

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA

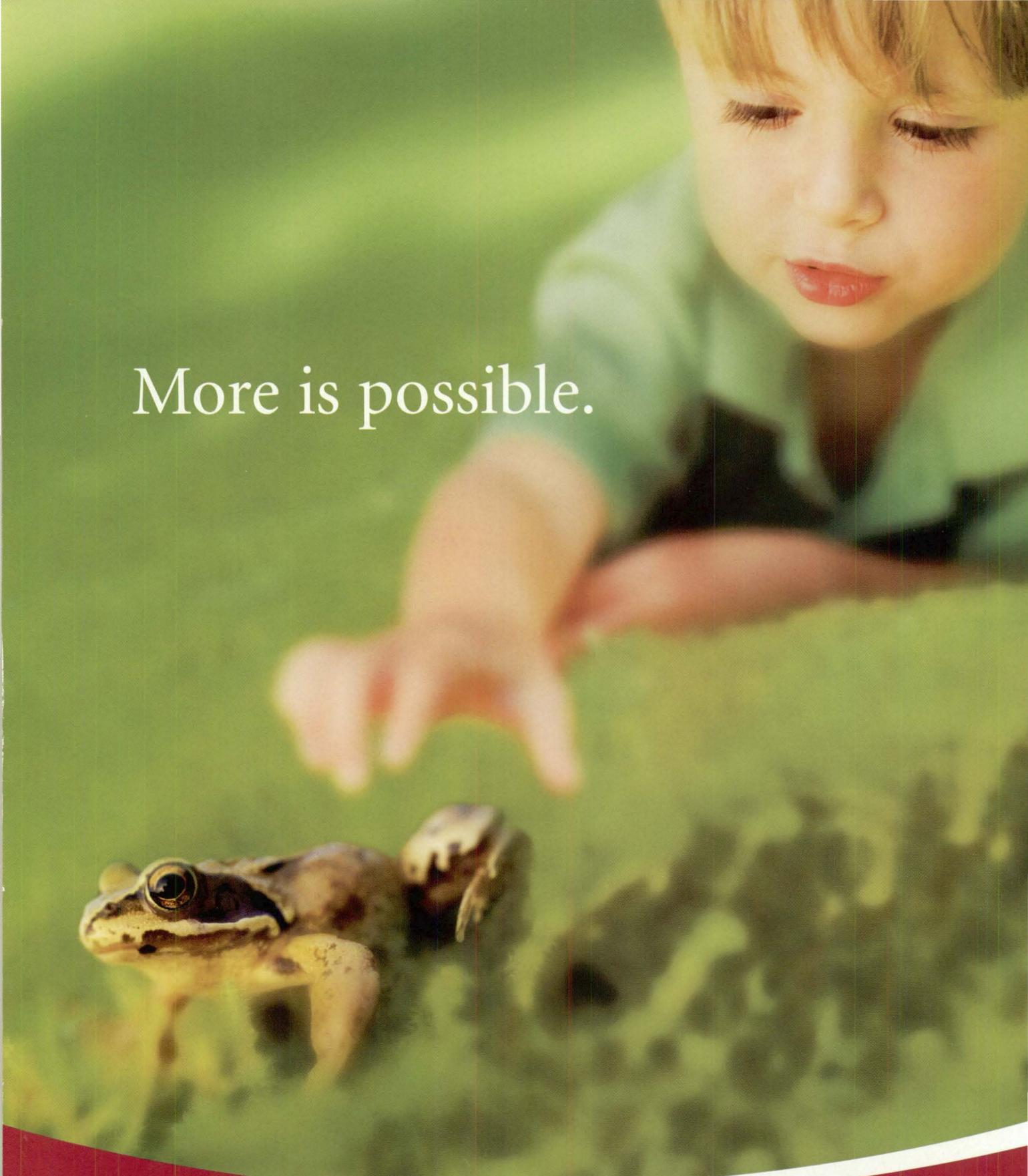
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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BY J. TROUT LOWEN



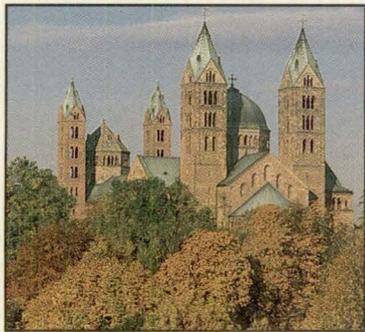
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Thursday, March 29
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Editor's Note

Poking Through the Rubble

“So, what did you get for your birthday?” I asked, looking into the rearview mirror to the back seat.

“Some clothes and—hey, you didn’t get me anything!” cried my great niece.

“Well, that’s where we’re going, to buy you a present!” I shouted.

“Is it still my birthday?” she asked, having turned 6 a couple weeks earlier.

“Sure it is. I’m still celebrating that you were born!”

She opened the door to the toy store and zipped toward some funky dolls and then found a painting set for her age and older. She spotted a quilting kit that promised dream-filled naps after hours of knotting together dozens of pre-cut fleece squares. Then she zipped over to a bookshelf and plucked from it a slim volume. “It’s Martin Luther King!” she proclaimed to the entire store.



Shelly Fling

She plopped down onto a stuffed Clifford the Big Red Dog and flipped open the cover. I knelt down beside her. “Here he is as a baby,” she said, pointing to an illustration of a boy in a crib. “And here he is with his family,” she said turning the pages. “Here’s his wife. And here he’s marching.”

“He was a great man,” I said. “I was just 3 years old when he died. I don’t even remember him.”

“He was killed,” she said, correcting me. “Some white people killed him.”

“Yes,” I confirmed solemnly. I floundered for a moment, wondering whether the toy store was the proper place to deliver a lesson about wholesale injustices done to a class of people and the confusing reality of some in one group enacting horrible crimes against the entirety of another.

“But he’s still alive,” she said, cutting through my thoughts.

She closed and shelved the book and took a slow lap around the store.

I had always dreaded the day she would start to notice skin color, meaningless differences, and manufactured divides. A few months earlier we were at the grocery store and while I bagged up the purchases she asked, “Why are the white people over there and the brown people over there?”

I looked up to see just that at the next lane over—one group at the checkout and another bagging their groceries. “Well, some of them are brown because they’re probably part of the same family and some of them are white because they’re probably part of the same family and sometimes it’s just random.” I stopped. Did she know what *random* meant? “I mean,” I continued, looking up at the ceiling, “sometimes we all just get mixed up together as friends or strangers and wind up in different groups and it doesn’t mean anything really.” Before I’d finished talking she was searching her pockets for her Hello Kitty gloves and heading for the door. I chased after her thinking it might be easier just to shrug and say nothing to these observations.

But I knew that wouldn’t be easier, or better, for her or the world that is widening for her. In fact, I’ve concluded that it isn’t enough simply to handle the questions that spill from children’s mouths revealing anew the brokenness of the world—whether about racism, anti-Semitism, or child labor—but that sometimes we have to poke through the rubble of past wrongs until the pieces are put in their proper place.

When we left the toy store that day, she chose the quilting kit and the painting set. “You don’t want the Martin Luther King, Jr., book?” I asked.

“No,” she said. “I know that story.”

I nodded, but promised myself that this conversation wasn’t over. ■

Shelly Fling can be reached at fling003@umn.edu.

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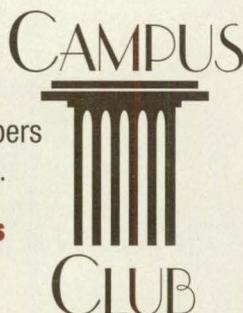
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Letters

AN EARFUL

I was very pleased to see the article by Greg Breining ["Five Reasons Corn Ethanol Won't Save the Planet," January-February]. Most people accept that corn is a transition fuel source that will not be the best choice as we invest more in research and trials of the more sustainable plant fuel crops. The ethanol industry has proven that farmers can make money on homegrown fuel sources, but we need plants that make more sense for all the reasons that Mr. Breining states.

I value clean water, I value habitat, I value soils. Transition to the next phase of plant-based fuels will give those who live on the land a chance to add tremendous value to their lives and to society. In the meantime, let's remember that conservation is the first goal. It is still the best bang for the buck and saves on fuels from all sources.

**Charlotte Brooker (B.S. '69, M.A. '83)
Maplewood, Minnesota**

I grew up on a working grazing dairy farm and have seen firsthand the benefits of grass over rowed crops. The increase in land values, productivity, species diversity, and soil quality have been concretely measured and completely enjoyed. Please keep printing articles like this. It's good to hear in a larger forum what I believe myself.

**Inga Haugen
Minneapolis**

I'm a rancher in Colorado and take exception to the erroneous conclusions by Mr. Breining. I raise hay myself and you cannot routinely harvest prairie grasses without, year after year, giving something back. Nature will replenish it over time, but think about it. You cannot harvest something from nothing. I am sorry Mr. Breining goes on to attack Archer Daniels Midland and Governor Tim Pawlenty with a basically false premise. Please correct this, hopefully, oversight.

