbs and Black Associates (H and B).

The drawings found their way to the desk of design team member Donn Perez '95 BArch, an H and B intern who is pur-

suing an MA at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Like Moore and Perez, the principals of the firm, William S. Hobbs ('59 B Arch) and Richard V. Black ('64 B Arch), are Architecture alumni.

"The drawing showed what the outside of the tower should look like," Perez says, "the form, size and plan of what you see. Our job at Hobbs and Black was to determine how to build it, what would be inside it, what patterns the bricks should lie in and other features. My main involvement was to place



The Robert H. Lurie Engineering Center on North Campus

Photo by Per Kjeldsen

The saga of Lurie and Zell offers unusual insights into the nature of success, how two very different people can meld into a dynamic team, and why trust and respect are the cornerstones of a true partnership. It's also a story of entrepreneurship at its best. Armed with their wits, common sense and an almost-insatiable drive to do bigger and better deals, Zell and Lurie built a business empire that has continued to thrive even after the devastating loss of one of its founders.

What made it work so well? "I think it was because they each had their specific niche," Ann Lurie says. "Sam wasn't about to sit in the back room and run the numbers, and Bob was not about to go all over the country doing the back-slapping and deal-making. It needed two people to fill the two niches."

'Play With the Big Boys'

Lurie and Zell found their niches in a simpler time and place. Zell loves to tell the story of how he and Lurie assembled a mini-empire of apartment buildings in Ann Arbor in the mid-1960s. "I was basically arrogant, and wanted to see what I could do in the real world," Zell recalls. "So I sold the business to Lurie and said, 'When you get through screwing around and want to play with the big boys, call me.'" With that farewell, Zell was off to his native Chicago.

Lurie followed two years later. By then, Zell had started to syndicate real estate projects across the country. Lurie started out as a minority partner, but soon became a full-fledged equal in Zell's operation. Lurie handled the organization and books, Zell scouted and cut the deals. But they enjoyed a symbiotic relationship

more like brothers than partners. "We could go into a room and negotiate a transaction and half of what went on was never said between us—it was just understood," Zell says. "We always came up with the same value for a property."

The key to their success was taking intelligent risks. The potential rewards had to outweigh the risks, but the opportunities were boundless in the go-go 1970s. Real estate was, in Zell's words, an "inefficient market." Lurie and Zell knew they could do it better. "They trusted one another implicitly," says Ann Lurie. "Bob was never one to go into something with preconceived notions, and he and Sam had that ability to come up with totally different solutions to problems."

They relied on instincts, not market research. "You couldn't replicate the kind of deal-making they did," Ann Lurie says. And the division of labor was well-defined by both their interests and their personalities. "Bob was the guy who minded the store and I was the rainmaker," says Zell. "I traveled all the time. He traveled rarely. I did all the public speaking. He did none. But in decisions, everything was unanimous. If we had ever had to take a vote, it would have been over."

Their bond in business didn't overlap into their personal lives. While Zell enjoyed an around-the-clock schedule, Lurie rarely missed sitting down with his young family for dinner. There were no backyard barbecues on Sunday afternoons together for the Zells and Luries. But even when they were on the other side of the world from each other, the partners always finished their day on the telephone together. "In business, the two of us basically viewed ourselves as one," Zell says.

'We Need to Diversify'

The unquestioned bond led Zell to follow Lurie into ventures Zell himself would never contemplate. "One day in 1981, Lurie comes into my office and says we need to have lunch," Zell recalls. "He tells me, 'I think we need to diversify. Diversify? We had all these different businesses going.'" What Lurie wanted to do was invest with a friend, Jerry Reinsdorf, in buying the Chicago White Sox. Later, he and Zell backed Reinsdorf in buying the Chicago Bulls. "I had zero interest in baseball or basketball," Zell says. "But Bob wanted to do it, so it became part of our family."

Outside the office, Lurie and Zell went their own way. Supremely casual in dress and manner, Lurie loved the outdoors, loved to tinker in his basement workshop. Zell, in his own words, wanted nothing to do with manual labor. "It's against my religion," he jokes. Lurie wouldn't make the smallest purchase in a store without comparing prices and attributes of competing products. Zell? "If I liked it, I bought it." Zell toured Europe and Asia with pals on motorcycles. Lurie preferred packing up his family in a motor home and driving across America.

Their relationship may have been unconventional, but Zell and Lurie thrived on setting their own rules. "Neither one of us ever had a real job, so therefore we never learned what we weren't supposed to do," Zell says. They lived by the credo of "knowing the numbers" in a deal, and pursuing ventures only where the true risk was less than the conventional assessment. "Bob and Sam didn't see boundaries the way other people might," Ann Lurie says. If the price of a deal exceeded their financial model,

Continued on page 4

all of the necessary information into the computer accurately. That information is critical."

Perez made a set of drawings to represent the different levels of the tower. "The specifications for the roof are critical," he says. "It can't leak. The design for the roof is there, but the design alone doesn't guarantee that the roof is going to work. We have to have accurate drawings with accurate specifications to make sure everything works."

Working closely with the project architect, Ross Serbay, it took Perez al-

most five months to complete the computer drawings in the summer of 1994. "Having Ross as a supervisor was a great learning experience for me," Perez says. "He has a lot of experience in the field and really knows how to put buildings together."

Another set of drawings was done by hand—Perez says they are "a work of art in themselves"—by another U-M Architecture graduate at H and B, Dan Sonntag. "Those drawings show how to put the building together," Perez said.

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Donn Perez in the offices of Hobbs and Black architectural firm.

Photo by Bob Kaimbach

Partners continued

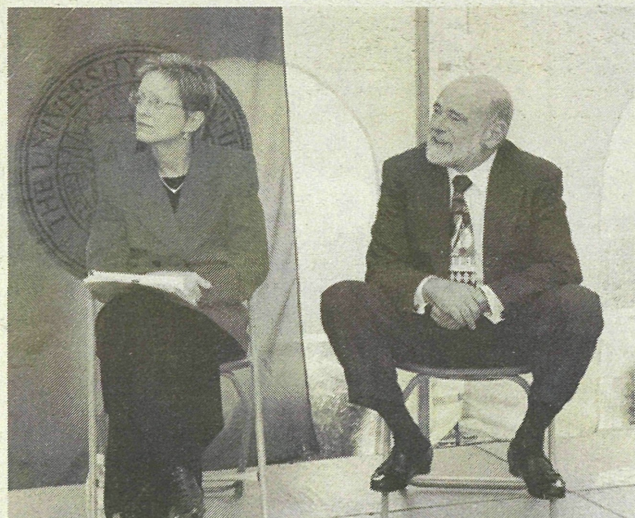
they would walk away, as Zell did last year when he abandoned a full-court press to acquire Rockefeller Center in New York.

The partners relished seeking out new challenges and conquering them. But the painful reality of Bob Lurie's cancer made all the successes and wealth seem hollow accomplishments. The love and respect they shared was the true measure of their lives. After his diagnosis, Lurie told his wife, "This is going to be harder on you than me. This is going to be harder on Sam than it is to me." The loquacious Zell can hardly put into words his feelings for his partner. "He's irreplaceable," Zell says. "Over the last six years, there were many times that I wished I could talk to him. I'd want to show him what we have done. I have a responsibility to Bob to keep going."

Zell has forged on, with the support of Ann Lurie. "When Bob died, Sam and I inherited each other," she says. "We've developed a wonderful, mutually supportive relationship." She works hard to share the immense wealth built by Zell and Bob Lurie with a variety of charitable causes. "Sam continues to try to build the empire, and I try to give it away," she says with a laugh. "It's a wonderful position."

That last phone call of the night between Sam Zell and Bob Lurie was important to the two of them. It wasn't just business. They believed in each other, needed each other, and succeeded because of each other. The bond is still there today. "Every night, Sam still calls," says Ann Lurie. "His relationship with Bob was like a brother. And he feels responsible for his brother's family." And when Zell marches on to the next deal, whether it's in Russia, China or wherever, he thinks of Bob Lurie. "I know Bob would be proud," he says. "We did it together." **MT**

Bill Vlasic of Birmingham, Michigan, is a correspondent for Business Week.



Ann Lurie and Sam Zell at the dedication of the Robert H. Lurie Engineering Center.

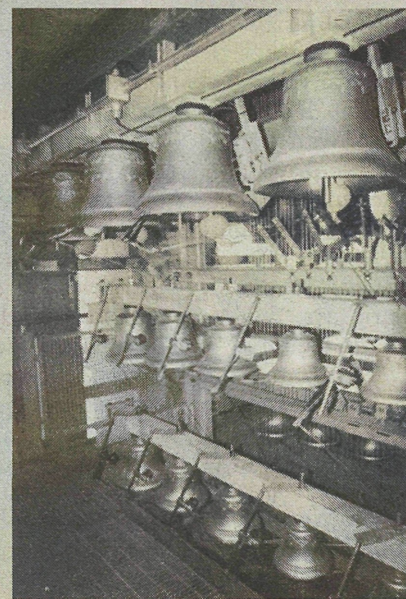
Photo by Peter Yates

Towering Achievements continued

Perez was part of a team that included architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and carillon groups. In addition to completing the drawings Perez also worked on documenting the construction process of the Bell Tower. "I believe that one of the most important training opportunities for an architectural student is to take the time to visit construction sites and really see how buildings are put together," he says.

The project's structural engineer, Robert M. Darvas, U-M professor emeritus of architecture, "made all of the structural calculations and figured out all of the structural requirements for the Tower," Perez says.

Among the tasks handled by Darvas Associates were to figure out how much concrete was needed, to determine the load and weight forces of bricks and other connective materials, and to devise how to attach the cavity-wall construction. This last job involved connecting a brick outer layer to the concrete in-



Half of the new carillons 60 bells are computerized so they can be played from the nearby Media Union.

Photo by Per Kjeldsen

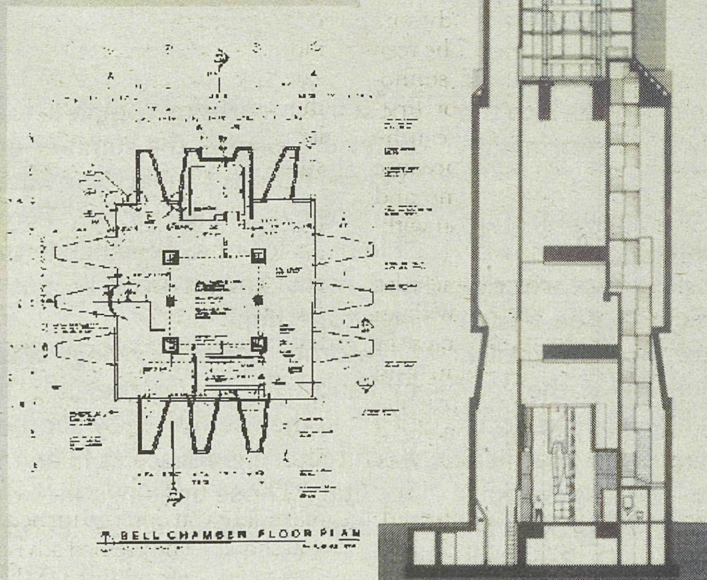
ner layer across an insulating and drainage space in between. The bricks are anchored to the wall in sections with a metal-into-foam locking device.

Hobbs and Black also made another Moore-Andersson design a reality—the Robert H. Lurie Engineering Center. The \$17 million structure rivals the Rackham Building and the Law Quad as the most beautiful edifices on campus. Funds for the two new Lurie buildings came from a gift to the U-M from the Ann and Robert Lurie Family Foundation in memory of Robert H. Lurie.

Perez said it is likely to be a long time before he gets a chance to be a team leader for a project like Lurie Tower. "There ought to be a special barber shop for architects," he suggested, "one that would put gray into their hair, because most architects rarely get plum jobs until they've reach later middle age."

MT

Perez made computerized drawings of each level of the Lurie Tower.



'Ardent advocates of the liberal arts'

By Eva Rosenn

Academic Advisors

The LS&A Academic Advising Center in 1255 Angell Hall is a welcoming place. It is brightly lit, with a spacious reception area serving as the hub for a number of individual advising offices. The office is very busy—for this is a place where much of the business of forging a liberal arts education is accomplished—without being frantic.

The Center's staff of 29 professional and faculty academic advisors serves over 14,900 LS&A undergraduates through individual appointments, the Internet and the telephone. A recent reorganization into subunits—First-Year Advising, Upper-level Advising and Senior Services—is intended to improve services to students.

"I am here simply to respond to whatever students come in with," said academic advisor Tom Collier, who is also a lecturer who teaches very popular courses on military history. Collier, who has been an LS&A academic advisor since 1981, observes that students "have all kinds of different questions, depending on the stages that the students are in. First-year students just want to know, 'What courses should I take next term?' Then the question a little later becomes, 'What do I want to specialize in? What are the possibilities for specializing?' Then a little later it becomes things like double concentrations, study abroad or switching to another college or school of this university or even to another institution. And then finally it's, 'What do I have to do to graduate?'"

The advisors' job is to suggest answers, lead students to provide their own answers or steer them somewhere else where they can get the right answers, Collier said. Although he is one of only five of the 29 academic advisors now teaching at U-M, all have college teaching experience. Collier considers them "the most ardent advocates of liberal arts on campus."

In addition to working in the Center, some advisors maintain regular office hours in residence halls. "The residence hall population is largely freshmen and sophomores," said Virginia Reese, associate director for first-year advising. "The nature of the conversations can be quite different" in the residence halls, she says, because students are less intimidated on their home ground and also more likely to come in with a pressing question without waiting for an official appointment.

Part of the effort to improve academic advising includes giving first-year students the opportunity to meet with an academic advisor three times during orientation. First-year student Jacqui Minns of West Bloomfield, Michigan, said that although she hasn't seen her advisor since orientation, she has kept in contact with him through e-mail. "If I did have a problem, I would not be hesitant to see my advisor," she added.

David Valazzi of Mahwah, New Jersey, confessed, "I unfortunately didn't use an advisor as much as I should have in my freshman year and now have come

to regret it. But now, as a junior, I keep in touch with my advisor through e-mail quite often."

The Internet has been a tremendous boon to the LS&A advising system. Advisors can quickly relay information to groups of advisees or communicate with individual advisees. Students can read the messages and respond at their convenience. Moreover, e-mail allows students to ask questions that are important to them but do not warrant a 30-minute appointment, and to ask those questions right while they are thinking about them.

The Center also has an e-mail address for students who may not have a specific advisor, or for students studying abroad. It also maintains a Web site at <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/saa/> where students can access current information regarding the Center, the academic calendar, degree requirements, course descriptions, available classes and special academic opportunities such as study abroad and scholarships.

Of course, e-mail contact does not replace individual appointments. Assistant Dean for Student Academic Affairs Esrold Nurse observed that the Internet is not "a substitute for the individual contact that I think you want to have with students, because on the Web the advisor can't ask the next question, while in an individual meeting, you can say, 'O.K., we can deal with this, but why are you doing it?' That can lead to another solution that we can't get at on the Web."

Many students enter LS&A with a particular goal in mind, whether it is to get into medical school or simply to graduate with a good job. The challenge for advisors is to convince students (and their parents) that they are also in LS&A to explore—to explore the liberal arts, the possibilities offered by the University, and themselves.

Nichole Argyres graduated from LS&A last year with honors in English language and literature. As an undergraduate, she often consulted her premed advisor, Penelope Morris, who now works for the Medical School. "She was wonderful," raved Argyres. "Part of her job was to make sure you don't go to med school just because you think you should. The premed advisor helps students identify subjects to fall back on that you like, enjoy and are good at."

After graduation, Argyres joined the Center as an advisor. She said that she felt freer in college when she no longer had to identify herself under a single label like "premed."

"Although parents are concerned about jobs," she added, "a liberal arts education is not about a job, but about [acquiring] marketable skills."

In Morris's view, "A very important element in advising is to help students learn to value their education in and of itself, to value personal growth and the development of their abilities to read, research, write and think more deeply. Sometimes it's a struggle to convince people of that, especially parents."

When students question whether they wish to continue



Senior Joyce Ellen Heyman thanks her academic advisor, Tom Collier, for writing a recommendation that helped her get into the Teach for America program.

Photo by Bob Kaimbach

pursuing a goal in a highly competitive field, an advisor should not say, "These are the parameters and it doesn't look as if you're going to make it," Morris said. "Besides, I've seen many who didn't meet pre-med requirements in college come back, satisfy them and become physicians. The main thing is to help them discover for themselves what they want to do."

Psychology major Joyce Ellen Heyman '97 of Highland Park, Illinois, said that she and advisor Tom Collier "often discussed both the philosophy and the application of the liberal arts education. I wouldn't attribute my successes here to academic advising, but perhaps my peace of mind."

MT

Eva Rosenn is a freelance writer who lives in Ann Arbor.

U-M retains outside firm to probe basketball allegations

President Lee C. Bollinger announced in March that the University would retain an outside investigatory firm to look into recent anonymous allegations of impropriety in its men's basketball program. The firm, Bond, Schoeneck & King, LLP, is based in Kansas City, Missouri, and specializes in NCAA compliance.

The firm was retained in the wake of an announcement by the U-M Athletic Department earlier in March that a "series of corrective steps" would be taken as a result of the University's own investigation into the basketball program.

According to Athletic Director M. Joseph Roberson and Percy Bates, faculty athletic representative, the University inquiry was undertaken at the request of the National Collegiate Athletic Association after allegations about the program were brought to the attention of the NCAA by anonymous sources. Those allegations stemmed from a 1996 automobile accident involving members of the team.

The inquiry found that the U-M committed two minor violations of NCAA policy and narrowly averted two major violations. The report was submitted to the NCAA March 4.

The investigation focused on the activities of a single individual and his involvement with several members of the basketball team. The anonymously identified individual and players were not named in the U-M report or by official U-M media in respect for the parties' right to privacy. The individual was described as a "long-time friend" of the family of one player. The University determined that the individual had made inappropriate offers of extra benefits and assistance to several student-athletes and members of their families.

According to the report, the efforts, thwarted by basketball coach Steve Fisher as soon as they came to his attention, included attempts to buy airplane tickets for family members and secure rental housing for the students. One secondary violation involved the presence of the individual at a home recruiting visit to a prospective student-athlete by Fisher. The other involved the individual providing a birthday cake to an enrolled student-athlete.

"While we are pleased that our system was able to prevent major violations from occurring, we are disappointed that internal discipline and reporting

procedures did not result in these activities coming to our attention earlier," Roberson said.

"We want it to be very clear that we in no way condone the behavior of this individual in relation to our basketball program and our student athletes," Roberson and Bates said in their letter. Following the release of the University's report, Ann Arbor and Detroit newspapers published several anonymous allegations that the individual cited in the report had supplied cash and other benefits to U-M players. Allegations also were reported about a party at a Detroit hotel that U-M basketball players had attended with a recruit during the evening prior to the automobile accident on Feb. 17, 1996.

University officials said that they would investigate all allegations and urged anonymous sources to step forward and cooperate with U-M in the inquiries.

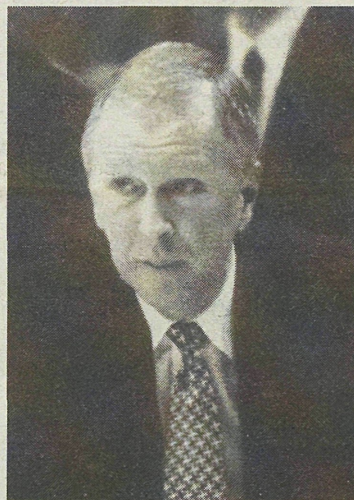
"I am convinced the U-M Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has made a good-faith effort to do a thorough investigation," Bollinger said in announcing the decision to retain an outside investigator. "However, in the wake of new, anonymous allegations which have appeared in recent media reports, we believe that the investigation must be reopened. We feel that an outside team of professionals is in a better position than the University to look into these matters. No stone should be left unturned.

"It is important for the future of Michigan intercollegiate athletics

that we get to the bottom of these allegations. This goes beyond the department; it reflects on the entire University."

The men's basketball team, motivated by its failure to win a slot in the NCAA tourney, won the 32-team National Invitation Tournament in New York City's Madison Square Garden on March 27. Pacing the 82-73 victory over Florida State was sophomore Robert (Tractor) Traylor of Detroit, who scored 26 points, seized 13 rebounds and won the historic tourney's most valuable player award.

Also playing before a national television audience on the same evening was the men's hockey team, the defending national champions. The icemen, however, dropped a tough semifinal contest in Milwaukee to Boston University by the score of 3 to 2. Senoir Brendan Morrison of British Columbia, Canada, won the 1997 Hobey Baker Award as the nation's top college hockey player. He was the first U-M player to win the award. More than 2,000 Wolverine fans attended the ceremony in Milwaukee.



Fisher

Corrective actions announced

The University is initiating a series of corrective actions as a result of the inquiry into NCAA policy violations by the men's basketball team.

They include:

- "Totally disassociating" the individual from the athletic program.

- Counseling the coaching staff on what constitutes an "appropriate reporting process."

- Providing further training of the coaching staff on NCAA rules and regulations, "with particular emphasis on who qualifies as a representative of the University's athletic program and methods of early identification of individuals who may be potential peddlers of influence."

- Declaring one student ineligible due to the home visit. (The University requested and received permission from the NCAA to reinstate the student's eligibility.)

- Reducing by two the number of official recruiting visits to campus during the 1997-8 recruiting season.

- Reducing the number of permissible off-campus contacts from three to two for one year.

"These corrective actions," Roberson and Bates said, "represent the beginning stages of ongoing education and monitoring in our athletic program, which can only result in making us better in the future than we are today."

Lloyd Hall scholars like having teachers living just down the corridor

Learning Around the Clock

By Anita Chik

The learning process here is continuous," Rob Adwere-Boamah said as he wrote comments on student papers he was grading in Alice Lloyd's television lounge. Adwere-Boamah, a doctoral student in sociology, is a resident fellow in the Lloyd Hall Scholars Program (LHSP), the U-M's oldest living-learning community of undergraduate scholars.

Founded in 1962 as the Pilot Program, LHSP has 256 students enrolled this year. The students occupy all of the fifth and sixth and half of the fourth floors of Alice Lloyd Hall and take several classes together in the hall. The resident fellows serve not only as teachers in the Program, but also as advisors, friends and coordinators of social activities like trips, seminars and recreation.

The teachers in the Program are available to students for many hours outside class time. "Students can ask me questions when I am walking through the hallway, eating in the cafeteria or studying in my room," Adwere-Boamah noted. He calls the

Program "immersion in a small, supportive learning environment" in which he and other teachers can see how students use the knowledge they gain in classrooms in their extracurricular lives.

LHSP Director William Ingram said that the Program acts like a "self-contained but not sealed off" community that prepares students to cope with large classes and the overwhelmingly busy college life. "Students in the Program receive a lot of social and academic support to help their transition from high school to college," he added.

A big change this year, Ingram said, was to make writing a particular strength of the program and to concentrate on the first-year curriculum. "In the past, our emphasis was on fascinating seminars," he said, "but today's students want to get their distribution requirements out of the way. They want calculus, chemistry and foreign languages—the bread-and-butter courses. So that's what we're focusing on, and we're integrating those courses with our writing program."

LHSP continues to offer specialty courses, however, including one-credit mini courses on themes such as race, presidential elections, Shakespeare's works and even the cultural roots of rock and roll. Some of the classes examine specific topics like "Identity Development and Sense-Making in Higher Education" and "The 1996 Fall Elections" that are rarely found in the general undergraduate curriculum.

Ingram thinks the strong bond among students and teachers in the Program is of special interest to foreign students and those from small towns. Students come from many countries, including Hong Kong, Singapore, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Indonesia and the United Arab



Director Bill Ingram (center) has lunch with Lloyd Scholars Sachiko Kurokawa '00 of Mishawaka, Indiana (on his left); Woo Jung Lee '00 of Rockville, Maryland (standing); and three graduate students who teach in the program, Eryc Mosher (in hat), Hannah Reeves and Rob Adwere-Boamah.

Photo by Bob Kaimbach

Emirates. The remaining students are from states ranging from Michigan, New York and California to Tennessee, Louisiana and North Dakota.

Another resident fellow, Hannah Reeves, a doctoral candidate in education, said the Program's intimate educational environment gives her deeper insight into the academic needs of students than she would get in a conventional classroom. "I get the opportunity to know the family, peer problems or other daily pressures that may have hindered students' studies," she said.

"It's a 24-hour, seven-day job," Reeves continued. "If I just taught and did not live here, I'd be like any other teacher. You don't have a life outside the dorm here, but the Program builds its own social network."

First-year student Jason Morris from Lithonia, Georgia, said the living-learning environment has helped him learn the significance of living and working with people as a community. "The Program made it easier for me to find people that I could hang out and study with," he said. "That makes this big campus a lot smaller than it really is."

Senior communications major Anita Chik of Alameda, California, is a 1996-97 News and Information Service student intern.

National Science Foundation cites U-M undergrad programs

The University received one of 10 Recognition Awards for the Integration of Research and Education (RAIRE) from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award, which is in recognition of the University's commitment to integrating research and undergraduate education, is for \$500,000 over three years.

"I am pleased that the National Science Foundation has identified Michigan as one of a handful of exemplary research universities, each recognized not only for general excellence in science and engineering education but also for noteworthy achievements unique to the institution," said U-M President Lee C. Bollinger.

Michigan's RAIRE award, which is especially for Michigan's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and the Women in Science and Engineering-Residential Program (WISE-RP), recognizes the University for fostering student diversity in undergraduate science and engineering education

by engaging students in research experiences and learning communities.

"The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and WISE-RP," said Homer A. Neal, U-M vice president for research and former interim president, "have accomplished two goals that are critical to the University's mission: increasing diversity among students in the sciences and engineering—a goal expressed in the Michigan Mandate and the Michigan Agenda for Women—and the goal of engaging undergraduate students in the U-M research community. The result has been not only enhanced retention rates among students at risk but also the creation of research opportunities that are of tremendous benefit to all capable students."

UROP is the largest undergraduate research program at Michigan. It was launched by the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) in 1989 with 14 minority student and faculty research partnerships and is now up to 750 students and 450 faculty.

More than 2,500 students have participated in the program since its inception. Although UROP now includes first- and second-year students of all backgrounds, it maintains an emphasis on minorities (40 percent) and women in science (25 percent). The LSA program involves faculty and students from across the University.

UROP received the TIAA-CREF Hesburgh Certificate of Excellence for undergraduate education in 1996 and also is cited as a model program by the US Department of Education in its publication *Lessons Learned*.

The Women in Science and Engineering-Residential Program focuses on retaining women in the sciences and engineering by creating a supportive academic environment outside the classroom. WISE-RP houses first- and second-year women students with similar academic interests on a floor in Couzens Residence Hall.

The RAIRE award, which will be administered by Neal's office, will allow UROP and WISE-RP to expand undergraduate research opportunities at U-M and develop descriptive materials that can be used by other colleges and universities to develop their own undergraduate research programs.