**Al Iversen (B.S. '74, M.S. '75)
Canon City, Colorado**

Editor's Note: *The researchers cited in the corn ethanol story agree with the letter writer that certain nutrient inputs may be needed in prairie biomass production. Their paper, titled "Carbon Negative Biofuels from Low-Input High-Diversity Grassland Biomass," emphasizes low nutrient inputs. They say this warrants further study, however, citing cases in which unfertilized prairie has been harvested from fields for years without a loss of yield.*

I find it amusing that we criticize ethanol for creating 25 percent to 30 percent more energy than it consumes. This might be lower than some other energy sources, but if we found a financial opportunity with the same proven returns we would invest all we had. In addition, new technologies are being developed that result in more ethanol per bushel of grain with less energy required, improving the energy equation. Similarly, why are we complaining about a 12 percent reduction in greenhouse gasses? Silver bullets are in high demand but often difficult to find.

Corn ethanol has blazed a path that makes cellulose ethanol much more feasible. It has built the supply chain and political momentum to get ethanol into the American gas tank. Large scale corn ethanol has taken decades to accomplish this feat at the objection of the petroleum industry. These are hurdles that cannot be overcome with grant money, and the importance of this infrastructure cannot be overlooked.

We may never be able to grow enough corn to eliminate our need for petroleum, but we are producing over 5 billion gallons of corn ethanol today and will add at least 6 billion gallons more in the next two years. While I am all in favor of the promise of cellulose ethanol, it remains a thing of the future with many hurdles left to clear—far fewer hurdles than it would face without the path blazed by corn ethanol.

Marc Paulson (B.S. '96, M.B.A. '02)
Overland Park, Kansas

MAYBE IT'S A COFFEE THING

Thanks for your very thoughtful and thought-provoking editor's note ["Deliberate Dialogue," January–February]. I lived in a coffee-producing country for 14 years and the ceremony surrounding roasting, brewing, and drinking this wonderful liquid was definitely connected to dialogue and relationships. Your editorial ignited my "homesickness" for both the ritual of the coffee ceremony and the many people with whom I experienced true conversation!

Jolene Baker (B.S.N. '78)
New Hope, Minnesota

Letters reflect the opinion of the author only and do not represent the views of the University or the alumni association. To submit a letter, go to www.alumni.umn.edu/opinion or write to Letters to the Editor, *Minnesota Magazine*, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Letters will be edited for length, style, and clarity. Full guidelines are at the Web address above.

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Saving Somalia

Somalia has become the worst place on Earth to live. That was the judgment offered by University professor Abdi Samatar, a nationally

recognized analyst of East African politics, as he assessed the state of his war-ravaged homeland at a public lecture to approximately 200 people in February. Samatar, a professor of geography and global studies, called the country's situation grim.

Last January, the United States helped Ethiopia to overthrow the Islamic Courts Union, a judiciary that had assumed control over the southern part of Somalia and brought stability to the capitol Mogadishu and other cities. Civil strife has since ensued, and U.S. government officials defended the intervention by claiming

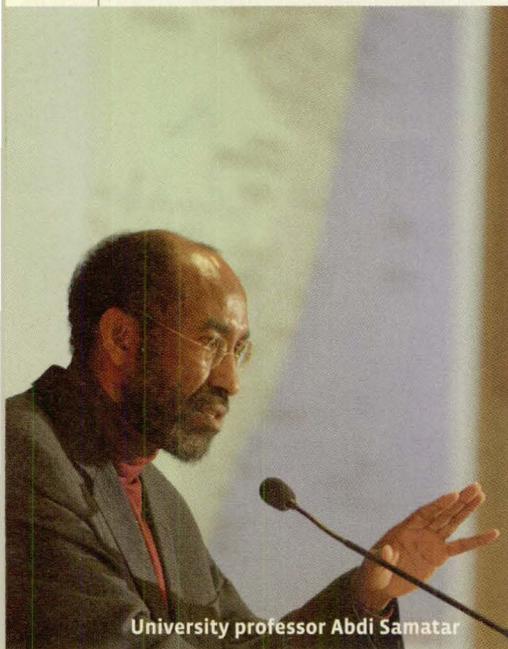
that the overthrown Islamic Courts Union had been harboring terrorists. But, Samatar noted, the government that the United States helped restore to power—the Transitional Federal Government—is run by warlords who have amassed an egregious record of human rights violations over the past 15 years. “Warlords are the ultimate terrorists. If we are at war with terrorists, we should be at war with those terrorists who have hijacked that society,” Samatar said.

The United States, along with the United Nations, has urged the Transitional Federal Government to become as inclusive as possible by bringing together clan leaders who represent the country's large number of subcultures. That's a flawed strategy with a dismal record of success, Samatar argued.

“Just imagine if I lined you up and said, ‘I'm going to figure out what your politics are by the color of your hair.’ We know what that does: It poisons human relationships and it dehumanizes people by assuming we know what they want before giving them a chance to speak for themselves.” True democracy, he said, will come only from a trustworthy government that eschews corrupt, clan-based politics and serves people as individuals united by shared, national identity.

Samatar's lecture was part of Headliners, a monthly forum sponsored by the College of Continuing Education featuring University and community experts speaking on the day's most pressing issues. To sign up for Headliners alerts visit www.cce.umn.edu/enrichment/headliners.

—Danny LaChance



University professor Abdi Samatar

Reality TV Reality Check

When *American Idol* held auditions at the Target Center in Minneapolis last September, close to 3,000 people were already waiting in line when the 6 a.m. sign-ups began. Thousands more arrived throughout the day. But that was a mere movie ticket line compared to the millions who religiously watch the top-rated television show from the comfort of home every week.

Why is America so fascinated with reality TV? One University of Minnesota professor has a theory. “People are drawn to reality TV shows because they want to see ordinary people doing extraordinary things,” says Laurie Ouellette, an associate professor of communications studies and co-editor of the book *Reality TV: Remaking Television Culture*. “In a way, watching makes us feel like, ‘That could be me up there on stage.’”

And how is all this vicarious living affecting viewers? “Reality TV trains us how to judge ourselves and others harshly,” Ouellette says. “The message is that to thrive in this world you must constantly work on yourself and focus inward. Whether you think that's a good thing or not depends on how you look at it.”

Ouellette says people often ask her what the key to *Idol*'s success is, as no other con-



American Idol finalists Fantasia Barrino (left) and Diane Degarmo

test show has garnered such a huge following. “One of the reasons is the voting,” Ouellette explains. “Voting changes the outcome of the show and that appeals to people because many don't feel like their votes

count anymore in our political system. People want to believe their vote matters in this country and *American Idol* provides that.”

Now that's a harsh reality.

—Meleah Maynard

The End of an Era for AIDS Treatment

Securing grant funding is never a sure thing, no matter how worthy the cause. Still, when the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced in January that it would stop funding the University of Minnesota's AIDS Clinical Trial Unit (ACTU) after two decades of support, it was a harsh blow to AIDS research and the Minnesota AIDS community.

The Minnesota ACTU, which got its start in 1987 thanks to an initial NIH grant, has been a national leader in AIDS research and has served more than 2,000 patients with HIV/AIDS. While the unit will finish out current clinical trials over the course of the next year, with about 70 percent of its annual \$1.7 million budget, it's not yet clear what will happen to patients after that time.

The Minnesota ACTU wasn't alone in getting cut. Several other notable institutions focusing on AIDS research were also defunded. Hank Balfour, principal investigator of the Minnesota ACTU, says shifting national concerns has prompted some of the changes. "There are competing budgetary priorities, such as bioterrorism and avian flu," he says. "Unfortu-

nately, HIV/AIDS has become less of a major priority in the United States."

Keith Henry, Minnesota ACTU's chief clinical research physician at the Hennepin County Medical Center, argues that no area of medicine has seen as much progress in the past 20 years as HIV/AIDS. Such advances, he says, have been remarkable—and they are also part of the reason for the unit's demise. "Some people might say that it's 'mission accomplished,' but I think it's something that can be said too early," he says. "I feel like we got the job 75 percent done, but now the wind will be out of our sails."

The Minnesota ACTU was an integral part of moving AIDS research forward in leaps and bounds over the past two decades. Although

it did not do drug discovery research, its researchers were able to determine how to best use and manage the drugs and data that were available. ACTU scientists were the first to discover how to grow HIV from very small amounts of blood known as microcultures; the development was particularly important for pediatric patients who couldn't spare a full 30 milliliters of blood for testing. And ACTU researchers were among the first to report transmission of strains of HIV that were resistant to AZT, one of the early and most common antiviral drugs.

Lorraine Teel (B.S. '84), executive director of the Minnesota AIDS Project, says the defunding will have a dramatic impact on the AIDS community in Min-

nesota. "From a practical standpoint, it puts pressure on an already stretched local health care system," she says. "People who may have been on a clinical trial where they had their medication paid for through the trial will have to access more mainstream medical care."

Balfour says it's too early to know exactly what lies ahead for ACTU patients once the funding ends at the end of this November, but he plans to use resources from other places, including the International Center for Antiviral Research and Epidemiology, to help fill any gaps. "We're not destitute, but we don't have enough resources to deal with hundreds of patients," Balfour says. "We'll do the best we can with what we have."