More information is available on the NSF Home Page at <http://www.nsf.gov/>

CHARLES BAXTER FINDS THE FICTIVE SOIL
OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION
AS RICH AS HIS IMAGINATION

A SON OF THE MIDDLE BORDER

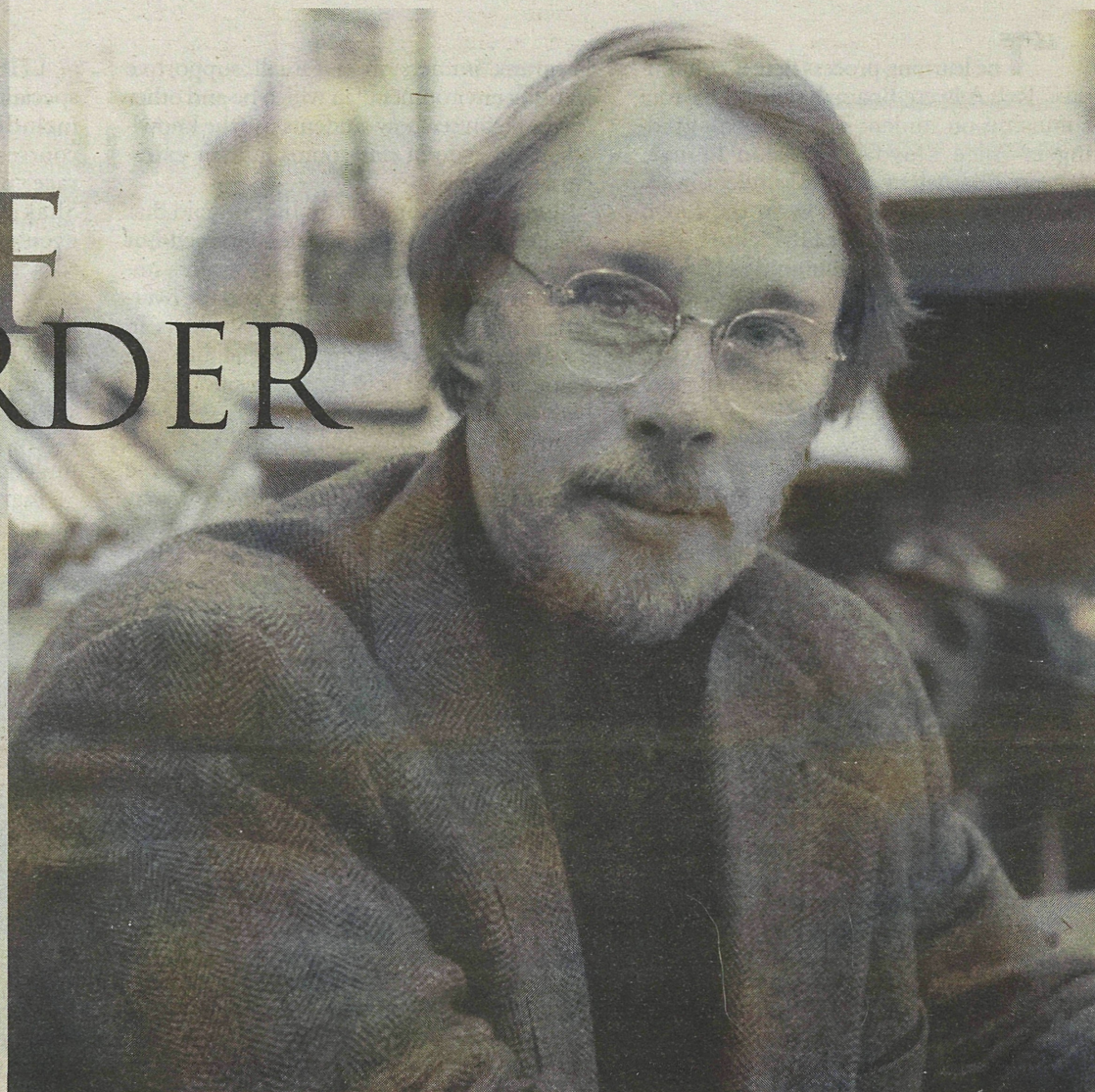


Photo by Robin Vincent

When you first meet Charles Baxter you are struck by his quiet but secure presence, his slow and thoughtful answers to questions and his youthful, outdoorsman's appearance.

His office at the University of Michigan, where he heads the Master of Fine Arts Program in Writing, is neat and spare, his desk immaculate. On the surface all seems simple and ordinary, much like the Middle Western characters he writes about. But beyond the cover of *Believers*, his latest collection of stories (released in March by Pantheon Books), readers will find themselves, like Baxter's characters, questioning whether modern society, with its ceaseless communication and endless flow of facts and figures, offers any truths at all. Baxter was interviewed by Jane Ratcliffe '85 BFA, an Ann Arbor freelance writer and novelist.

Michigan Today: A line from your title story, "Believers"—where the narrator has just described his father's shifting emotions as clouds passing over a field and says, "I was the child in that field, over which the clouds passed"—made me wonder if it referred to your life.

Charles Baxter: One of my early readers marked that line and said, "I think you should take this out." "Self-pity" was the marginal comment. But I thought it really was not self-pity. The guy is trying to explain who he is and who he was. And that was the image I wanted. And I thought: No, this line is going to stay in. I like this line.

MT: Was the father, Franz Pielke, based on your father? It seemed to me that that story might have been painful to write.

CB: The father's character is all made up. My father died

when I was a year-and-a-half old; I have no memory of him. It's all an imaginary construct of what I imagined my father might have been like or what I imagined that person's father might have been like. I often imagine characters into existence I would like to have known. I think something was long dormant in me—wanting to have a father. And having, in some sense, a father who never spoke to me. It wasn't painful until the very end, and that caught me by surprise. I was doing fine until I got to the scene between the narrator and his father at the end in the retirement home. That just tore me up.

MT: Were you raised by your mother alone?

CB: My mother and my step-father. My mother married again when I was three years old. Father Pielke is not like my step-father. My step-father was an attorney in Minneapolis. And there are elements of his life in [the character] Burton Jordan, an American who goes to Germany in

1938. Jordan is not based on him, but I took a little bit of this and a little bit of that from my step-father's life. Actually, I worried that he might read the book and be hurt by it, but he's now too old. He can't read anymore, and it's not clearly derived from him.

MT: Are you hesitant to draw characters from real life and therefore censor yourself somewhat?

CB: I do. I try not to write about people whom I know. On this occasion, I thought about holding the manuscript from publication so that no one would be offended. Then I thought that I couldn't withhold this story forever, and besides I don't think he would mind. I dedicated the entire book to him.

MT: Spiritual, magical, religious themes occur in subtle ways throughout your work, especially in this collection. Do you have particular spiritual or religious beliefs?

CB: Not very many, but some. I think of it more as a subject that at this point in our history, this time in our cultural life, is important for stories. And the reason I think so is that when you consider the way stories often work, there's usually a moment when a character is compelled to believe something. Many people out there are making their way in the world by telling other people things that aren't true. And so I started to think that belief was really one of those matters that made a majority of stories work as stories. And I thought: I can start this at the bottom with characters who are either liars or truth-tellers and make it a serious matter in the opening story, "Kiss Away," with a young woman who gets involved with a guy who may or may not be abusive. He hasn't been abusive to her, but somebody has told her that he has been at one time. Whom does she believe? Finally she believes the guy's dog.

MT: I love the word "shelter" and noticed that it often appeared in your writing—you even have a story by that name—and that the men are turning to the women for shelter.

CB: Oh yes, no doubt of that. At the end of the story "Shelter," the main character turns to his wife and, instead of saying, "Let's make love," says, "Shelter me." I think that a kind of male pride creates, not a myth, exactly, but a kind of a story of who men are in relation to women. They must be the ones who make the first move, who are aggressive. We all know these myths. Because that mode is so predominant, I'm interested in the other side of it, which is that physically and otherwise women provide for men as much of the physical shelter and the psychic shelter as men do for women. It is complementary. It doesn't go just one way. It's not as though men build the houses in which women live. It goes the other way, too. I like the sense that arises when men recognize that.

MT: Do you write with a precise idea in mind, say about how gender roles have switched, or do you just instinctively get it on paper, then go back and say, oh, so this is what I was writing about-gender roles?

CB: It's more like that—I discover what I'm doing as I do it. It's a mix. With "Believers" I had the idea that I was going to take some Americans from the late 1930s, send them to Germany—because there were still Americans who were tourists in Germany in '38—and from this I would get some kind of story going about belief, Americans, Nazis, all that. I wrote that story very deliberately. I had to research all of this information about what Germany looked like then, what was going on, what kind of German people were speaking in what part of the country. So I have some idea, some picture in my imagination when I start, but I haven't got the entire structure mapped out. I don't know necessarily where it's going to go. That's the excitement.

MT: Do you find you put more time into the rewriting than the actual first effort?

CB: I spend more time on the rewriting. Different writers will tell you different tales about rewriting. I start work

around eight and quit around noon. I usually don't write when I'm teaching. I write during the summer and the time I have off. But it's hard for me, especially when I've been working on something, and I get all charged up about it, and then the school year starts, and I have to shut the whole thing thing down. I can't do both. I've tried, and I just don't have the energy and I cannot split myself between subjects. I have to invest myself in my work.

MT: It must have been a difficult choice.

CB: But it is a choice, and the University does a wonderful job of supporting me. As things stand I can't support myself quite on my writing. If I could, it would be a different situation. Most writers of literary fiction in this country would have a hard, hard time supporting themselves. If you rented a room in an attic and ate cottage cheese and ketchup, you could probably manage.

MT: Did you have an easy time at first getting published?

CB: No. Nobody does. I have a box full of rejections. Like everybody else I could wallpaper my study with the rejection slips I got. You have to develop a system to get over the feeling of rejection. When I got my first book acceptance, I felt: It's all right. What ever else happens I have this book.

MT: Do you have any aspirations toward Hollywood where there is more money?

CB: I don't write the sort of story that is easily translated to film, although there is going to be a feature film made about one of my earlier stories called "Westland." They are going to start shooting that story in April, much of it around here. It's about a guy who is walking around the zoo and sees a girl there who is pointing a gun at a lion.

MT: Who are writers you admire? Who influenced your writing growing up?

CB: Oh, that is a big, big question. For me the Russians: Chekhov, Tolstoy. But that's true for almost every writer, I think. And because I am a Midwesterner there are Midwestern writers I have always paid a lot of attention to: Sherwood Anderson, Willa Cather, William Maxwell, Evan Connell.

MT: Why are you so drawn to the Midwest?

CB: For two reasons. I grew up in Minnesota. I was educated in Minnesota. I spent most of my life in the general geographical area of the Great Lakes. My first job out of

We had reached that
part of the dinner
when all the guests,
smoothed out with
wine and the meal,
the first and second
helpings, sit back and
speak their minds.
"Hearts," I would
once have said, "sit
back and speak their
hearts." I used to
think that this was
the basis of civiliza-
tion, such conversa-
tions. Late spring,
and the last of the
light flowed through
the west windows
over the radiators,
and over the boards
on the radiators, and
the house plants on
the boards. Lyric
light, after-dinner
light, alcoholic light.
That kind. From
"Reincarnation."

graduate school was at Wayne State University in Detroit. So I've spent almost all of my life here, and I started to think of what it means to live in the Midwest. That's one subject among many others. What kinds of people live here? Well, Elmore Leonard took care of the criminal psychopaths in Detroit. Jim Harrison does another sort of thing. And Janet Kauffman writes about women who are farming near Jackson and other subjects. So what I have left is, for better or worse, a kind of middle-range middle America. When you think of "Middle America," you think of something terrible like *Leave it to Beaver*. So the real challenge is in making these lives interesting again without whooping it up with too much violence or hysteria.

MT: When did your desire to write begin?

CB: I went to one of those lousy high schools in Minnesota. I hated it. I started reading and found books that I loved. I thought—10th or 11th grade—"This is what I want to do."

MT: Chekhov and Tolstoy?

CB: No, trashy books—Davis Grubb. Nobody knows who he is, but I loved his novels. Then I made my way up to better authors, and I still thought, "This is what I want to do." And I never lost that feeling.

MT

Charles Baxter is the author of six books of fiction, including three novels, *First Light*, *A Relative Stranger* and *Shadowplay*; three earlier short story collections, *Harmony of the World*, *Through the Safety Net*, and *A Relative Stranger*; and a volume of poems, *Imaginary Paintings*. A collection of essays, *Burning Down the House*, is due out April 1 from Graywolf Press.

By Jeff Mortimer

This June, a month before his 81st birthday, George Mendenhall is scheduled to travel to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean for the 20th time. At least, he thinks it's the 20th. The professor emeritus of ancient and Biblical studies, one of the world's leading authorities on the Near East in the pre-Christian era, has made the trek so many times in the last 40 years that he's lost count.

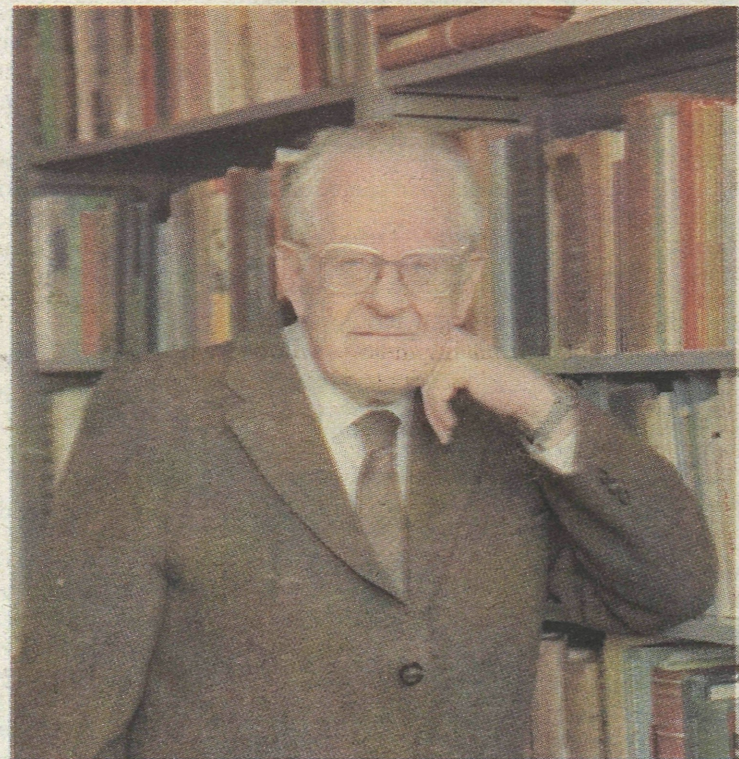
And what he believes he's learned from the evidence he's literally unearthed has upset some religious, ideological and scholarly world views that are as zealously defended as those that were dislodged by Copernicus or Einstein.

"I'm as heretical as you can get," he chuckles in his grandfatherly way. Literal adherents to certain Jewish, Christian and Islamic versions of history are upset, he says, by some conclusions he's drawn from his research, including the following:

- "Abraham spoke an early dialect of Arabic, not Hebrew" and "Jews did not emerge as an ethnic group that adopted common religious beliefs" but as a religious community of diverse peoples—Semitic, Indo-European and Hurrian—who became united through their conception of a single deity, or monotheism. "The Shibboleth incident proves that they didn't even speak the same dialect of West Semitic," he says, alluding to *Judges 12: 4-6*, in which one tribal army determines which captive enemies to slay by asking them to pronounce "Shib-bo-leth" ("a torrent of water" is one of its translations). The 42,000 who said "Sib-bo-leth" were slain "at the passages of Jordan."

- "Conservative Christians have accused me of attacking the inerrancy of the Bible when I say things like Joshua did not conquer Palestine. The cities in that area remained polytheist till the time of David."

- "Arabic could not be a gift of the prophet Muhammad, as many Islamic clerics claim,



George Mendenhall taught at U-M from 1951 until his retirement in 1986.

Photo by Bob Kalmbach

since its origins are in the early Bronze Age," 3,000 years before Muhammad.

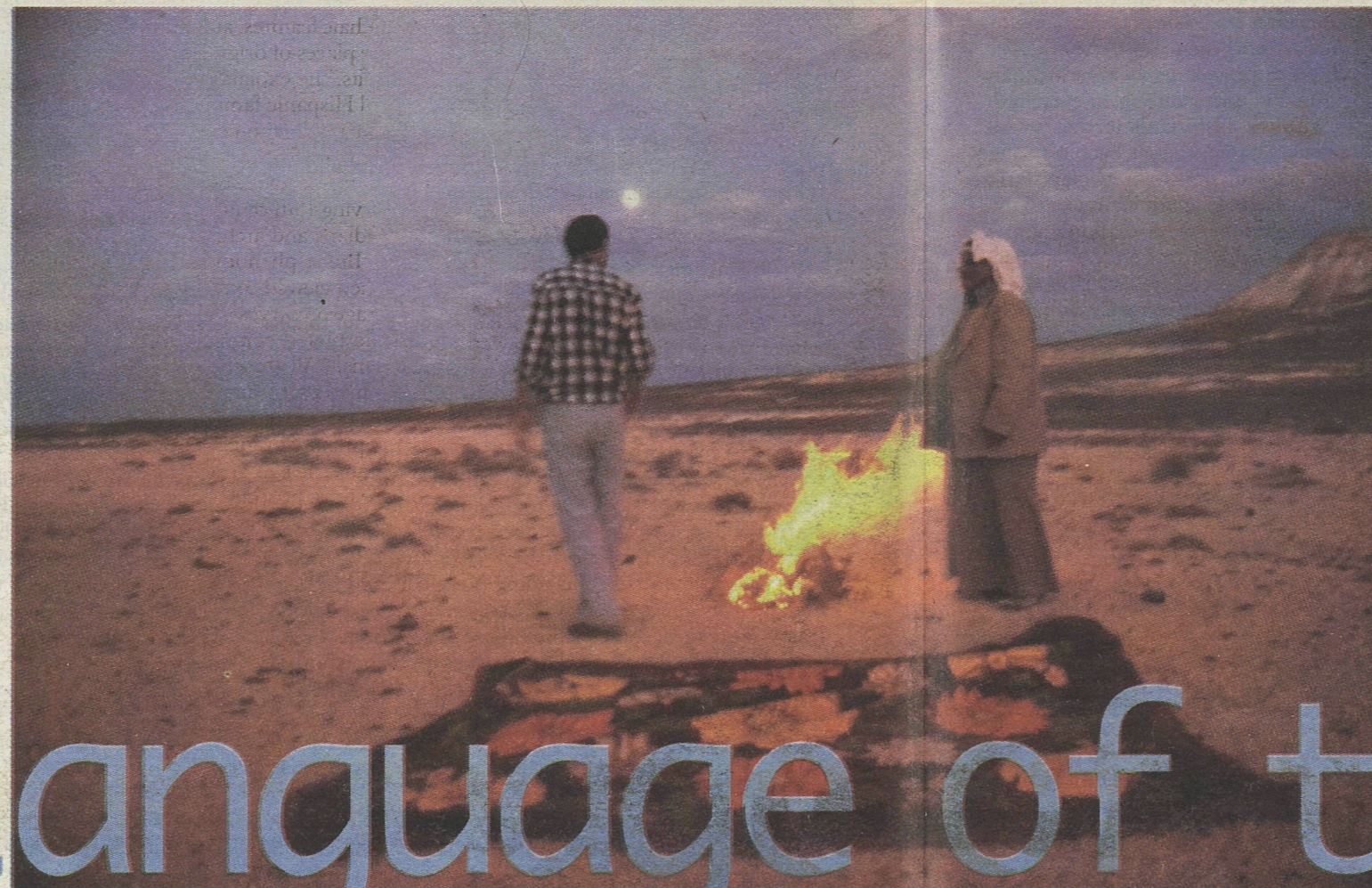
- What we now call Arab society did not arise among disparate tribes in the Arabian Desert around 1200 BC, but was carried there on a tide of migration from the fertile crescent region of northern Syria in the wake of massive social chaos.

- Biblical accounts notwithstanding, the Hebrew "conquest" of Palestine was achieved by religious conversion rather than military force, though they did have to fight to ward off foreign imperialists who wanted to be in control.

"Ever since the 19th century, scholars have believed that various Semitic languages came out of the Arabian Desert with successive waves of migration, that different tribes brought different languages, then settled in various parts of the fertile crescent," says Mendenhall. "What the evidence we have now points to is that exactly the opposite took place."

"That is," he continues, "the Semitic languages originated in the fertile crescent and, about the time of Moses, a group of tribes moved into the desert, taking their languages with them, and that's what became Arabic. Hebrew was the language that didn't move into the desert, basically a dialect that resulted from what linguists call 'creolization' or blending. The Indo-Europeans and the Hurrians couldn't pronounce the consonants of the Semitic languages, so they were simply dropped and the language itself, except in the desert areas, was simplified, be-

'I'm as heretical as you can get,' says George Mendenhall, who has unearthed upsetting evidence from the biblical era.



Photos by George Mendenhall

At right: Members of the research team start a fire to prepare tea after spending the night on carpets spread on the desert floor. The spot, Umm Rajum, is probably the site of an ancient caravan stop along the route traveled by incense traders between Amman and Damascus.

coming the language of the man in the street."

The "evidence we have now" largely results from the labors of Mendenhall and his colleagues. In the last 10 years, they have discovered, mostly in Jordan, a third of the 20,000 ancient inscriptions extant. The significance of the inscriptions lies not so much in their content ("Mostly just doodles," Mendenhall says) as in their form: the languages in which they are written, the writing systems they use and, especially, the personal names scratched on rocks.

Mendenhall was born in Iowa in 1916. He was an ordained Lutheran minister before switching to archaeology after cracking Japanese codes for the Navy in World War II. Since 1987, he has spent part of each year at the Institute of Archaeology of Jordan's Yarmouk University directing graduate students' MA theses, many of which have set forth similarities in the structure and vocabulary of about a dozen ancient languages of the region. A 1993 thesis, he says, "proved that about 34 percent of the personal names originated in northeast Syria—the homeland of the Amorites. 'Abram' is an Amorite name. The name 'Moses' is Egyptian, and his Midianite father-in-law had three different Pre-Islamic Arabic names in various sources, with 'Jethro' being the most familiar to us."

"Societies in remote areas preserve very



archaic features, and the further you get from the places of origin, the more ancient are the traits," he explains. "Take, for example, the old Hispanic families of New Mexico. They can read 16th-century texts, whereas the Spaniards of today have to be educated to do it. Or the Germans of Milwaukee preserving 19th-century German. Or French Canadians and archaic French."

But a phenomenon that seems obvious when viewed contemporaneously—that "language preserves social history"—tended to be interpreted completely differently by historians. "All through history, it has been assumed that traits known to be ancient were the origin, rather than the late preservation, of pristine original traits," Mendenhall says. "Sanskrit is a good illustration of that. It's the most pristine form of Indo-European language, so everyone in the 19th century assumed it was the origin of all the languages. It's pretty clear that in what is now Turkey

people had Sanskrit-type personal names during the Bronze Age. So the theory is now that people migrated from Turkey into India, taking an archaic form of their Indo-European language with them."

Words don't randomly travel to remote locations, Mendenhall notes, yet historians tend to doubt linguistic evidence that counters orthodox history. Scholars who dispute his theories, like Earl Axel Knauf and Diana Edelman, "don't pay any attention to it [linguistic evidence] whatsoever," he says. "They think Hebrew remained unchanged for centuries, which is the exact opposite of the truth. The farther back you go, the closer together Hebrew and Arabic are. The older the language in Biblical Hebrew, the higher the percentage of words that have Arabic cognates. By the time of the Persian empire, Aramaic was the lingua franca of the civilized world. Late Hebrew reflects that; it has a much higher percentage of Aramaic cognates and a lower percentage of Arabic."

Thus it is possible to recognize that the story of Abraham in *Genesis 14* "is actually two different stories that have been blended," says. "The first part is late and has fairly good parallels in Babylonian. The second part is very archaic, very old, an indigenous Palestinian story, I think."

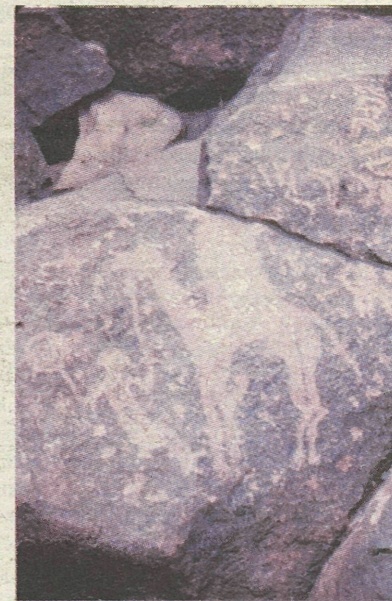
So how did *ned* (pronounced "nayd"), a word for "hill" or "heap" believed to be of Yemeni origin, get into *Exodus 15*? "Probably the Midianites brought it to Yemen, and Moses got it from his in-laws, who were Midianites," says Mendenhall. "In the time of Moses, all the urban population must have been multilingual. The languages of northern Syria and Palestine appear to have been about one-third Semitic, one-third Indo-European, and one-third Hurrian. Eventually, several dynasties included kings from all three groups."

The Late Bronze Age (1500-1200 BC) was, for reasons that are as yet unclear, a time of widespread social breakdown. Most societies were "economically and ethically bankrupt," Mendenhall says. "It sounds contemporary to us: there was a complete lack of respect for authority." Socioeconomic chaos sent groups fleeing from the center of the civilization into the desert. (See "Against Florio," an article about the recovery of the

Continued on page 12

At left: A Safaitic inscription on basalt rock, shot on Infrared Ektachrome film (red depicting grass). Dating from the Roman Empire 100 BC - 100 AD. The writer reports he was tending a herd of animals here and found a rock with his grandfather's name on it, which made him sad, says Mendenhall. He and Fawwaz al-Khraysheh, a scholar from the University of Jordan, are completing the first volume of more than 5,000 new inscriptions dating from 600 BC to 700 AD.

Below: Many of the inscriptions found in an oasis on the route connecting Amman, Jordan, to northern Saudi Arabia bear names similar to those used in the Bronze Age in this locale and in Egypt. The names provide important linguistic clues and evidence to archaeologists, linguists and historians. Some inscriptions in a pre-Islamic Arabic language called Safaitic, show that Bedouins 2,000 years ago followed the custom that still exists of exiling any person who made trouble with his own tribe to the territory of another tribe until he has solved his problem and appeased the complaining member of his own tribe. This form of exile was known as *gls* in Safaitic. The Bedouins today call it *galwah*; speakers of Classical Arabic say *gala*, and the Hebrew word for exile is *gala*.



The Language of the Desert



Sketches by Ethel Mendenhall

Desert

continued

cargo carried on a Bronze Age ship shortly before this collapse of civilization, in *Michigan Today*, March '96.)

"It must have been a horrible time in which to live," says Mendenhall. "The heartland of the Hittite empire was almost completely depopulated. The same seems to be true of northern Syria. Under these circumstances, which were characterized also by epidemic disease, people would flee to unpopulated areas."

These conditions also may be why the religion of the Hebrews was so appealing. Mendenhall cites *Judges 8: 22-3*. When various tribes of Israel ask Gideon to accept traditional hereditary rule over them, Gideon replies, "I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the Lord shall rule over you."

Yahwism emerged as a sort of peasants' revolt, in Mendenhall's view. "It prohibited graven images. But what were they? They were images of pharaohs and gods, and the purpose of the gods was to furnish authority to the kings as the embodiment of the gods." The ancient Israeli treaty, or covenant, made directly between one God and the people who accepted him, meant that the arrangements between God and the people were immune to kingly authority.

"Despite the persistence into our own time of an essentially 19th-century view that Biblical narrative is basically historically accurate and supported by the archaeological evidence," Mendenhall says, "there never was a Hebrew conquest of Palestine. But there was a religious conversion to a monotheistic faith of the existing population."

"Now I think that almost everybody has given up that 19th-

century theory, but they don't have anything really to substitute for it, whereas I think I do," he continues. "That is, that Moses and a small band came out of Egypt with a new mission and a new concept of God and religious community, one bound together by a voluntary covenant rather than a monopoly of force. When political systems and empires were being destroyed all over the Near East, it really offered a very welcome alternative to populations who no longer had a community or whose communities had been destroyed."

So what knit the growing Israelite community together was not so much ethnicity as attitude. Etymology reflects this fact, according to Mendenhall, in the word "Hebrew," which derives from West Semitic *apiru*, "a transgressor." Mendenhall says the term "Hebrew" originated as a pejorative term used by the Israeli tribes' foes. In more recent times, this naming process has resulted in terms like "the Seminoles" ("Runaways" in Creek); the Sioux ("Snakes" in Ojibway); and the Cheyenne ("People of Alien Speech").

"There never was any such thing as a distinctive Jewish population," he says. "The *Apiru* of the late Bronze Age were very much like the militia groups of the United States today—they were people who didn't recognize the existing government. Some of them were very violent. Others were simply withdrawing from society. That's why their enemies called the early Yahwists (followers of Yahweh, the one God) *apiru* or Hebrew."