—Erin Peterson

Hank Balfour (left) and Keith Henry



HEALTH SCREENINGS

Public health is a serious matter, but learning about it doesn't have to be a solemn affair. During National Public Health Week, April 2 through 6, the School of Public Health will host its third public health film festival, a weeklong exploration of current public health issues using films, panel discussions, and speakers. Films addressing topics such as sex education, aging, climate change, and HIV/AIDS include *An Inconvenient Truth*; *The Split Horn: Life of a Hmong Shaman in America*; *It's Wonderful Being a Girl*, and others. This year's event will include winning entries in a public service announcement filmmaking contest. Screenings are free at the Mayo Auditorium at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.sph.umn.edu/filmfestevents.



OVERHEARD ON CAMPUS

"Scientific evidence has proven that secondhand smoke is just as dangerous as it is annoying."

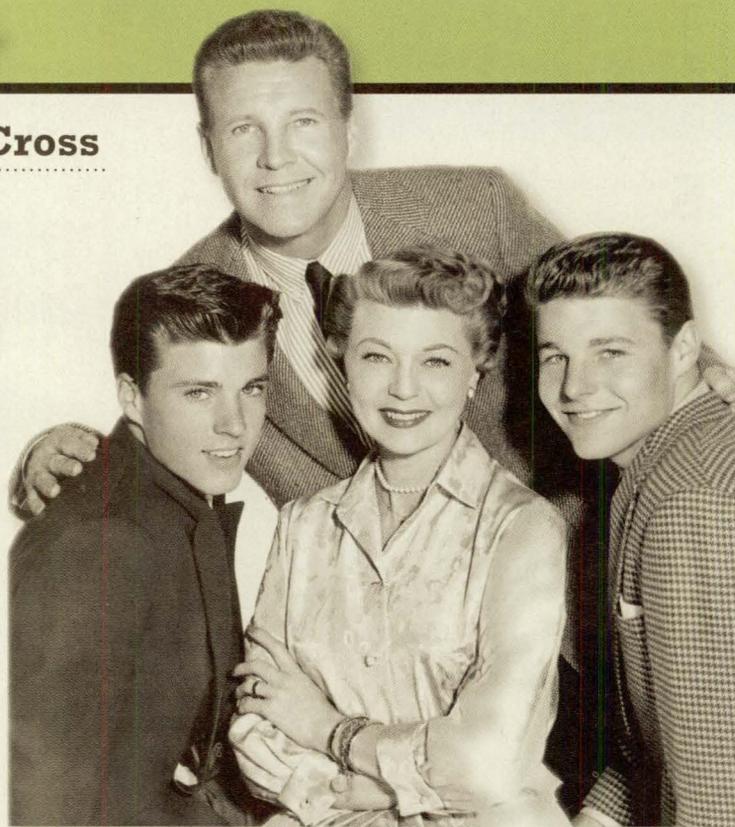
—John Finnegan, dean of the University's School of Public Health, speaking in support of a proposed statewide smoking ban.

Churches Bear a Traditional Cross

Ozzie and Harriet no longer dominate the pews of American churches, but they still call the shots when it comes to determining institutional values. That's the conclusion of a study by researchers in the University of Minnesota's sociology department who found that American churches remain a primary source of 1950s-style family mythology even though the realities of contemporary church-going families have changed radically. The researchers concluded that gender roles are at the center of most churches' difficulties in adapting to the needs of modern families.

The eight-month-long study of three churches in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area—an evangelical black church, a liberal Protestant congregation, and a Latino parish—found that each faced distinct pressures on the family unit. The Latino parish faced problems related to immigration and cultural assimilation; the black church dealt with a preponderance of single-parent households; and the liberal Protestant congregation grappled with extending leadership roles to its gay and lesbian congregants. Each of these pressures consistently bumped up against church structures that reflected a bias for traditional gender roles of woman as caretaker and mother and man as provider and father.

Researchers noted that the tension within churches comes from religious institutions' traditional adherence to the belief



that men's and women's roles are fundamentally different and that there's such a thing as an ideal family, even after those roles have been reshaped by the realities of modern life.

The study is part of the University's American Mosaic Project, a three-year project that looks at race, religion, and cultural diversity in the United States.

Telltale Toenails

A chemical derived from a cancer-causing agent in tobacco can be found in the toenails of nonsmokers who were exposed to secondhand smoke, according to research at the University of Minnesota Cancer Center. The chemical is also found in the toenails of smokers. The study is the first to show the accumulation of cancer-causing chemicals in toenails, and indicates that toenail analysis could be a useful method of studying the role of exposure to tobacco smoke in cancer. Fingernails and toenails, as well as blood and urine, are already commonly used for detecting exposure to drugs and toxins, but toenails, because they grow more slowly than fingernails, better reflect cumulative exposure over a longer period. Toenails are also less

likely than fingernails to become environmentally contaminated, and are easier to collect and store than blood and urine.

In another tobacco-related discovery, researchers with the U's Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center found that heavy smokers who reduce their number of daily cigarettes still take in two to three times more total toxins per cigarette than light smokers. Researchers cited "compensatory smoking" as the cause. The more heavy smokers reduced the number of cigarettes they smoked, the more likely they were to take in more toxins by puffing more frequently or inhaling more deeply. The conclusion: Heavy smokers are better off quitting altogether than reducing their smoking.



OSZIE AND HARRIET COURTESY OF PHOTOFEST; TELLTALE TOENAILS PHOTO BY BROCK HANSON/GETTY IMAGES



EARLY JUMP ON BRAIN DISEASE

A brain disease that typically begins to show symptoms in middle age and beyond has its beginnings in brain development that occurs shortly after birth. That is the conclusion of University of Minnesota Institute for Human Genetics researchers who studied spinocerebellar ataxia type 1, a fatal degenerative brain disease that causes loss of coordination for such activities as walking, talking, and swallowing. There is no treatment, and patients typically die 10 to 15 years after symptoms first appear. The discovery suggests that in the future, doctors may be able to target treatment to coincide with critical times in brain development, thus lessening the impact of the disease in later years.

INTERNET ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Libraries, schools, and other public institutions that provide access to the Internet make a demonstrable difference in paving the way to better life opportunities such as living-wage jobs, according to a finding by the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota. A survey of more than 80 community technology center directors and more than 400 individuals who use public computer labs showed a strong success rate in public labs' ability to link patrons to job-related resources and outcomes, including résumé development, interviews, and job offers.

THE HIGH PRICE OF FAST FOOD

It's a good bet that families who eat fast food for dinner three or more times a week also stock their shelves with more salty snacks and sodas and fewer fruits and vegetables, according to University of Minnesota Medical School research. The study concluded that frequent fast food dinners are likely only one element of a pattern of overall unhealthy food choices that lead to higher health risks. Researchers said that while fast food can be a convenient choice for busy families, frequently choosing it can negatively affect overall household food choices and the family's health. For instance, a higher frequency of fast food dinners was also associated with obesity and a higher body mass index in adults.



SCALE BACK ON SELF-WEIGHING

Frequently stepping on a scale may be an acceptable practice for adults, but it can be disastrous for teens. Recent research in the U's School of Public Health found a strong correlation between frequent self-weighing and increased rates of binge eating, smoking, vomiting, and skipping meals among teenage girls. Further, girls who frequently weighed themselves were found to gain nearly twice as much weight in a five-year period as girls who did not. Researchers concluded that self-care strategies that focus on behavioral change, rather than weight, may be best for teens.

PROMISING STEM CELL FINDINGS

Researchers from the University of Minnesota Stem Cell Institute and Stanford University discovered that a type of adult stem cell can replace the bone marrow and regenerate the immune systems of mice. If the findings can be applied to humans, it could mean a new and more abundant supply of cells for bone marrow transplant patients. The cells, called multipotent adult progenitor cells, or MAPCs, can be extracted from bone marrow tissue and differentiated into other cell types, including liver, brain, and muscle. Up until the recent breakthrough, scientists have been unsuccessful in finding a way to reproduce the cells that are formed in the bone marrow.

In another stem cell discovery, researchers at the U's Center for Cardiovascular Repair have found a cell type in adult rat heart tissue that can make all types of heart cells. The researchers took tissue from adult rat hearts, added growth factors, and expanded them in a dish. The cells were able to generate all types of cardiac cells, such as those that constitute the left and right ventricles and blood vessels. The cells even beat in a laboratory dish, as more mature heart muscle cells will do. The discovery offers the hope that in the future, these cells could be harvested, expanded in the lab, and used to repair damaged heart muscle after a heart attack, or to grow a new blood vessel for use in bypass surgery.

—Edited by Cynthia Scott

The four-year graduation rate on the Twin Cities campus increased more than 8 percent in 2006, and five- and six-year rates also showed improvement. The four-year graduation rate climbed from 32.6 percent in 2004 to 40.7 percent. The five- and six-year rates in 2006 were 57.9 percent and 60.8 percent, respectively. New graduation rate goals, announced last October, call for a four-year rate of 60 percent, five-year rate of 75 percent, and six-year rate of 80 percent.