"It's pretty clear that what we call ancient Israel was a federation of 12 tribes, 12 different groups that didn't even speak the same language. Jews did not become ethnic until about a thousand years later, at the time of Nehemiah, when he

tried to force the Jews to divorce their non-Jewish mates. From that time on, they were regarded as an ethnic group. Someone once observed that Jews worldwide resemble the population with which they live more than they resemble each other. Eastern European Jews didn't even become Jewish until the 8th century AD."

The perception of Judaism's origins as "the unification of a diverse population on the basis of a covenant relationship to a single deity" is unpopular in some quarters. Mendenhall says that a few conservative Christian scholars have "practically foamed at the mouth at the suggestion." Why? "I just don't know," Mendenhall says. "Conservative Christians probably just adhere to the traditional view that the Israelites came out of Egypt, then slaughtered all the nasty Canaanites. They want to follow the Biblical text as much as possible." But linguistic evidence shows that the Canaanites (now more commonly known as the Phoenicians) were non-Jewish Semites whose language was almost identical with Hebrew.

The literalism of certain religious adherents has pitfalls, Mendenhall says: "It's not the infallibility of the Bible that interests them, it's the infallibility of their ideas about it. As my teacher at Johns Hopkins, W.F. Albright, said, if we could produce an absolutely accurate translation of the *Book of Job*, a third of it would have to be blank because we don't really know what it means. Our version largely follows the ancient speculations from Greek translations."

In Mendenhall's view, risking the ire of those who are perhaps more committed to protecting their status than they are to increasing human understanding, or even finding the truth, comes with the historian's territory. "All through the history of scholarship, there's been a strong tendency to denounce as fakes anything that scholars don't understand," he says. "That was true, for example, of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Until recently, we just didn't know enough about the ancient world to make these connections. That's why it's so new and controversial."

Although he is no longer a man of the cloth, Mendenhall says that "trying to reconstruct ancient history is a form of prophecy. You're predicting that future discoveries will prove you right."

And one thing he hopes he's right about is that in a time of wars, extreme imbalance in the possession of wealth, ethnic conflict, moral confusion and deep disagreement on values, human society may avert or recover from disintegration by forging once again a new covenant based on the best principles in the Biblical tradition. **MT**

Jeff Mortimer is an Ann Arbor freelance writer.

ON OUR COVER

Jordanian Petroglyph, a watercolor inspired by ancient inscriptions and drawings on desert rocks, is among many images the artist Ethel Mendenhall has painted while accompanying her husband on research trips. The script in the painting is one she modeled after the writing systems studied by her husband.



One 2,000-year-old text Mendenhall spent 47 years deciphering contains one of the first instances of a written commitment to protect a woman against spousal brutality.

The inscription was a marriage contract apparently drawn up by the Bedouin father of a woman named Habula, a name related to 'Abel' of the Bible. The contract reads in part: 'You [the groom] shall conscientiously clothe her in perpetuity' and in return 'with desirable offspring she shall establish his house.' But then the text adds: 'I will overcome anyone who assaults the young lady.'

LETTERS

This Maize! This Blue!

LIENE KARELS article "Which Maize? Which Blue?" in the Fall '96 issue poses a problem in an area where our company, X-Rite Inc. of Grandville, Michigan, makes its living. I wrote Steve Director a while back about this and he has, I presume, forwarded the correspondence to you. I would be very much obliged if you would put me in contact with Ms. Karels. X-Rite wants to help you with the problem of establishing standards for the official Maize and Blue—and do for you what we are doing for Coca-Cola, Nike, Ford, and any number of other organizations which have an interest in specifying and maintaining a particular color shade for their products or packages.

Do not be surprised if other executives of X-Rite contact you—your problem has generated a lot of excitement at the company. (In case of apprehension, our test is completely nondestructive and poses no threat whatever to the integrity of your reference samples.)

Rufus S. Teesdale '43E
Director, X-Rite, Inc.
Grandville, Michigan

Ed. note: The letter above led to the following communication in mid-January, 1997:

THE UNIVERSITY of Michigan colors are now embodied in permanent form. U-M alum Rufus Teesdale saw the article and offered the services of his company, X-Rite, to help conclude Prof. Warren Lombard's 1912 mission of rendering the school colors in permanent form. He and Bob Santine met with me and Marjorie Barritt at U-M's Bentley Historical Library, where they used their hand-held spectrophotometers (one ignores the surface shine, the other takes it into account) and plotted numbers on an industry-standard scale (the LAB scale). They'll take those numbers back to a variety of their divisions and give us the standards in RGB (red, green, blue for computer screens) and CMYK (cyan, magenta, yellow and black for four-color separation schemes in printing), as well as the plotted colors. These codes can ultimately be turned into permanent color tiles, which would be the icing on the cake.

Liene Karels
U-M Millennium Project
Ann Arbor

IT PLEASED me to read that the University is appreciating the important role of food ["The Food Semester," Fall 1996 issue]. Especially because my first culinary experience took place at Mosher-Jordan. One evening, thanks to the dormitory floor-kitchen, Lillian Rosen, my then roommate—who knew how to cook—and I prepared a dinner ourselves.

Among other extravagances, steak and strawberries were on the menu. Part way through our preparations, Miss Dudley, the dormitory major-domo, came screaming up the stairs.

Angrily she demanded, "What are you girls doing!" What we were doing, was frying onions. Unhappily, the odor had permeated all of Mosher-Jordan—or at least all of Mosher.

Amazingly, this casual venture presaged my subsequent culinary career.

Helen Worth '35
Ivy, Virginia

When the late Pamela Harriman was sworn in as US ambassador to France, the New York Times's Nadine Brozan reported that Harriman had attended the pioneering Helen Worth Cooking School, which was then in New York City but is now in Ivy, Virginia.

Harriman missed a class on "the low-calorie way to make souffles with only egg whites," Worth told Brozan. Worth said she was sending the recipe to Harriman because "it would be dastardly to go to France without it."

Worth, author of the acclaimed Cooking Without Recipes and Hostess Without Help, was sending the information not because she expected Harriman to be "in the embassy kitchen whipping up souffles for the parties," Brozan said, but because Worth firmly believes that "you can't say to a cook, no matter how much you are paying them, that you don't like something. You must be able to say, 'I want it done this way.'"—Ed.

'Whose Web This Is . . .'

I WAS running around the Web and came across the alumni mag for a college in Michigan (I'm sure it's sacrilege not to know which one—I do apologize), but was it yours that featured the story about the student with three degrees who jumped off Hitler's balcony? I loved it! The guy is a true treasure.

Bridget Metzger
Writer,
University Development Office
The University of Texas at Austin

That was, indeed, our Web site with the Fall 1996 cover story on Buck Dawson '43, '48, '54. Others may visit it by going to <http://www.umich.edu/~newsinfo/> and then selecting the Michigan Today button.—Ed.

MY WIFE and I think it is very interesting to come to campus and watch the students fly through this difficult computer age. We love to just watch the kids as they function and get caught up in campus life. Both my wife & myself were not privileged to attend college so when we see our son trying to get through this School of Natural Resources and Environment, we are overwhelmed with it all! That is why just this past weekend we observed the U-M home page for the first time. When we read about the possibility of a newspaper called Michigan Today, we began to think, is there any chance of us getting this through the mail, is there a cost to us parents? We are retired (both) and poring over whatever we can to supply our son.

James VanderPloeg
Wyoming, Michigan

Michigan Today is delighted to put you and any other parents of U-M students on our complimentary mailing list.—Ed.

Frostiana, Continued

I ENJOYED the fact that U of M's new President invoked Frost at the beginning of his work, and especially the coincidence of Frost's great-grandson now serving as a professor at Michigan. One possible connection between the campus and one of Frost's more famous poems is mentioned in Mordecai Marcus's book *The Poems of Robert Frost - An Explication*. The commentary on "Acquainted With the Night" reads: "The poem was probably written in Ann Arbor, Michigan, more of a city setting than a New England town would have been. If Frost did indeed write it in Ann Arbor, that is an additional reason for seeing its 'luminary clock' as a real tower clock rather than as the moon."

The lines referred to (sans punctuation) are at the end of the poem: *And further still at an unearthly height/One luminary clock against the sky/Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right/I have been one acquainted with the night.*

I had quite a laugh thinking that it was perhaps Burton Tower that inspired this image, rather than a New England church steeple's clock, but we mustn't be too certain. A poem published earlier by Frost, "I Will Sing You One-O," powerfully uses the image of a golden tower clock.

Harry Forbes '81 MBA
Wrentham, Massachusetts

We have space to reprint only the first section of the poem Harry Forbes cited, but will print it in its entirety at our Web site.—Ed.

I Will Sing You One-O

*It was long I lay
Awake that night
Wishing the tower
Would name the hour
And tell me whether
To call it day
(Though not yet light)
And give up sleep.
The snow fell deep
With the hiss of spray;
Two winds would meet,
One down one street,
One down another,
And fight in a smother
Of dust and feather.
I could not say,
But feared the cold
Had checked the pace
Of the tower clock
By tying together
Its hands of gold
Before its face. . . .*

Robert Frost
(from "New Hampshire." 1923)

'Whom the Computer Hath Joined . . .'

I WAS going through our mail today and was surprised to find my husband's copy of *Michigan Today* addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Heideman. Although I am referred to as Mrs. Howard Heideman on invitations and other formal types of mail, I am usually called Eileen Levitt Heideman, Michigan State University Class of 1971, a Spartan through and through! My blood runs green, and a little hot when I saw the Mr. and Mrs. on your computerized address. It's not that I don't recognize how wonderful your institution is; I even applied to and was accepted to your university when I graduated high school. It's just that I chose MSU then and still do! I'm also a current employee of Michigan State. So please take my name off your mailing list, before someone I know sees it and wonders why I've made an uncharacteristic switch. One Wolverine in our house is enough!

Eileen Levitt Heideman
East Lansing, Michigan

I WAS delighted to see the letter from M. Susan Montgomery in the Winter 1996 issue. I share her sentiments exactly. Why should my husband's name be included on the mailing label? He has no connection with the University of Michigan. I'm sure no harm was intended. It's just that when you have lived through a time when women didn't have an identity separate from their husbands, you get defensive about even the little things.

Linda Howe '70
San Jose, California

I JUST received *Michigan Today* addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. William J. Roberts." Being not subject to mental blackouts, I'm quite sure that I'm not married. In fact, I never have been married. The Mrs. William J. Roberts of the address does not exist, never has existed and, unfortunately, probably never will exist. I'm sorry to have to inform you of this, because my finding a wife much younger and far more prosperous than I've ever been is the only way I can see that I'd ever be able to send children to Michigan, but putting her name in my address is not likely magically to bring her into existence. Thanks for trying.

William J. Roberts '63 BSE
Clinton Township, Michigan

We hope this note from alumnus Roberts will result in the traditional fairy tale climax of romance and marriage. If it does, he has promised to let Michigan Today cover the wedding. See the article on page 15, which describes our mailing-label snafus.—Ed.

I WANT to thank you for the fine piece by Linda Robinson Walker on Buck Dawson in the Fall issue of *Michigan Today* and the note about the reunion and search for missing yearbooks.

Dawson entertained the crowd at the banquet with interesting reflections about his career and the part the yearbook played in launching it; however, your story captured the experience and spirit of Buck best of all. Congratulations.

David A. Friedo
U-M Student Publications
Ann Arbor

I WAS pleased to receive the latest issue, but the printing was so faint I found it most difficult to read. Please ink your presses! Thanks.

Annette Rich '50
Washington, DC

THANK YOU for sending me the article on artificial bone growth stimulation, which I had requested. Indeed, you not only sent the article, you sent the entire October 1995 back issue. An unexpected—but welcome—surprise! As I thumbed through the rest of that back issue, I got to read all over again another fine article, on Nubia. All this is proof not only that I read and re-read, but also that I enjoy your *Michigan Today* publication. Yours is a niche that the typical rah-rah alumni magazine does not fill—and indeed, does not even try to tackle.

Thomas L. Wooding
Fort Wayne, Indiana

President Bollinger

JUST WANTED to let you know that I thought the interview with President Lee Bollinger was superb. The questions were penetrating and elicited responses that were fascinating. Journalism at its best. I have circulated it to a number of friends.

James C. Westin '66 Law
Kalamazoo, Michigan

IF BOLLINGER "walks the talk," his presidency may go down in the annals of the U. of Michigan as an outstanding one. I was particularly impressed with his evaluation of strategic planning, preferring "real substance with real participation" instead of the pie-in-the-sky abstractions of academia.

I wasn't as impressed by his response to a question about affirmative action. If he means he is eager to make a case for a continuation of that program, I'm deeply disappointed. There is little to be said in its favor. The main beneficiaries are those who wear \$400 tailored suits and keep the pot boiling. Real honest acceptance of all ethnic groups is the goal to be achieved, not another form of discrimination. Regardless of Clinton's efforts to make college the goal of all young people, there are many who should go to other specialized types of training other than university or college. Why not help those secure training and education who show promise and don't have the means irrespective of gender or ethnicity?

Gerard M. Freeman '50 Rackham
Candler, North Carolina

THE WINTER 1996 issue arrived in yesterday's mail and, as I am wont to do, I began to peruse it last night. This time, however, instead of just glancing quickly through it, I found myself reading most of the articles, beginning with that about the University's new President (the first that I knew of Lee Bollinger's appointment—sometimes news does travel slowly to these parts).

Ironically, after finishing the latest issue, I chanced upon the June 1996 issue while going through a pile of accumulated mail (my wife complains that I never throw anything out) and found especially interesting the article by Bara Zetter-Sapir about her search for the artist of a particularly haunting work, as well as the letters section. Keep up the good work.

Marc H. Hoffman '71
Boca Raton, Florida

Driving With Caution

MICHAEL BETZOLD'S article "The University of Automobiles: A Century of Connections" (Winter 1996) points out the growing interdependence between U-M and the auto industry. Betzold's article lauds this synergy and quotes Profs. David Lewis and David Cole to the effect that the University has "maintained its independence" and "retain (ed) its integrity that is crucial to its reputation."