Target Corporation has made a gift of \$5 million to the University for three capital projects: expansion of the Weisman Art Museum, the Carlson School of Management's new undergraduate facility, and TCF Bank Stadium. The new addition to the Weisman Art Museum will expand exhibit and programming space, including what will be named the Target Studio for Creative Collaboration. Funds for the Carlson School will go toward the construction, now under way, of the Herbert M. Hanson, Jr., Hall, which will make it possible for the school to increase its undergraduate enrollment by 50 percent. Construction of TCF Bank Stadium is scheduled to begin this summer.

One of the world's highest honors in agriculture has gone to University Regents Professor Ronald Phillips (Ph.D. '67). Phillips, who teaches in the department of agronomy and plant genetics, is a co-winner with Professor Michel A.J. Georges of the University of Liege, Belgium, of the 2007 Wolf Prize in Agriculture. The honor was given for discoveries in genetics and genomics which lay the foundations for improvements in crop and livestock breeding. It carries a \$100,000 award and will be presented in Jerusalem on May 13.

The Board of Regents has approved revisions to the Student Conduct Code that expand the University's jurisdiction to include off-campus behavior. The code seeks to promote academic integrity, the safety and welfare of the campus community, and the orderly resolution of conflicts. Under the revisions, the code can be applied to off-campus conduct when the alleged conduct adversely affects a substantial University interest and either involves a criminal offense or indicates that the student may present a danger or threat to the health and safety of themselves or others. The revisions also include prohibitions against hazing and rioting. Possible sanctions for violations include restitution, withholding of diploma or degree, and revocation of admission or degree.

The University's fledgling Institute on the Environment, which is so new that it does not yet have bylaws or a physical space, has been awarded a \$300,000 contract to develop a comprehensive conservation and preservation plan for the state of Minnesota. More than 40 faculty members from 12 departments and eight colleges who are affiliated with the institute will embark on drafting a preliminary plan, which is scheduled for completion in June. The final plan is due in June 2008. The interdisciplinary Institute on the Environment was created to bring the University's wide-ranging environmental experts together to work on global environmental challenges.

Geography professor John Adams and urban studies program



Clearing the Air

University of Minnesota School of Public Health students and U officials in the health sciences met with state legislators at Smoke-Free Minnesota Day at the Capitol on January 30. Amanda Woodfield (right), a student in the public health administration and public policy program, gave study information that supports a statewide smoking ban to Representative Phyllis Kahn (D-Minneapolis). A recent statewide poll conducted by ClearWay Minnesota and the American Cancer Society found that 69 percent of Minnesotans support comprehensive smoke-free legislation.

director Judith Martin have been tapped to co-direct the new University Metropolitan Consortium, part of the University's larger urban agenda that includes working with other research universities to study urban issues nationally. The University has long-standing and deep connections to the state's rural communities but has not made similar inroads into urban and suburban communities, even though the state's population has become heavily urbanized. The interdisciplinary consortium will seek to coordinate and refocus the University's numerous centers and departments that work on urban issues.

The University will offer a summer bridge program for student athletes to help them make the transition into the academic and social rigors of campus life. That is one of several recommendations made by the Task Force on Academic Support and Performance for Student-Athletes that the University will implement in order to improve academic outcomes for student athletes. Other actions that will be taken include intensifying efforts to track, engage, and provide opportunities to former student athletes who left without graduating but have accumulated enough credit hours to make graduation within reach; expanding access to traditional majors and developing areas of emphasis that would build on student athletes' interests, such as sports marketing and sports journalism; and centralizing data collection of student athlete academic information to more effectively monitor student athlete performance. The task force, formed more than a year ago by President Bob Bruininks and Provost Thomas Sullivan, was co-chaired by Professors Mary Jo Kane, director of the department of kinesiology, and Perry Leo, associate department head in the department of aerospace engineering and mechanics.

—Cynthia Scott



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A Long Way Home

Deciding you want to adopt a baby is the easy part.



Over the past year, my wife and I have gradually let everyone know of our decision to adopt our first child. Most, of course, are overjoyed at the news. Some ask outright about infertility. Others ascribe noble intentions to our willingness to adopt, as if the choice were something other than a straightforward desire to start a family.

But that's really what it is. Amy and I are happily married. We have a house, a dog, two cats, and a rat; respectable careers; and a slowly growing nest egg. After dating three years, then tying the knot two years ago, we're ready for this most monumental of steps: raising a child.

Amy feels no compelling desire to give birth, and except for never wanting more than one biological child, I've always been entirely open on the means of creating a family. So adopting our first child was a no-brainer. Deciding we were finally ready to take the plunge, however, we came face-to-face with the sad fact that no matter where you adopt a child from, another family's tragedy is your gain. And that's not all. The adoption world isn't just colored by grief, but controversy and outright absurdity.

My dad's reaction to our adoption news, though he was ecstatic, is a good example. I've been told numerous times you just can't talk money with members of a previous generation, given that costs seem to defy translation. But after I made the mistake of telling him how much our international adoption was going to cost, his response, much to Amy's horror, was to ask if he could save us money by searching near his home in northern Idaho for a "pregnant, well-fed, 16-year-old preacher's daughter." He assured me there'd be plenty out there.

The sad truth is that my father's general assessment, absent some hyperbole, is correct. There's no shortage of children, here in the United States as elsewhere, in need of loving homes. (Not "forever homes," as some agency social workers are fond of oh-so-smarmily telling adoptive parents. "That's heaven," a churchgoing friend assures me.)

So why do many U.S. couples and the occasional daring single look abroad for babies? After all, adopting locally can often be cheaper, and some research suggests may even be better for children.

The answers aren't clear-cut. You could blame it on the "Angelina Jolie effect," much-talked-about in adoption circles. The swarm of media attention over the actor's adoption of children from Cambodia and Ethiopia has helped bring the topic to the forefront. Her private, overseas adoptions have also highlighted a significant choice every adoptive parent

faces: whether to pursue a private or an increasingly common "open" adoption.

A friend and his wife with three biological children and four adopted from within the United States purposely avoided choosing an agency that offers only open adoption, in which adoptive parents maintain some level

of communication with the biological parents. By utilizing an agency offering private adoptions, they avoided what my friend refers to as "renting" a child, not rearing one.

Amy and I have heard too many horror stories about open adoption to be comfortable with it. At one of many pre-adoption workshops held by our agency, an adoptive mother had the entire crowd of prospective parents on the edges of their seats as she described the emotional rollercoaster of one failed open adoption attempt. After she and her husband arranged for the adoption, paid stacks of legal and medical bills, and prepared their home for the arrival, the birth mother seemed to waver, hanging on to the newborn until the last day allowed by law. In fact, she hoped to extort the adoptive parents of thousands of dollars. Imagine the strength of will it took for the couple to walk away.

Of course, raising a child no matter his or her birth circumstance requires endless reserves of strength and fortitude. But as the friend with seven children points out, adopting a child takes tons more forethought than giving birth to one. Amy and I have not only had to think about—and discuss, ad nauseum—our motives for wanting to be parents, but other issues as well. This includes the elephant in the adoption world living room: infertility.

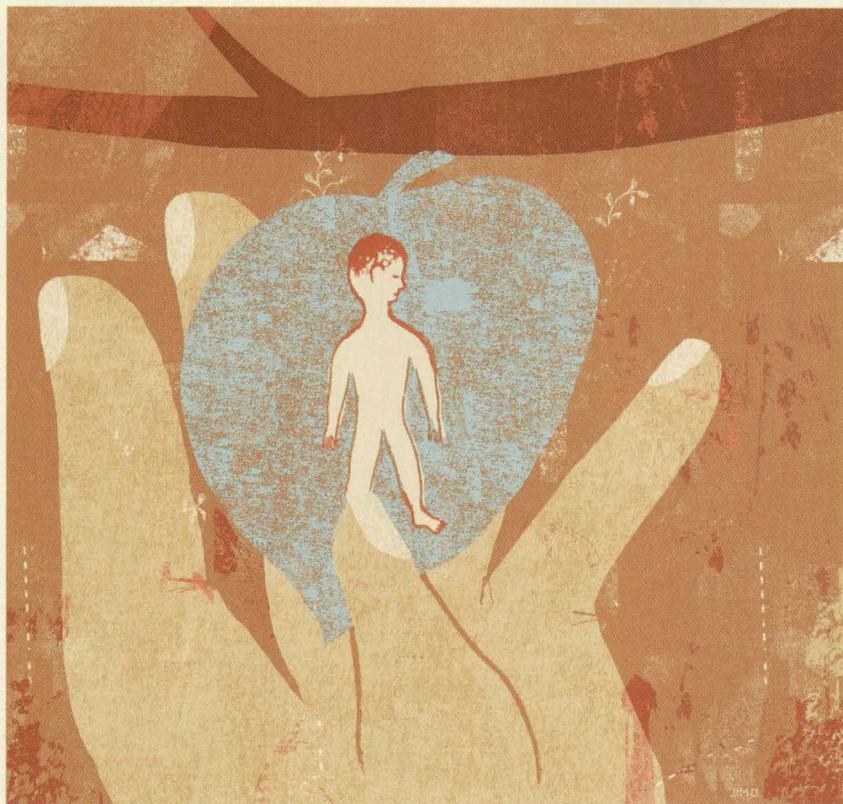
The sad reality is that most of us come to adoption through infertility. That's the reason our chosen adoption agency puts prospective parents through the emotional and intellectual wringer. Here's the first of dozens of questions on a home-study prep sheet given to us by our agency: "What is your experience with infertility and how have you resolved your grief over infertility?"

Amy and I might have an easier time answering this question than many adoptive parents since we don't yet know (or care) whether we're infertile. But other questions haven't proven so easy to answer. Thinking about the Reason Why you're adopting is just the tip of the iceberg, if perhaps the most important. There's also the How, Where, and How Much.

Globalization has pretty much given adoptive parents their choice of child by age, gender, ethnicity, country of origin, and

ESSAY BY SCOTT NICHOLS // ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES O'BRIEN

health condition. Think of it this way: Most any child stuck in an orphanage is going to be malnourished. But would you take a child with jaundice, webbed toes, or a club foot? A child born of incest or rape? A hyperactive child? A child missing a toe or arm or ear? What about albinism? Ichthyosis? Hydrocephalus with shunt?



Signing off on page after page of medical forms, it was hard for me not to feel as if I'm participating in a eugenics exercise. Forget my wife's hereditary likelihood for Alzheimer's disease or my genetic preponderance for diabetes, alcoholism, or skin cancer: If I want, I can choose a child so perfect he or she wouldn't even possess a little birthmark like the one my grandma tried to scrub off my leg when I was 5. Never in my life did I think my wife and I would argue over whether something as medically correctable as a cleft palate was grounds for rejecting a child.

Adoptive parents aren't the only ones doing the soul-searching. While our country with its disposable wealth might be one of the greatest importers of adopted children, many countries around the world are constantly closing their borders and then reopening them to various agencies as they re-evaluate their internal adoption policies. This might be frustrating for prospective parents, but anyone with empathy realizes it's for the best. If you think abortion or same-sex marriage are flash-point issues, just think about the water-cooler conversations we'd have if wealthier people in other nations began wholesale adoption of U.S. children.

One hint of how we might react is provided by a film-

maker in South Korea (the fourth-highest provider of babies to Americans) who made a film exposing the insatiable U.S. hunger for adopted babies for what it supposedly is: a way to satisfy our country's massive black-market need for body parts and organ tissue. The film was never released, whether due to government or societal pressure I don't know. But if our two countries' adoption flow were reversed, is there any doubt we'd dust off Rambo to save our babies?

My friend has a sobering spiel at the ready on how the cost of an adopted child depends largely on the shade of his or her skin, but I've thankfully seen some signs that this isn't always the case. While Russia was long known as one of the most expensive countries from which to adopt, our agency's fees for Russia are currently about \$16,000, compared with Guatemala's \$20,000.

A recent *New York Times* article points to one reason for such disparities: baby brokers. Guatemalans call them *jaladores*, middlemen who ply impoverished pregnant women and girls for their babies in exchange for medical reimbursement and meager cash compensation—if the middlemen aren't discovered and chased out of town first.

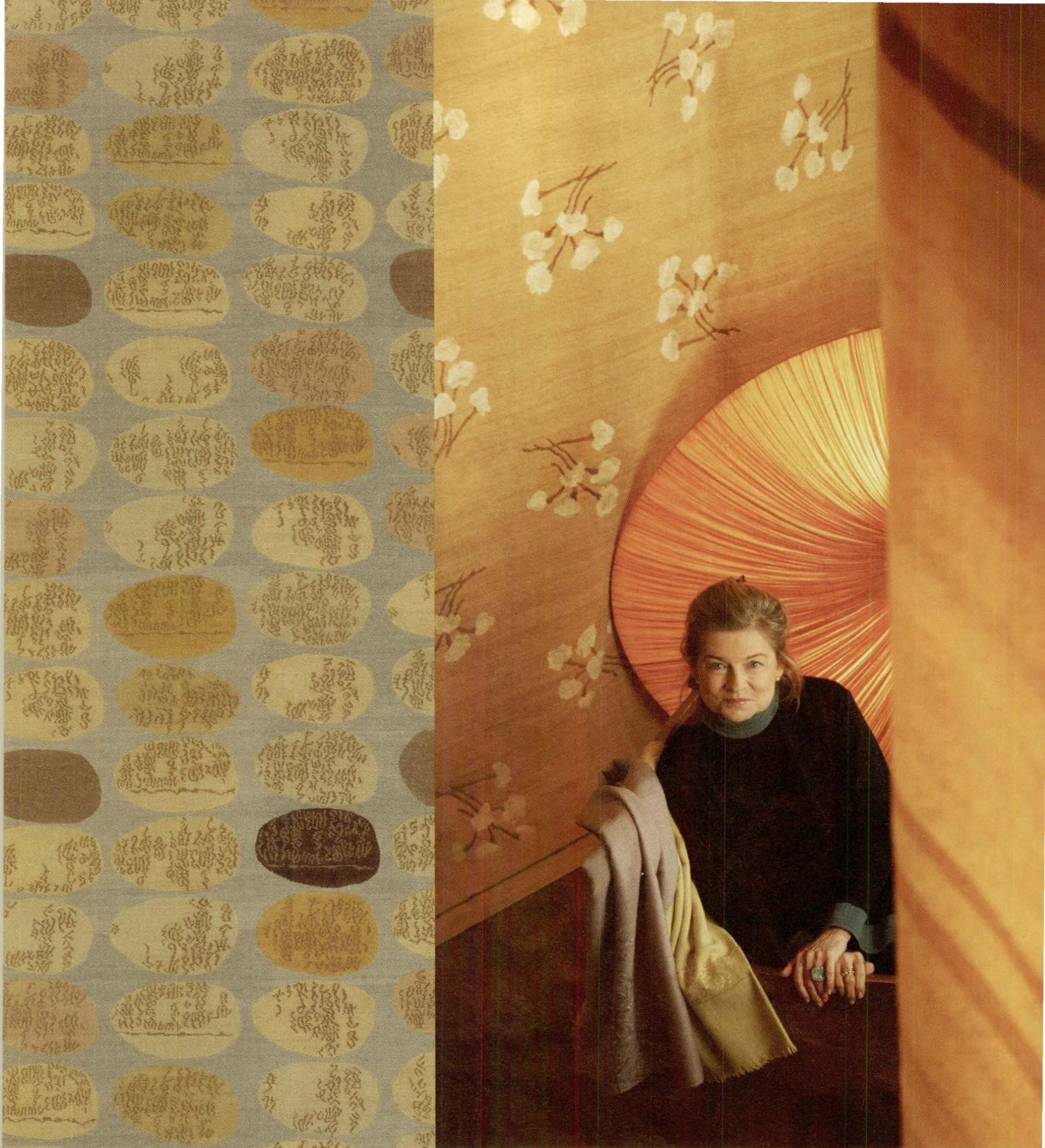
Thankfully my father's own homespun offer to be a *jalador* came over the phone, not giving my wife the opportunity to run him out of town. Months have now passed since his initial offer, and while it's becoming easier to picture my beloved little mystery child, acceptable health concerns and all,

I'm also realizing that it was dad's acceptance of our adoption news that I needed most.

His response showed me he had moved beyond his years-long push for me to supply him with a young, bustling genetic copy of himself. My father began to realize having a grandson or granddaughter not tied by blood has its benefits. For one, he might finally have a family member he can talk to about pro ball and Formula One racing (he swears that his sons' disdain is the fault of Mom's gene pool, not his).

So while my father eagerly awaits teaching his grandchild lessons on the environmental destructiveness of our species or the heartbreak that comes with devotion to the Minnesota Vikings, Amy and I look forward to providing a safe, loving home for our impending child. Not a forever home. But a home until the child is ready to strike out into adulthood as a true citizen of the world. A home he or she can return to for uncompromising love, acceptance, and support. Our home. ■

Scott Nichols (B.A. '95) is editor of the East Side Review in St. Paul. He is the proud son of Jack Nichols (B.A. '62, M.A. '67) and grandson of Ralph Nichols, late emeritus professor of communications at the University.



University alumna Stephanie Odegard always longed to travel and to help people. Today she designs and manufactures exquisite Tibetan carpets while working to eradicate her industry's darker side: child labor.

Weaving Career and Conscience



Luxurious, handcrafted Tibetan rugs hang from the walls and cover the floors of the Michael Sydney showroom in the downtown Minneapolis warehouse district. Their quiet, minimalist designs and subdued colors draw a visitor deeper inside the two-story brick space. The plush carpets evoke elegance, wealth, and exclusivity; grazing the fingers across the silky wool, plunging them deep into the pile, one struggles to name this sensation. It can be only one thing: guilty pleasure.

Stephanie Odegard (B.A. '69) understands this feeling—save for the guilt. The founder, CEO, and chief designer of Odegard, Inc., dug her own hands deep into the Oriental carpet industry two decades ago and wove a new path through it, becoming

one of the industry's most celebrated designers.