I would have liked the article to be more cautionary. There was one time in the University's history when General Motors, working through a crusading anti-Communist governor, Kim Sigler, and the University regents, killed a promising program run by the U-M Extension Service for auto workers, and had its director fired, this over the objections of U-M President Alexander G. Ruthven and his administrative staff. Anyone interested in the details can find them in

"The Worker's Education Service," pp. 99-113, Summer 1976, *Michigan History* or in my book, *Alexander G. Ruthven of Michigan*, Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977, Chapter 12, pp. 207-217.

Peter E. Van de Water, '70 PhD
Canton, New York

WE APPRECIATED the opportunity to learn more about new President Bollinger, and are stimulated by diverse articles on a variety of information. We have no quarrel with the size, format or type. Keep up the good work. We are brought up short, however, by "The University of Automobiles": It may just be faulty memory, or a technicality. I attended the University first from 1939 to 1943 in the forerunner of the Aerospace Department, the Aeronautical Engineering Department. During those years Prof. Walter Lay taught automotive courses and supervised an automotive laboratory. Was this a part of Mechanical Engineering Department, or was it actually an automotive engineering department? During this wartime experience most of the instructors oversaw related additional tasks bearing directly on the war effort. I believe Professor Lay may have worked with Professor Vincent, who was in Metallurgy.

If the existence of an Automotive Engineering Department at that time has been inadvertently overlooked, Michael Betzold may wish to know. If, indeed, there was no separate department, then you can at least see why I raise the question.

G. Donald Hollinshead '43 BSE, '47
MSE
Springfield, Pennsylvania

The Automotive Engineering Lab was part of Mechanical Engineering. When a new lab was built in 1955, it was named in honor of Walter E. Lay.—Ed.

YOUR WINTER issue ("The University of Automobiles") states that the football coach "during the 1930s and early '40s was Harry Kipke." As a freshman in the fall of 1940 (Harmon's last season), I will bet a bunch that Mr. Crisler was at the controls. Bennie Oosterbaan coached the basketball team and later was Crisler's replacement. I hung around the field house quite a bit that fall, avoiding freshman PT by attempting to throw the javelin for Chet Stackhouse (frosh track coach). Fine man! Anyway, saw the other coaches there from time to time. In spite of an occasional "elderly moment," I will vouch for all of the above.

Allen Mundt '47 BSF
Reno, Nevada

Your memory is worth betting on: Crisler succeeded Kipke in 1938.—Ed.

Prof. Leroy Waterman

THE ENCLOSED clipping from the Winter 1996 issue ("Nazarene Connections") concerning Prof. Leroy Waterman captured my attention and my memory of his wonderful courses in the History of Religion and

the Bible. I took his courses in the summer and fall of 1942, when most men were in the military, where I soon joined them. Waterman's classes were small, with 15 to 20 students, mostly women. He sat on a raised platform behind a little table in one of the Angell Hall classrooms and delivered in a quiet voice some of the most exciting lectures of my college career. I regret the loss of my class notes. All I have left is the memory of that fabulous teacher and a few notes from my diary, like the one below:

3 December, 1942 (Thursday) Ann Arbor:
Professor Waterman said again today that man's primary interest was in reality. His effort to grasp reality is the most important thing in life—his ultimate goal. Does man personalize this reality? Or is the only reality personality? I must ask him.

Professor Waterman was approachable, so after class several students frequently gathered around him to inquire further about the observations and conclusions he made from his studies of the Bible and other religions. I bought one of his books, *The Song of Solomon*, whose poetry he insightfully interpreted as a nationalistic plea.

John A. King
Webberville, Michigan

What Was 'The Dykstra Tragedy'?

MY ATTENTION was attracted to the letter to the editor by David M Valentine '60 BBA, '61 MBA (Winter 1996). He seemingly has an ax to grind when he says he'd love to see the editor have the intestinal fortitude to relate to the tragedy of Gerald O. Dykstra instead of extolling the virtues of two most recent Michigan presidents. I am a "shirt-tale" relation of Gerald's, and I would like to know about his tragedy and am interested in hearing what happened to him. I have Gerald's book *A Belated Rebuttal on Russia* (1928) and am rereading it.

Ileta Nicolai Schutt '24 Ed
Fredericksburg, Texas

Emily Wolcott

I AM writing in regards to the article "Emily Wolcott's Freshman Year" (Fall 1996), with the hope that I may be able to obtain additional records from you. Although not a direct descendant, Emily was a third generation aunt of mine. My first generation aunt and my father's sister, Cora Edith Sasman (1891-1996), also attended U-M, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated in 1925. Cora was born the second of four children to Fred and Ethel Sasman on a farm outside Black Creek, Wisconsin.

After graduation, she worked as a private secretary in Chicago for an investment banker, Mr. Haskel, and later worked for the US Department of Agriculture. During World War II she was "on loan" as secretary to the director of the Transportation Division of the US War Production Board. Upon retirement in 1946, she moved to Madison, Wisconsin. She died one month past her 105th birthday and included the University in her will. Thus, with your ar-



Cora Sasman at 33 and 102.

ticle, I am aware of two relatives who attended the University of Michigan. I am wondering what additional interesting information regarding these two women might be available.

Robert T. Sasman
Wheaton, Illinois

The U-M's Bentley Historical Library was unable to discover more information than that which you supplied. We did find two photographs of Cora Sasman in the Michigianensian, however, one of which is published here. The second part of our article on Wolcott is elsewhere in this issue.—Ed.

I RECEIVED several wonderful phone calls from other '40s alums [in response to her letter in our Winter 1996 issue—Ed.]. We discussed

the time-consuming hike Black students had to make to the "Negro" district of AA to get to their rooms or to get hair-cuts. We remembered sitting in at the fancy restaurants on the quad and how careful we had to be to pair Black with whites but never men with women. We told each other about the terrible letters of "recommendation" we found in our U-M files and the successes we achieved despite these roadblocks. I look forward to reading the responses MT receives.

I am therefore delighted that you printed my letter. After I finally saw it in print, I realized it had two typos that significantly distorted my meaning:

- **end of para 3:** Putting the first note "**Jewish girls may live here*" in italics and

not the second "****Colored girls may live here*" suggests that I consider anti-Semitism more important than racism, which is far from the case.

- **end of para 6:** should read, "My Ministers says we are all brothers." The omission of the *br* suggests that the landlady and her minister are "others." too, for example, Black. This deprives my white Christian landlady of the credit she deserves for renting to a Jewish woman, and suggests that U-M was enlightened enough to approve of a rooming house for white girls that had a "Negro" landlady.

Maxine Spencer '48
Berkeley, California

Labels can be so complex these days

A Rose by many other names ...

By Douglas Moffat
(U-M Office of Development)

In the fall of 19—, Miss Flora N. Rose of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, went off, with a glad heart and the highest hopes, to attend the University of Michigan. In the course of her undergraduate years, while majoring in Botany, Miss Rose came to the conclusion that Ms., not Miss, was more appropriate for her, and she also fell in love with, and married, Mr. Anthony Fauna, who was studying in the College of Engineering. And so Miss Flora N. Rose, or Ms. Flora N. Rose, became Mrs. Anthony Fauna, not to mention Ms. Flora N. Fauna.

The Faunas were a bright couple, like most Michigan students. Exceedingly so! Flo, as she preferred to be called, went on to the Medical School at the University and became, in time, a doctor: Dr. Fauna. Tony, meanwhile, for reasons best known to himself, did graduate work at MSU: another Dr. Fauna!

And as night follows day, the requests for contributions began to arrive at the Fauna household, with a variety of different salutations. The formally correct "Dear Drs. Fauna," which they found funny; "Dear Dr. and Mrs. Fauna" (from MSU), which irritated Dr. Flora N. Fauna; "Dear Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fauna," which irritated both of them, but especially Flora, because Anthony would

rather have been Tony and a doctor, and Flora would rather have been Flo—not Anthony or Tony—and a doctor. And Tony received mailings from the U-M Medical School along with Flo, which irritated him, and Flo received mailings from MSU along with Tony, which irritated her.

Maybe these irritations contributed to their eventual divorce, although probably not. But divorced they were, and Dr. Flora N. Fauna went back to being Dr. Flora N. Rose, living in the same house as before, while Dr. Anthony Fauna moved out. Nevertheless, the mail kept coming to the old house, addressed in the same various ways, with the same salutations: "Dear Drs. Fauna," "Dear Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fauna," and so on and so on.

One day Dr. Flora N. Rose fell in love with a patient of hers, an older man, successful in business, Mr. Jack Daniels. Now Jack wasn't particular about universities, although he supported University of Kentucky athletics. But he was particular about writing all the checks in the household. And when Dr. Rose, like so many Michigan alumni, decided to support the University of Michigan—both LS&A and the Med School—the checks invariably came from Mr. Jack Daniels, and Mr. Jack Daniels got the receipts, and many of the thank-yous. Sometimes let-

ters came to Dr. Flora Rose, but just as often they came to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Daniels, and sometimes even to Mr. Jack Daniels only, even though he didn't give a fig for the University.

Now your semanticists, semioticists and onomasticists might claim that the name, the signifier, is more important and more real than the thing or person being named. Nevertheless, gentle reader, Miss Rose by any other name—and there were more than a few, as you have seen—remained the former Miss (or Ms.) Flora N. Rose, originally of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. She persevered in her affection for the University despite all those little misnaming irritations, and the University, which really meant no harm, tried its best to keep up with all the changes and to keep in touch.

So when Mr. Daniels passed away, Miss/Ms/Mrs/Dr Flo/ra/Anthony/Jack N. Rose/Fauna/Daniels, now living in retirement in Florida, established once and for all what she should be called forever and a day by creating the Dr. Flora N. Rose Scholarship Fund as a bequest in her will. And her will was done.

With approximately 400,000 living alumni, all of whom are important to us, and many thousands of non-alumni friends as well, the University of Michigan faces an enormous task in keeping track of changing names. We at the

Alumni Records Office are constantly striving to meet the challenge. Computerization has certainly helped, but it has had its costs as well.

Unfortunately, in the course of changing databases in the past, outdated data have sometimes re-entered the system and replaced current, accurate data. These changes created regrettable errors that we really do want to correct. But we need your help.

To be successful in getting names right, we depend upon our alumni keeping us informed when they make changes in their lives that affect their name preferences. So, before the irritations of misnaming become too great, please get in touch with us, and we will make every effort to accommodate you—even if you haven't included us in your will.

The most effective means of righting any wrongs that have to do with names—or addresses, for that matter—is to contact the Office of Development directly in any of the four ways mentioned below:

Phone: 1-(313) 647-6200

E-mail: m.alumni@umich.edu

Fax: 1 (313) 647-6120

Web: <http://www.umich.edu/~umalumni/home.html> (Select: "Change of Address").

An Undergraduate's Experience a Century Ago



Emily Wolcott's Letters Home

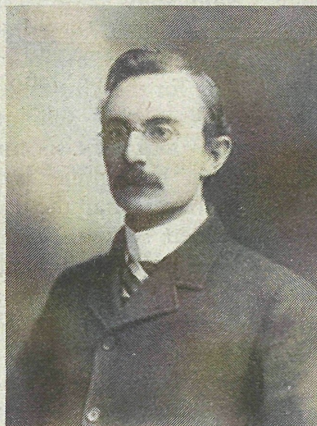
By Edgar L. McCormick

Part II

In our Fall 1996 issue, we began Edgar L. McCormick's series based on the letters of Emily Wolcott '04, who enrolled in September 1902 and began writing home to her mother and sisters in Tallmadge, Ohio, almost weekly. We mistakenly called our first article "Emily Wolcott's Freshman Year"; in fact, Wolcott entered as a junior, having completed two years at Mount Holyoke College. She then taught school for 10 years and was 36 when she entered Michigan. Her maturity as an observer is our good fortune as we ponder the similarities and differences between University life then and now. We resume McCormick's account as Wolcott is beginning her second semester at Michigan.

Emily Wolcott has scheduled five demanding courses for the second semester, signing up again for Earle W. Dow in history and Warren Florer in German, switching from Robert Mark Wenley to a class in aesthetics with George Rebec, and taking a course in rhetoric with Fred Newton Scott and one in Shakespeare with Isaac Newton Demmon.

The semester had just begun when her sister Kate died on February 8, and Wolcott went home for a week. On February 28 she resumed her letters to her mother and sister Clara round-robin accounts about her experiences in Ann Arbor:



George Rebec

Some one told Dr. Florer why I was out, and he never said a word about my making up my German. I took my seat in Dr. Scott's English again and breathed a sigh of content. He is a professor as is a professor. So is Dr. Rebec ... in Aesthetics Tuesday, a Mr. Perrith read a paper on the Iliad ... it was the most scholarly and remarkable thing. I learned more from it, and what followed, about the Greeks than I ever knew before. At the close of it Dr. Rebec carried on a kind of Socratic conversation with him and with other members of the class. I think Prof. Scott will have to move over on the pedestal I have made for him and make room for Dr. Rebec.

Wolcott, who thought it "pleasanter to write books than read them," found Scott's assignments in rhetoric "better than studying," even when he required three analytical essays a week. Sometimes his assignments called for distinguishing "between athletics and sports, rhythm and meter, culture and education, art and humor, ethics and morals, or style or manner; or the defining of poetry, or science, or politics or money." Sometimes the class composed two-minute



Fred Newton Scott

speeches on "novels and their classes." There were exercises, too, that focused upon principles of exposition, and involved analyzing an essay such as Thomas Wentworth Higginson's "Carlyle's Laugh" for theme, structure and the "office" of each sentence.

In the first week of March, Scott exhibited a bust of Emerson for his class to ana-

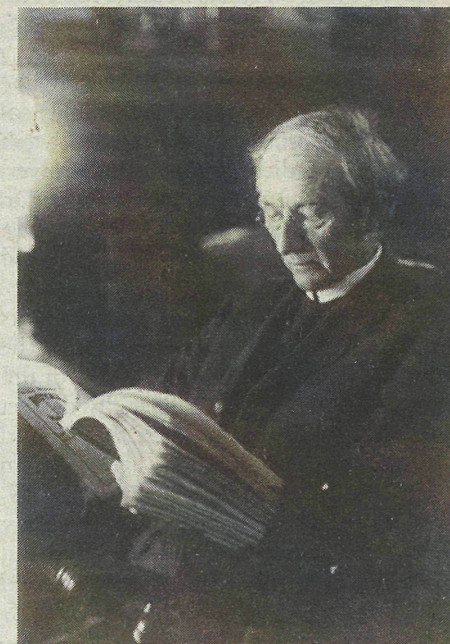
lyze and asked for papers on the expressions on the face as viewed from the front and the sides. "He does think up very interesting exercises," Wolcott decided. The next week he asked what Tennyson's Ulysses meant when he said "I am a part of all that I have met." After reading the essays, Scott told his class that they "quite disappointed" him.