New York-based Odegard, Inc., now employs more than 10,000 carpet workers in Nepal at four manufacturing sites. The company has 70 dealers and showrooms in six U.S. cities, including Michael Sydney in Minneapolis, and in Milan, London, and Zurich. Odegard maintains a hands-on relationship with all parts of the business, drawing new carpet ideas on a sketch pad as she jets around the globe, overseeing production in Nepal, and designing a new line of home accessories, including India-influenced hand-carved marble furniture.

Her business acumen, honed on projects around the world, has helped to ensure the survival of indigenous crafts and to promote sustainable economic development. A resolute opponent of child labor, Odegard was the first American rug importer to join the RugMark Foundation, a nonprofit organization of manufacturers and dealers seeking to end child labor in the rug industry. She is its biggest U.S. contributor and most high-profile advocate.

An estimated 300,000 children work illegally in the rug industry in India, Pakistan, and Nepal. Many are kidnapped or sold into debt bondage to work 15-hour days in unhealthy and unsafe conditions. RugMark inspects manufacturing sites and certifies rugs that were made without child labor. Funded by its member importers and retailers, it also helps rehabilitate and educate former child laborers.

Lack of education perpetuates the poverty that fuels the child labor industry, Odegard explains. "Those with an education have a greater degree of participation in and control over the world around them. This is how social development takes root and how lasting change is created."

Growing up in Minneapolis, Odegard, then Stephanie Bundul, admired the missionaries she learned about in her church. "I just wanted to go overseas," she says. "I knew those people got to go to Africa and help people."

At the University of Minnesota Odegard studied humanities. Upon graduating, she landed a job at Dayton-Hudson Corporation, where she learned trend forecasting, merchandising, and inventory management. After four years, she says, "I just started to feel like there was more I wanted to do with my life and now was the time to do it."

She and her husband, Mark Odegard, moved to Grand Marais, Minnesota, and opened a yarn shop where she taught classes in needlepoint, knitting, and weaving. But when friends began bringing home stories from their volunteer missions abroad, Odegard convinced her husband to join the Peace Corps with her.

With her background in merchandising, the Peace Corps sent Odegard to Fiji to help develop an export market for handicrafts. Once she began traveling the country's 300-plus islands, however, she discovered the craft industry was little more than tourist trinkets. The islands' truly indigenous crafts—mats made from pandanas leaves, dyed cloth from pounded mulberry bark, and carved war clubs and cannibal forks—were discouraged by missionaries and dying out.

"That's when I started to learn that although missionaries probably do a lot of good in many places, they can also bring about a lot of change that is not necessar-

BY J. TROUT LOWEN // PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUINENBURG



Top to bottom: A worker ties bales of wool shorn from long-haired sheep that graze in the Tibetan highlands.

Odegard helped rug manufacturers develop improved vegetable dyes.

A craftswoman on a loom makes a carpet with the Rosalia design.

Stephanie Odegard (second from right) examines the wares of rug suppliers.

ily totally resulting in good,” Odegard says.

With about \$50 of her own money, Odegard began purchasing handcrafted items and selling them to other travelers. Then a small grant from the Fijian government enabled her to open a store, and the growing market encouraged young people to learn traditional crafts. Five years later, the crafts industry was thriving, in large part due to Odegard’s efforts; the store Odegard founded still exists, she says, and artisans trained there have gone on to open their own shops.

Odegard’s marriage ended after four years. But she left Fiji in 1981 with a valuable lesson. “I learned that this is the way to put money into poor people’s hands. To ask them to make something they’re proud of and can relate to,” she says. “Companies and aid organizations, I’d seen it all over the world, they’d give up and say, ‘These people don’t understand. They drink.’”

“What I was doing nobody was rejecting. Nobody was taking the money and drinking it away. . . . [They] put money back into their homes, to building their own quality of life, their children’s education. So I decided this [sustainable development] was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.”

A few months later, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization recruited Odegard for a project in Jamaica. Odegard helped set up stores called Things Jamaican and helped develop an outdoor marketplace in the courtyard of Kingston’s Devon House, one of the country’s most well-known cultural landmarks. Each shop carried a theme of Things Jamaican, such as ice cream or furniture. With Odegard’s help, Things Jamaican even found an American market at Macy’s San Francisco store.

After three years, Odegard’s plans to move back to the United States were put on hold when the World Bank offered her a position developing the wool import industry in Nepal. Everything she’d learned about socially responsible economic development, merchandising, and design was about to come together in the Katmandu Valley.

Located high on the southern slopes of the Himalayas, Katmandu is the center of Nepal’s carpet industry. Commercial carpet manufacturing began there in the 1960s with the influx of Tibetan refugees after China annexed Tibet in 1959.

But by the 1980s, weavers in Nepal were struggling to meet demand because they

couldn’t get enough wool. The carpets are woven with wool imported from Tibet. Sheep that graze in the Tibetan highlands have exceptionally long hair with a high lanolin content that gives it a silky sheen and great durability.

Odegard arrived in Nepal in 1986 after a three-month stop in New York to learn about the rug industry. Her job would be to help stabilize and expand the market for wool imports to support the growing carpet manufacturing industry. “All the wool was [imported] on a barter system with Tibet and it was corrupt,” she explains.

Odegard worked with Nepalese, Tibetan, and Chinese officials to put wool on general open trade, moving it to a cash system and opening the door for greater imports. She also began to work with manufacturers directly to develop improved vegetable dyes and more environmentally friendly manufacturing processes. In 1987, after helping to broker a new trade agreement on wool, Odegard went into business for herself, eager to put to work all of the social and economic development principles she’d been building on for the past decade.

She also had a design epiphany that would eventually make her carpets some of the most prized in the United States and Europe. “I started looking at those rugs and thinking if I took away the borders and all of the [busy patterns] that are overlaying this beautiful weaving and the wool, I’d like them,” she says. “So that’s what I did, and I sort of turned a hand-knotted oriental design into more of a fabric design.”

Her design aesthetic changed the industry. Before Odegard came along, it was impossible to find a handmade rug in a contemporary design. She created and developed the market for contemporary, high-end Tibetan carpets, leading *House & Garden* to describe her as “a favorite of the world’s most sought-after interior designers.” Odegard’s rugs now grace the floors at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Chambers Hotel in New York, and the homes of celebrities, including actress Julianne Moore.

“It’s just fascinating to see how she’s opened the doors, essentially, to people taking inspiration from all different sources,” says Gary Coles-Christensen, president of G. Coles-Christensen, Ltd., an oriental rug retail store in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and co-chairman of RugMark USA. Odegard’s designs draw from nature, art, and architecture and pull in

elements from designs used in traditional Indian dhurries and Japanese kimonos.

One thing that set Odegard's rugs apart was quality. She began working with Tibetan weavers in Nepal whose rugs used 100 knots per square inch, about 40 knots more than conventional rugs and a quality that most importers thought wasn't commercially viable. But Odegard saw an opportunity to make rugs that would appeal to a high-end market. She invested everything she had, about \$20,000, in manufacturing her own collection and then shipped the rugs back to the United States where she set up a showroom in her one-bedroom Manhattan apartment.

"And of course, nobody came," she recalls wryly. Those who did were skeptical. The work was good, they admitted, but the designs were too minimal to appeal to most buyers. Eventually, through sheer doggedness, she sold all of her collection, along with the textiles and Indian dhurries she'd collected. "Everything I could, just to stay alive," she says. "I stuck with it somehow, even though I didn't have any customers."

Ultimately, she found an established importer willing to work with her and then a German partner. Her business grew, and as it did, she began to tell people the story of the Tibetan weavers and the rich, luxurious quality of the 100-knot process, a practice that is now becoming an industry standard.

Creating a demand for high-priced modern hand-knotted carpets, Odegard was also able to improve conditions for carpet workers. In Nepal, employees and their families are provided health care, one of her suppliers has a day care and a school on the premises, and another is reducing air pollution with the only smoke-free boiler in Katmandu.

Lynn Thomas, former executive director of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, which operates Sankhu-Palubari Community School outside Katmandu, visited one of Odegard's facilities in February 2006 and met many of the workers there. "Everything was very high quality in terms of cleanliness and the way it's laid out. . . . It's a high standard, certainly in Nepal terms."

While Odegard's designs have won

national awards, including *House & Garden's* Best of the Best in 2004 and 2005, she has earned almost as much recognition for her work on behalf of RugMark, speaking out against child labor.

"She was, if you will, the first penguin off the ice," says Cindi Janetzko, acting director for RugMark North America. "She jumped first and said, 'Yes, I'm going to be certified and it's the right thing to do.'"

Odegard first became aware of the child labor issue in Nepal in the early 1990s, when U.S. Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa sponsored a bill to require all imports to be free of child labor. A member of the Oriental Rug Importers Association child labor committee, Odegard was surprised that the organization wanted to fight the bill. "I was saying, 'Why shouldn't we tell them we don't have child labor, because we don't have child labor?'"

She investigated and found that child labor had crept into Nepal carpet industry as the demand for labor grew. That's when she joined RugMark. "I wanted to help people," she says simply. Odegard thought everyone else would, too, but her efforts to enlist other importers often got a cold reception. "First of all, they don't think it's important, and they don't want to ask questions. . . . They make all kinds of excuses."

That attitude persists, Coles-Christensen says. "There's this irrational, superstitious belief that by bringing attention to it you're actually going to drive away buyers." But, he says, the reverse has proven true. "Everybody who's gotten involved with it, whether it's marketing partners or importers, they've just seen an exponential increase in their business."

Thanks largely to its certification and inspection program, RugMark estimates that since 1995 the use of child labor in Nepal's carpet industry has dropped from 11 percent to 3 percent. While other reasons may account for the wild success of those businesses that do not use child labor, admits Coles-Christensen, "I truly believe that when you're doing the right thing, you get rewarded for that." ■

J. Trout Lowen (B.A. '89) is a freelance writer and editor living in Minneapolis.

The Dark Side of Handmade Rugs

What is RugMark?

Founded in India in 1994 by a coalition of Indian and German partners, RugMark is an international nonprofit organization that certifies its members' facilities do not use



child labor. Inspectors make unannounced visits, and each carpet produced receives a distinctive blue-and-red label with a number that identifies the manufacturer and the

loom it was made on. RugMark USA has 40 members who represent about 2 percent of the U.S. market.

How does RugMark work?

RugMark importers and retailers pay 1.75 percent of the import value of each rug to the foundation. Sixty percent of that money goes back to the producer country to support education and rehabilitation programs for rescued child workers. The remainder is used to help educate consumers about RugMark and child labor.

Child workers found by RugMark inspectors are taken out of factories and offered rehabilitation, education, and job placement. RugMark runs 13 schools for former child laborers and tries to reunite children with their families by subsidizing the cost of school fees, uniforms, and books. In 2005, more than 3,500 former child laborers in Nepal, India, and Pakistan were enrolled in RugMark-sponsored education programs and RugMark inspectors rescued 205 children from illegal servitude.

What can consumers do to help end child labor in the rug industry?

If you're purchasing a hand-knotted Oriental rug, look for the RugMark label on the back. If you're working with an interior designer, specify that you want a rug that was made without child labor. Ask rug retailers if their products are made with child labor. Tell your friends about child labor in the rug industry. For more information, visit www.rugmark.org or www.ilo.org.



Children eat breakfast at a RugMark-sponsored day care.

Petrograd 1916

When you are at war and you are not fighting it can be a happy time. When you are an officer in the finest regiment in the empire in an excellent hospital far from the battle it can be a happy time indeed.

The hospital is part of Smolny. The food is of the highest quality. Eggs that are fresh and bread that is white. This is almost as good as the summer 1903. The manila paper from America made me feel as if I was on an adventure in South Africa whenever I put pen to it. I imagined I was running from the Boers or searching for some marvelous obscure treasure. Now what I write are dispatches for barely literate adjutants who will not read them past the third sentence.

Dr. Brizakov says the right leg may heal and strengthen to the point where I could stroll along Fontanka with almost no limp at all. I asked him about dancing. "Let us speak of that at a later date."



When we were called up I was working on a particularly dark poem—black imagery on every line. Sasha, that is, Lieutenant A.E. Palchikov, who is gone now, came into the barracks and announced, "We will have Wilhelm in St. Helena within the year!" His eyes were so bright when he said that. He grabbed my arm for emphasis, spilling ink across the page. I must not have been paying enough attention to his proclamation. It has been two years now and the Germans and the Austrians are still on our soil. And the kaiser is still in Berlin, the swine.

Most of the nurses here are either students or recent graduates of Smolny. My primary nurse is a darling. Zhennya is well-educated, of course, and . . . sunny in her outlook. Yevgenia Vadimovna (Zhennya) writes a little. Would I take a look sometime? I wonder what flows from her pen. No black roses in champagne. No. She is much too positivist for that. However, I could be wrong. She could be another Akhmatova underneath that smile. The other day, the first words she said to me were:

The horizon is on fire

But I am afraid you will change your form.

I was suitably impressed—would not have guessed her a symbolist. "Unexpected Joy" sounds better coming out of your mouth than Blok himself."



**The winning
entry in *Minnesota*
magazine's eighth
annual fiction
contest.**

By Zig Schuessler

ILLUSTRATION BY
PENELOPE DULLAGHAN



"How is my eagle this morning?" Zhennya is a constant source of warmth. It is difficult to meet her gaze.

I regarded the breakfast on the tray before me. "My dear, what feast is this? You are truly an emissary from the gods!"

Flustered only for a moment she responded, "Captain Andreev, you are being too familiar!" She very lightly patted my hand and left the room.

I am certain her shoulders would look magnificent bare. She is of the blood. I could have one of my orderlies approach her parents. Is that really necessary these days? I did not even know if they were alive. She does not seem to be taken, but that may be her natural coquetry.

We could go dancing. Ekh, that may never happen. At the very least I could lean against the wall and look elegant in my elk-skin breeches. They are not as tight as they were before the war. Since I am bed-ridden, Zhennya has me at a disadvantage. She always sees me reclining, except when we are doing my standing exercises.

If I could sit a horse again—that would be heaven. Now I will have to train another one. Filka was a fine animal. She could anticipate my moves after only a month. That is how it seems now, looking back.



In my mind I see the poplars lining the avenue from the main gate to the front door of the old house in Kulikovsk. There are so many open fields there to wander across. I always wish there were more trees, more mystery, more darkness—even danger! This is a boy's dream. That estate and all the peasants around will look to me someday. Grandfather had been a kind master so when Alexander proclaimed their liberty very little changed. This is how my father told me the tale. He, himself, was barely more than an infant at the time of liberation.

So, those peasant souls back home will not be mine in the legal sense in any case. I could sell the land though, and set myself up in a middling apartment overlooking one of the canals in Peter. With the help of Aunt Sonya, I am sure getting my own publishing house off the ground would not be difficult at all. Oh, to have my work and the pieces of some of my closest comrades in print! It would look exactly as I wanted it. Some discreet woodcuts could be commissioned to embellish the words. Vanity, yes, but it would be a gloriously rich piece of work! All would recognize its beauty in an instant.



While I am here I have the chance to converse with both Zhennya and Anyuta. Anyuta is another of the nurses here. She could not be considered literate, but she does occasionally make the cutting observation. She is a dear soul. Thousands like her at home, thousands.

My mind wanders to another time, near the beginning of the war. One of my fellow officers, Dmitri Alexeiich, put his hand on my shoulder one day. We were temporarily attached to headquarters then. (I saw Nicholas a few times. Once we even exchanged pleasantries—a very courteous man. In my mind I did not feel as if I was talking to an autocrat at all, and yet my heart pounded.)

"Vasili Antonich, be a true friend and lend me 500 rubles!" Dmitri was breathing hard. "I will repay you as soon as my parents send that note of credit. I am weak I know. On my word and by St. Michael I will never ask you for money again." I could not respond to the desperation in his eyes any other way except to acquiesce to his plea. Our friendship did not live long after. I cannot even recall if he ever did pay me back the 500 rubles.

On the field of battle or honor we officers show remarkable discipline and strength of character. Why do we not also display those virtues off the field? Some old general in my head tells me, "It is war, my boy! Were it not for that, why, why—" here, he splutters through his mustache, "they would be the most excellent fellows in every way." Well, your honor, there would be some other reason if we were at peace—is it not so?

So many are gone now, I have not seen a single member of my graduating class in six months. God grant them eternal glory if they are among the fallen.

Another officer, Milyutin, was speaking to me just two months ago, before I was wounded, about his plans for the future. It must be said that Milyutin has a questionable background, promoted from the ranks. I believe his father keeps a shop somewhere on the ring in Moscow. He has read a book or two so I gave him half an ear.

"Vasili Antonich, after the war you must come with me to California. There is a large Russian contingent in San Francisco still. They are just Cossacks, I know, but some have developed more gentle habits, I have heard. They must live alongside those other Americans, everyone a citizen of the republic. Any thinking man can see the game is up here."

He was overreaching himself. Does he expect me to make introductions for him—is that where this is leading? And what he is saying is treasonous; though I must admit I have occasionally thought something similar myself. Milyutin did not sense my true reaction to his line of reasoning and continued.

"We could make a dash for Vladivostok, and from there by boat to San Francisco. It is a beautiful name for a city."

I kept my tone light. "And, how again, will we make it to Vladivostok? Ask permission for an extended leave 'back home' to the Far East? We will slip along the Chinese border unhindered to the Pacific. Excellent plan! So easy, no one will notice that we have gone missing, I am sure."

Milyutin smiled, "Really, Antonich—"

I cut him off, "To whom have you sworn an oath of fealty?"

"To the tsar, of course, but—"

"Silence! You and I shall not betray our sovereign unless he releases us from that oath. Is that clear? Are we not the tsar's own guards?"

"Yes, your honor!" Milyutin, under the heat of my interrogation, forgot he was also an officer and addressed me as his superior. Still forgetting our roughly equal status (at least from a strictly military standpoint) he saluted, pivoted smartly, and strode out of my tent.