Much more to Wolcott's liking was Scott's announcement in mid-March that the class would have two weeks to "discover, state and illustrate the principle of development of Gothic architecture by studying the photographs of a series of cathedrals: Caen, Senlis, Notre Dame (Paris), Amiens and Rheims." He posted the pictures in the English room in West Hall where 10 to 12 students were about them constantly. Some were the "cocksure kind," merely stopping by for a close look; some frankly said, "This is awful!" and some were the "grafters" who hung around to learn what they could from others instead of "studying it out."

On March 29, Emily Wolcott wrote her weekly letter home between the periods of courses on Italian history, Shakespeare as a man, and German subordinate clauses. She had read *Henry IV*, Parts, 1 and 2, and also *Henry V* for Professor Demmon, and an Icelandic Edda, in translation, for Aesthetics, to learn the source of *The Nibelungenlied*. For Fred Newton Scott she was attempt-

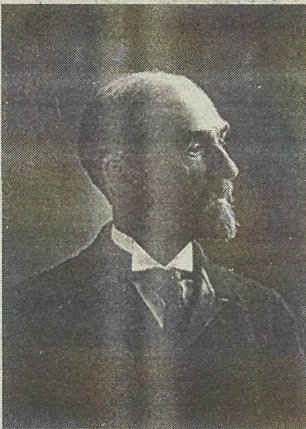
ing to reduce Walter Bagehot's essay on Shakespeare to a thesis sentence, with the emphasis in the sentence indicating what was stressed in the essay.

Despite such demanding assignments she found time to hear Woodrow Wilson, the new president of Princeton,



Isaac Newton Demmon

lecture on patriotism. She agreed with his "sentiments," but seemed even more impressed by his appearance: "His face is nearly twelve inches long ... and looks as if it had been chopped out with an ax." She also went to hear Martin L. D'Ooge, professor of Greek language and literature, lecture at the Philological Society on dating the foundations of the Parthenon. There was spirited discussion afterwards about the origin of marks revealed by the old excavations—were they caused by Persian destruction or by early workmen burning scaffolding? "It appeared to be a matter of life and death," said Wolcott, amazed yet appreciative of such "an exhibition of a pure zeal for knowledge."



Martin L. D'Ooge

Warm weather in late March was the catalyst for ritual hair-cutting raids by the sophomores against the freshmen, initiated by the cutting of the freshman toastmaster's hair:

Then it becomes quite general. There are squads of them [sophomores], from ten to fifty at a time, waiting for certain ones [freshmen] to come from their boarding houses or rooms—if they can't get away by running, they submit gracefully, as there is no resisting, when the squads nab one at a time, and they stop right on the street and shear off their hair; it all happens in the evening. Some of the nicest-looking boys now look like prize-fighters and murderers out of the police gazette. By mistake, they cut a freshman law student, which is not to be done. The laws were to hold a meeting this afternoon to decide whether they should go on the warpath. If they do, there will be but little hair left on the two lower classes of the "Lits." I suppose this may look foolish, but it is really quite exciting. The more that get cut, the more are ready "to go on the war-path." Tonight [March 23] there are a great many out, just after dinner.

Within the week, the hair-cutting season was over because "Prexy [President Angell] put his broad and gentle foot upon it."

On April 11 Wolcott went home to Ohio by train, gladly leaving her books to "dig around outdoors" on the farm in Tallmadge. But on May 5 she was a student again, reading for a "whopper" of a paper on *Macbeth* in a room in the General Library set aside for students taking seminars.

"You will be glad to know," she told her mother and sister Clara on May 10, "[that] I have finished my *MacBeth* paper, and read it. It was 40 pages and more of a thesis paper, and it was real good too. I had three compliments on it; you may think that was not enough, but good papers are such a common thing here; the place is full of smart people. I don't know whether I can ever read it to you. Everything you write here is 'property of the University.' You are allowed to keep copies, of course, but there is never time to make them."

In the same letter she described the recent Senior Swing-Out. In anticipation of Commencement on June 14, all the prospective graduates "wore caps and gowns and Presi-

dent Angell made an address. Every word of it was the very best and wisest and most appropriate that could possibly be, as his words always are. Then they marched around the campus between long rows and crowds of people."

Meanwhile, Wolcott was trying to find someone to fit the dress she wanted to wear to the May Festival. On May 10, with the first of the concerts just four days away, she wrote home about her disappointing encounters with Ann Arbor dressmakers. The first two were too busy with festival work, so she tried a third:

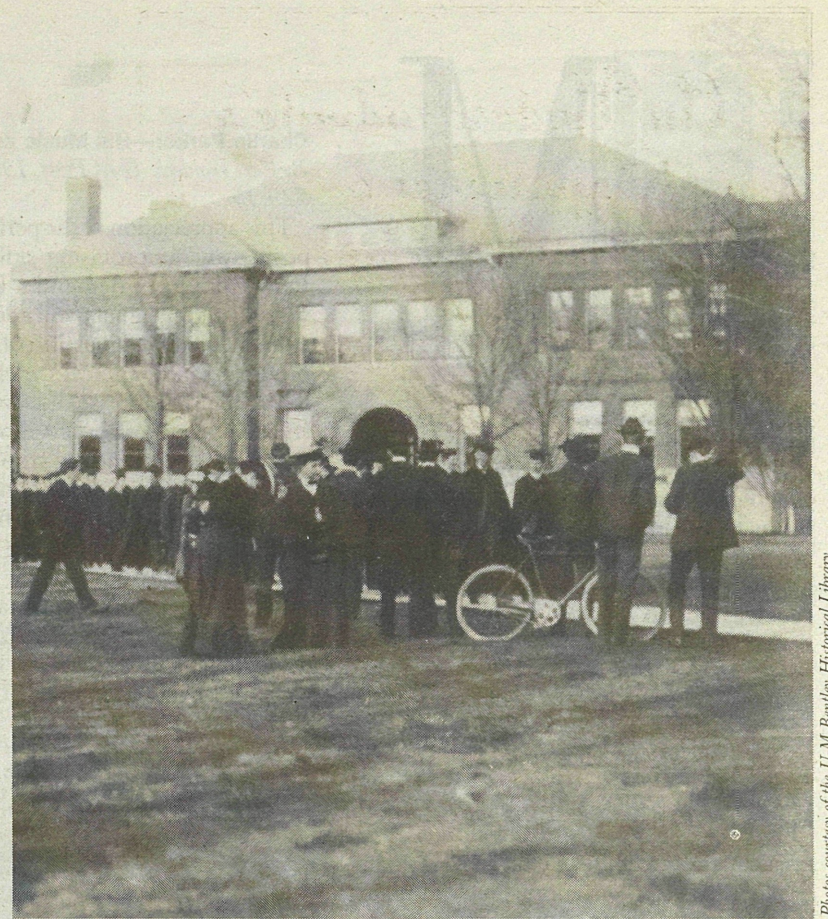
Her assistant, a little crippled oldish person, came down to answer the bell, sewing as she came, and took me up to the room. It was like a warehouse for bareness, the floor was literally covered with thousands of different kinds of scraps. I have heard since that they do a tremendous amount of the most beautiful work and have time to sweep only once a year. The head person sat with her back to me, facing the window, her feet up on the rung of her chair, bent over sewing with all her might. "I can't stop," she said without turning around, "to talk to you. I've got dresses to go out on every train this morning. I can't talk to you." I fled, wondering how she could live the day out.

Wolcott never did get her dress altered, but she attended all five of the concerts. A few weeks later she reported on the mysterious disappearance of a student who left "letters in his room from some secret society in Texas that he should not live after the 20th, his hat with a bullet hole in it & blood on it on the sidewalk; which blood turned out to be wood-dye, and the student turned out to owe a good many bills and to be engaged to two girls."

That last week in May a circus came to Ann Arbor and Wolcott was on the scene:

The entire University was lined up on the campus to see the parade The crowds of boys waved their hats to the lady chariot drivers, and stopped the first wagon and taught them the Michigan yell. A crowd of 2[00] or 300 boys spent the evening in the side show tent If a trick was too slow they called "faster" till it was done right; when the Strong Woman's exhibitor announced that she would lift a dumbbell weighing 158 lbs., they all shouted that that was too heavy for a lady, and threw the great football player, [Willie] Heston, over the ropes into where she was—he lifted the dumbbell and found it weighed 20 lbs.

After such excitement came the reality of finishing the semester. Final examinations began on June 5 and ended on June 11. None was scheduled for Shakespeare or Aesthetics, the courses requiring the papers Wolcott called "whoppers," the first on *Macbeth* and the second on Wordsworth.



Senior Swing-Out, 1903.



Willie Heston

She was also completing her required reading on the *Book of Job*, Dante's and Milton's poetry and "the fall of the Nibelungens." She made preparations, too, for returning in the fall, consulting professors about courses and following a lead on a room on Thompson Court. She was back home in Tallmadge on June 13. MT

Edgar L. McCormick '50 PhD of Kent, Ohio, is a professor emeritus of English at Kent State University. He thanks Elizabeth A. Yeargin of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Georgia Haugh of the U-M Clements Library, and Karen L. Jania of the U-M Bentley Historical Library for assisting him in this series on Emily Wolcott's two years at Michigan. We will complete the series in our next issue.

U M

B O O K S

Suggested Reading: Michigan Today takes notice of or reviews books by U-M faculty, graduates and students, and works published by the University of Michigan Press. We regret that we do not have space to publicize all of the unsolicited books we receive, nor to answer all inquiries and correspondence

The Man in the Shadows: Fred Coe and the Golden Age of Television

By Jon Krampner, Rutgers Univ. Press, Livingston NJ, 1996, \$32.95.

Fred Coe (1914-1979), considered the greatest producer in television's Golden Age of the 1950s, produced such dramatic anthologies as *Philco-Goodyear Playhouse*, *Studio One*, *Kraft Television Theatre* and *Robert Montgomery Presents*. He employed such writers as Gore Vidal, Paddy Chayefsky and Horton Foote; the directors Delbert Mann and Arthur Penn; and was responsible for live dramas that included *Marty*, *Peter Pan*, *What Makes Sammy Run?*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The Miracle Worker* and *Mr. Peepers*. *Michigan Today's* West Coast contributor Jon Krampner traces Coe's rise and fall, which some say paralleled the rise and fall of the potential of American television drama.

Charlie Parker—His Music and Life

By Carl Woideck. U-M Press, 1996, hardbound, \$29.95

This appreciation of the performing, composing and improvising skills of Charlie Parker does not demand a knowledge of music, but that ability will add to a reader's enjoyment. The initial fifth of the 277 pages provides a biographical sketch; the remaining chapters comprise discussions of many short passages of composition and improvisation. Even readers who cannot play these passages or follow them while listening to a recording will find that Woideck's commentaries, enriched by pertinent anecdotes and a wealth of other historical material, deepen their understanding of the many qualities that made Parker a musical giant—his inventiveness, humor, virtuosity and swing-ability. (See U-M Press ordering information above.)



Charlie Parker as a child.

Michigan Statistical Abstract - 1996

U-M Press, 664-pages, cloth, \$49.50.

Did you know that Michigan is the number one producer of cranberry beans, black turtle beans, tart cherries, navy beans, blueberries, cucumbers for pickles, potted geraniums, potted Easter lilies and summer potatoes? Or that Michigan has the fourth largest number of inventors in the United States, that the state's population is projected to increase by more than 400,000 by the year 2005 or that only three countries—Japan, Germany and France—produce more vehicles than the state of Michigan.

These and other facts are in the 1996 edition of the *Michigan Statistical Abstract* recently released by the University of Michigan Press. It's the first edition in 10 years. Developed through consultation with librarians and other information specialists, the *Abstract* contains historical data as well as the most up-to-date information on such topics as Michigan's labor market, industry structure, population and housing, health and vital statistics, education, income and social welfare, law enforcement and the courts, government, and the environment. Special sections include the most current population and employment projections for Michigan.

—Joanne Nesbit.

University offering child-care support

The U-M launched its University of Michigan Child Care Subsidy Program for Students in February. The program will provide about \$150,000 per year to assist U-M student parents with child-care expenses. Half of the funding will come from the General Fund and half from a \$1-per-term student fee approved by the students last spring.

An oversight committee is developing eligibility criteria for the awards. A total of about \$60,000 was available to students to assist with winter-term expenses. All students, including undergraduate, graduate, professional and special students, as well as international students and those enrolled part-time at the University, were eligible to apply for the awards, said Margaret Rodriguez, interim associate director of the Office of Financial Aid.

The awards, up to \$1,000 per term for students enrolled at least half-time and up to \$500 per term for those enrolled less than half-time, will be based upon financial need. Child-care expenses must be for children 12 years old and younger, or children up to 19 years of age with documented special needs. Care must be provided by a licensed or registered day care provider.

U-M Alumni Day

In Lansing, May 13

U-M alumni who are residents of the state of Michigan are invited to show their support for the University and for higher education in the state of Michigan in Lansing on Tuesday, May 13. They will also get a chance to meet U-M's new president, Lee C. Bollinger.

The U-M Alumni Association organized the event to bring alumni to the Michigan State Legislature on behalf of U-M. It provides an opportunity for learning about the legislative process, sharing ideas with elected officials and their staffs, and meeting other alumni.

Fill out the registration form below and hear President Bollinger report on the state of the University and describe his visions for the future.

Schedule of Events:

- 3:00 p.m. — Program begins with comments from President Lee C. Bollinger.
- 3:30 p.m. — Discussion of legislative issues facing the U-M.
- 4:00 p.m. — Opportunity to visit with legislators.
- 5-7 p.m. — Reception with President Bollinger, alumni and legislators.

Michigan Alumni Day in Lansing Registration Form

- Yes! I will attend the program in Lansing
- I can't attend the afternoon program, but will join you for the reception

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fax _____ Day Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

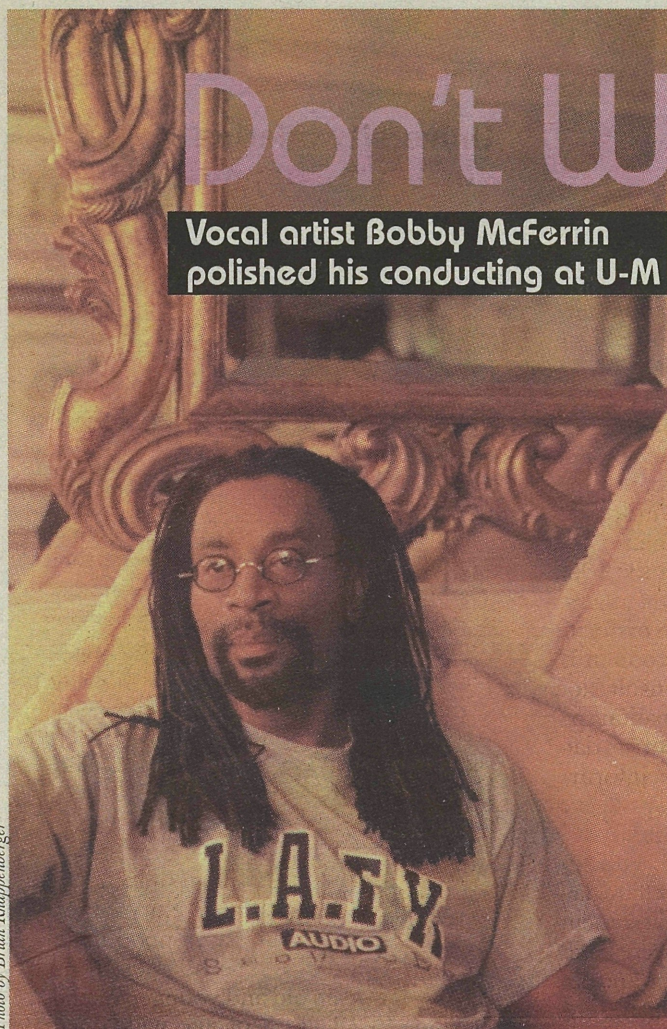
Return your registration form or direct questions to: Karen Jordan, Alumni Legislative Advocacy Program, 200 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1007. Or call 313/764-1717; FAX 313/764-6546; e-mail kjordan@umich.edu

Don't Worry, Be Musical

By Melissa Grego

Vocal artist Bobby McFerrin polished his conducting at U-M

Photo by Brian Knapphenberger



Stern and self-conscious are two words that don't describe Bobby McFerrin. Leading the Los Angeles Philharmonic rehearsal as guest conductor, he looks more like an animated student telling his friends a story in a coffee shop than a typical conductor in front of a renowned orchestra. His shoulder-length braids bounce and a grey T-shirt sways from his dancer-like build with every nod toward the musicians.

But the sureness in each dramatic stroke he uses to coax notes out of the players at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion proves Bobby McFerrin is the real thing. It also explains why dozens of the world's top orchestras have invited him to their podiums since his 1990 conducting debut with the San Francisco Symphony in 1990.

When the music stops, McFerrin crosses one boot over the other. He leans over the music stand, peers from behind his wire glasses at a musician and says, "Like this," and, with his voice, presents the perfectly pitched sound of bow on string.

A late mounting of the podium

Coming from any other conductor, the vocal example McFerrin gave to the musician would have been quite unusual. But it's exactly what you'd expect from this singer of the No. 1 hit "Don't Worry Be Happy" and winner of 10 pop and jazz Grammy Awards, who took his first conducting lessons at age 39 and was recently commissioned by the San Francisco Opera to write an opera.

"Bobby's musicality is grounded in his incredible facility as a singer," says Gustav Meier, who retired as director of the University of Michigan orchestra and professor of

conducting two years ago. "His ear is so phenomenal he can pick up anything and perform it."

Meier speaks from experience. Meier and McFerrin met in 1989 at a party honoring Leonard Bernstein's 70th birthday. Soon after, McFerrin began organizing his efforts to conduct the San Francisco Symphony on his 40th birthday and enlisted Meier's expertise. McFerrin took Meier's daily seminars at the Tanglewood Music Festival, consulted him about scores and studied with him at the University in preparation for the debut.

As the time for McFerrin to head to San Francisco closed in, Meier asked the University's Student Orchestra if McFerrin could conduct them for one night.

"The students loved the idea," Meier says. "He conducted them once through Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. It was his first time in front of a symphony orchestra. The next thing was his birthday debut in front of a full audience."

The offbeat path

Traditionally, the opportunity to conduct major orchestras, according to Meier, comes after the conductor has pursued a master's degree or doctorate and spent years climbing the ladder from assistant to big wig, small orchestra to large. But McFerrin's training, connections and natural ability took him down the unconventional path toward becoming an out-of-the-ordinary conductor.

"He does not do it like the others. Conducting is usually more serious," Meier says. "But he's not self-conscious. It's collaboration; it's having fun. And it's contagious."

The contagion spread at the close of the L.A. rehearsal with Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Cellos. As the lead cello played, McFerrin transformed his voice into the haunting, beautiful notes of the second cello while he simultaneously conducted a circle of supporting musicians. A handful of onlookers in the vast auditorium flashed approving smiles. When the passage finished, the orchestra shouted, "Brava!" McFerrin and his musical partner exchanged a hearty handshake and wide, appreciative grins.

So what, aside from innate musical talent, makes McFerrin so appealing to his conductees?

"He's simply there to make music, and that's very different from other conductors," Meier says. "Bobby's had his success."

McFerrin isn't out solely to climb the highly competitive conducting ladder, as many ambitious conductors have to be to preserve their livelihood, Meier says. So musicians respond to him for music's sake, because "his joy and love for music overwhelms musicians."

McFerrin may seem to be on "conducting easy street" these days, but he's had a sizable portion of frustration and distraction along the way.

Plushness is no comfort

Sitting on a plush sofa in his suite at the secluded Wyndham Checkers Hotel on L.A.'s

Grand Ave., McFerrin motions to his surroundings, saying, "Look at this here."

One would assume he's referring to his good fortune—as if he's in paradise on this one stop among dozens that he will make during a worldwide tour of orchestras this year.

On the contrary, McFerrin takes no interest in his lavish accommodations. "There's no life here," McFerrin says. "I do a lot better—I feel whole—when I'm home with my family. This is difficult." He says his wanderlust is all dried up and he finds the touring lifestyle trying. "Ideally, it would be nice to just work with a few orchestras and leave it at that."

Which orchestras might those favorites be? McFerrin says he won't name names, then changes his mind. "I will mention one: the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra," says McFerrin, who is also the creative chair of that St. Paul group, which some say is the nation's top chamber ensemble.

'I hate beating time'

"I don't have to conduct them," he says. "I hate conducting. I hate beating time. That's the interesting thing about conducting. Whenever I have to do it, I hate it." His love/hate relationship with conducting started with his first guest stint in San Francisco. "I wasn't thinking about a conducting career, but I was hoping I would like it. So I did the gig, but I wasn't bit by the conducting bug. I was just glad it was over and I was ready to party."

But then things changed. "A couple of months after San Francisco, I did the Boston Pops and I conducted the last of Beethoven's Symphonies and literally floated off the podium. It got me," McFerrin says. "And gradually I started getting these gigs. Orchestras are a small world."

MT

Melissa Grego '96 is a former Michigan Daily reporter who is completing a year as assistant editor of U (The National College) Magazine in Los Angeles.



Gustav Meier (left) and Bobby McFerrin (right) talk Beethoven with members of the student symphony orchestra.

Photo by David Smith

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A VISIT TO THE GALLERY

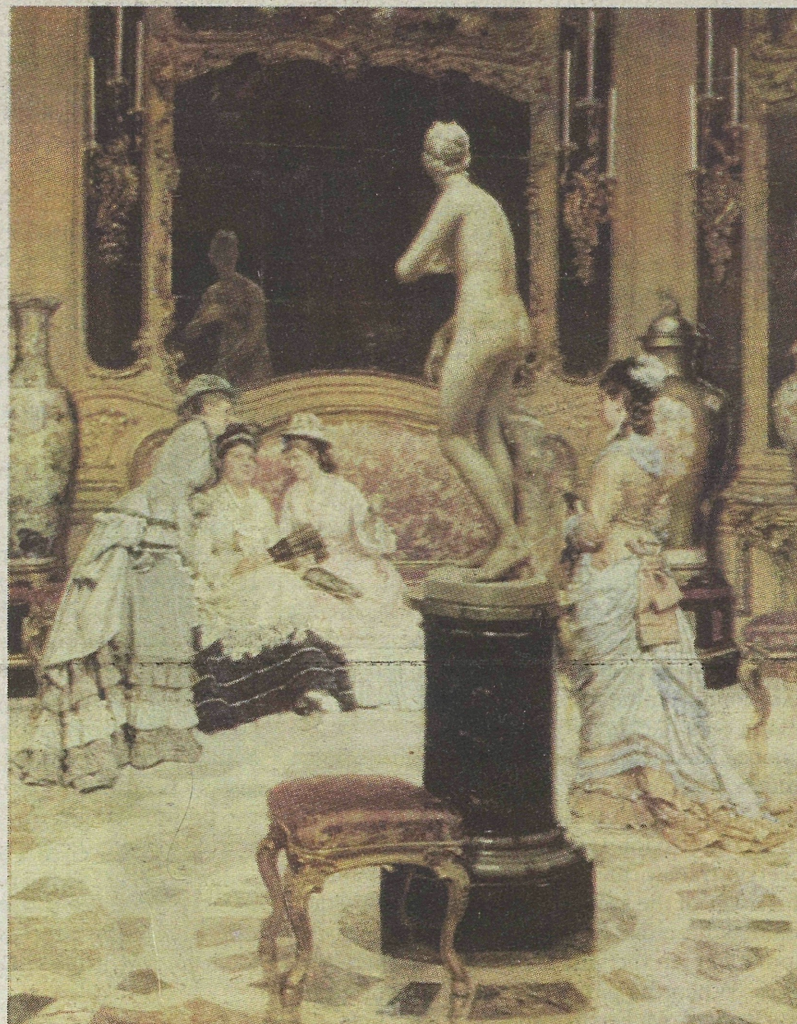
The origins of poetry and the visual arts are ancient, and their lives run parallel. When the painters of Lascaux drew their magical bison and horses and elk on the walls of their caves, it is hard to imagine that they did not also chant hunting songs about those same animals. The follies and heroics of the Greeks and their Olympian gods, which Homer sang of, also decorate Attic vases."

So begins the introduction to one of the most unusual and sumptuous books ever published by the University of Michigan Press, or any other publisher, for that matter. The ground rules for the 134-page, thickly papered, double-stitched and handsomely bound book, poet Richard Tillinghast, a professor of English and editor of the volume, explains in his introduction, involved inviting 30 poets and fiction writers to the U-M Museum of Art, where they would "choose a work of art from the permanent collection, and write something in response to it."

Most of the 30 writers are U-M faculty or alumni, several of them with national and international reputations. "Outsiders" who contributed include Thomas Lynch, Molly Peacock, Robert Pinsky, Chase Twitchell and Diane Wakoski.

Each poem or prose piece accompanies a color plate of the work of art that inspired it. The book takes its title from the 1877 painting by Pier Celestino Gilardi. The poem by Molly Peacock, who lives in New York City and London, Ontario, Canada, is titled "Girl and Friends View Naked Goddess."

In a playful fantasy that turns into a serious statement about gender roles and the domain of art, Peacock imag-



A Visit to the Gallery (1877) by Pier Celestino Gilardi

ines the young woman seated in the middle and the goddess thinking about changing roles:

...The shy one stares straight ahead—stunned

to see what she might become. What might the goddess become if she could untighten her gaze and be part of her watchers' scene?

Ruffled, laced, stockinged and corseted, this girl's dying to shed it all....

And when their gazing is over, the girls will:

dash down the hall with arms linked, out for a bite to eat and

lots of gossip at their visit's end (for now they've seen her, and she's inside them,

a man's ideal, and they see they could be she,

the naked lady of a sculptor's whim, cold as the floors they walk on)....

Museum Educational Curator Ellen Plummer supplies notes for each artistic work. The Gilardi painting, she writes "was part of the first major art collection donated to the University of Michigan, the bequest of Henry Cass Lewis." The sculpture that captivates the four viewers is the Medici Venus.

The Belgian painter Joos van Cleve's *Saint John the Evangelist on*

Patmos ca. 1525 inspired Keith Taylor to write "On the Easy Life of Saints." Taylor contrasts the "ordinary distractions" of ordinary lives ("bringing the sheep/back home or washing clothes/ spreading manure on the fields/ or catching fish, adding what/we can to the everyday/exchange") with the "compensations" of sainthood ("getting locked up/on Patmos, for Christ's good sake,/ with a couple of old books,/some blank paper, a new pen,/a distant view of the sea,/ time to sit so quietly/that the birds might mistake us/for bushes").

In an appreciation, if not celebration, of ordinary life, Taylor concludes that while most of us will not have mystical visions like the "woman clothed in sea/colors holding a perfect child" that Saint John the Evangelist reported, our busy, unsaintly lives provide "unearned joy/(while walking dogs, putting kids/to bed, watching snow fall, when/we get a couple of hours—/unexpectedly—to read)". And what's more, "it's worth something—/our ordinary vision—/and we're almost sure it's real."—JW.

***A Visit to the Gallery* (\$39.95, cloth), design and typography by Beth Keillor Hay and Margaret Ann Re, may be ordered from the U-M Press, Order Department, U-M Press, P.O. Box 1104, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1104. Phone orders: 1-(800) 876-1922. Fax (313) 936-0456.**

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Saint John the Evangelist on Patmos (ca. 1525) by Joos van Cleve