Why be loyal to a sovereign when the country is falling apart around you—when that loyalty's cost is certain death? This is not an agreement among gentlemen. This is not some



It is the morning of another day. White light pours through the window to the right of my bed. The light blends into the pale blue walls of my room to create a sense of being borne upon a cloud. I even forget the injured leg for a moment or two. Angels attend to my every need. It is truly of another world, this middle existence.

Serbian adventure that amuses the ladies in the salon. There is no honor on either side anymore. It is just butchery. None of us has a sporting chance. My body may heal, but when I look into my soul there is mostly darkness. Thank God for Zhennya.

Perhaps I should volunteer to lead the charge in our next attack. Die a hero. "He wasn't such a dandy after all!" I can hear them say at my funeral.



I attended a ball at the Winter Palace before the war. Nearly everything is, 'before the war,' when I search my memory. This war is destroying my present. At the ball there was a woman, Anna Mikhailovna. At first I was only dimly aware of her function at court. She was, in fact, one of the empress's personal retainers. Parents were from Kharkov. A Ukrainian! Anna Mikhailovna was higher in station than my own person and yet she consented to dance with me.

One of the things I remember about that evening was the butter amber necklace she wore. This is something the wife of a merchant would wear, truly, but on her it looked inspired. The warm yellow against her pale skin arrested the attention of any male within eyeshot. And then there was the dark of her eyes—infinately retreating before me. I wanted very much to know what exactly was there. What are you feeling, dark and beautiful eyes? Now I am Chaliapin! When asked why the modest choice of amber rather than the diamonds or rubies that must certainly be available to her she honored me with the smallest of smiles. Now she is probably the mistress of one of the grand dukes or some general. She would be worthy of that role.

Although my family goes back to Rurik, the tsarina did not approve of our connection. At least I found out that I could fly that high, however briefly. And now there is Zhennya. As I said earlier, she is of the blood, so, no barrier there. Capable of intelligent discourse, that is another plus. Must think about this more.



It is the morning of another day. White light pours through the window to the right of my bed. The light blends into the pale blue walls of my room to create a sense of being borne upon a cloud. I even forget the injured leg for a moment or two. Angels attend to my every need. It is truly of another world, this middle existence.

Zhennya has declared her love to me. I believe it was real and I did not dream it, but now as I stare into the white and the blue I am not so sure.

It started out quite prosaically. It was late morning.

"My dear captain, let me cut the veal for you. It is your leg that needs to be stronger, not your arms!" Something was

strange in the tone of her voice when she said "your arms." It went up more than half an octave. Zhennya had never offered to cut my meat before.

She walked over to the side of my bed. I looked at her as she came closer. She did not look down, but met my astonished gaze. She turned towards me, rather than the still hot veal before me on the tray. She was only inches from my face.

"I love you, Vasili Antonovich. Ti . . . odnoi!" (You . . . alone!) Then as she ran from the room, she made an odd bird-like noise in the back of her throat. For a moment I looked toward the window, thinking that a dove was there. Unfortunately I could not run after her, my body still too weak. Come now, Vasili, be a gentleman, declare your love in turn! My heart was telling me to cry it out to her, but she was already 20 steps down the hall. Must not let the other nurses think I am in pain.



Why do we not bring that grand duke back who was exiled to Central Asia? Nicholas Constantinovich, no one talks about him above a whisper. He gave money to those students who assassinated his uncle. None of the Romanovs would accept him. His perspective on the autocracy would be unique. He did well on the field of battle and is considered something of a scientist. Well-loved by the "broad mass of the people." The other Romanovs? Hmm, they would reject him out of hand. Perhaps we need a new ruling house. He could be the man to keep the Duma in order and quiescent. I would listen to him. How was he to know those students were going to finally kill the tsar? What was it, the eighth attempt?



There is not much to do in a hospital when you cannot walk more than half of a step. A decent pen and good paper help alleviate the situation, of course. I do not want to be a burden to either Zhennya or Anyuta, even though I am their charge. When will this leg heal? Both the devil and God know, I do not. When was the last time I prayed or attended holy services? Months. It is difficult to pray. My mind will not let my supplications rise upward. The witless peasants under my command go forward to die. What can I do? Send them home to their villages? It would not go unnoticed. The poor fools would be shot for desertion. Then they would come for me.

This would be another "betrayal" of my bloodline. Father would lose his temper in a most disagreeable manner—if he were alive today and could read my thoughts. He is lucky to have gone to heaven and not seen what has become of the motherland. Although he is not here I can hear him responding to my treasonous musings. "Are you crazy? Do you want another 1789?"

We will eventually have a constitutional monarchy, but first there will be much shouting. Remove the fetters from the Duma

and it will rise to the occasion. You can have either tyranny or mob rule. The periods of mob rule are brief because the people want stability and order. God, let us find a middle path. Let the Duma be a bulwark against both the mass of the people and another Alexander III. I must believe it will happen.

I will ride a horse again. Another tsar will be on the throne—one more worthy. Why did Paul decree that no woman could sit there? Elizabeth was the best of them all. I believe there was not a single execution in her reign. And yet even were she to rise from the grave she could not produce more bullets from her fingers. She couldn't move them to the front faster. She would not have the heart to retire the

incompetent generals. Perhaps she would send the very worst ones back to their estates and promote a few of the best officers, such as myself. . . .



Who will die today? Zakhar? Matvei? Yermolai? They are all good men. Each time one of them dies something in me goes with them. Yes, I am worth 10 of them as far as value to the motherland, but they are Christian souls everyone, nonetheless. Without the smile and encouragement of Zhennya there would be little reason to go on. Her warmth restores me. ■

About the Contest and Its Winner

Zig Schuessler (B.A. '98) earned a degree in Russian language and literature from the University of Minnesota after 22 years of starts and stops as a college student. He's also taken classes at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis and says he is "forever grateful to that kind angel there, Deborah Keenan," a poet and visiting professor at the University this school year.

Schuessler, who is a customer and sales support representative at Imation Corporation in Oakdale, Minnesota, says he had a dream a few years ago in which he was sitting in a hospital bed writing in Russian. "So I started writing about it," he says. "Petrograd 1916' is the beginning of a work that

keeps growing." A lover of history, he is also working on a story about the Ottoman Empire and a science fiction piece, the introduction to which won second place in Brewberry's Winter Writing Contest in 2003. "Petrograd 1916" is his first story to be published.

Minnesota magazine's annual fiction contest is open to all University of Minnesota students and alumni. An independent judge selects the winner from a group of finalists culled by the editorial staff. The winning entry is published in the magazine and online and its author is awarded a \$1,500 cash prize. Watch *Minnesota* for guidelines for next year's contest, or visit www.alumni.umn.edu/fiction.

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U'RE HIRED!



More than 6,000 students on the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus are expected to graduate this spring, many of them entering the job market full time for the first time. The process can be intimidating, but the University career centers offer many resources to help students and new graduates take the first steps. Here is a sampling.

Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

Writing a Résumé

Your résumé is your first impression on a potential employer, so take time and care in crafting this important document.

- A typical employer spends just 20 seconds with a résumé. Make yours worth a longer look by carefully choosing quality paper, appropriate fonts, and good organization and design.
- Try to keep your résumé to one page.
- Include the highlights of your experiences, skills, and talents. Don't include every detail of your life.
- Don't include salary information or expectations, personal details, or photographs with your résumé.
- Job references should not be part of the résumé itself but provided on a separate sheet of paper. Some employers will request references along with the résumé, others will ask for them if an interview leads to an offer.
- Revise your résumé for each position application, expanding on points related to the position and condensing the less relevant information.
- Ask several people to proofread and critique your résumé.
- Never lie or exaggerate; it could cost you a job or your reputation.

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Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

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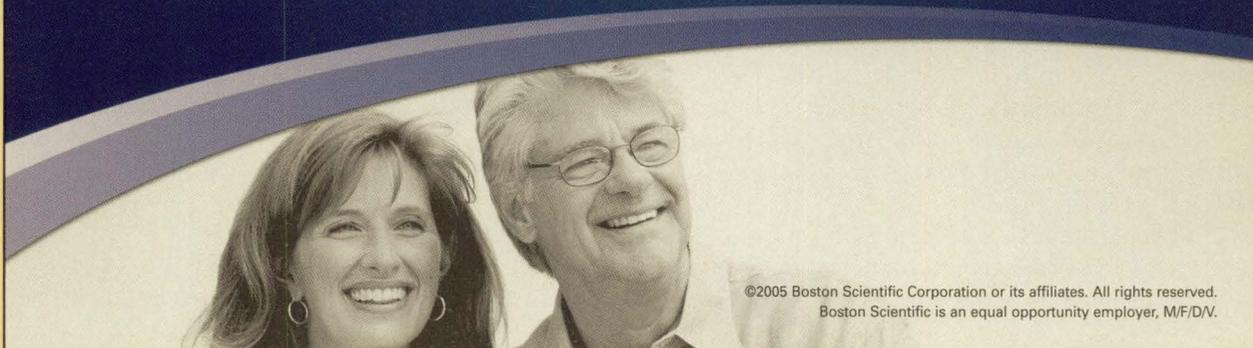


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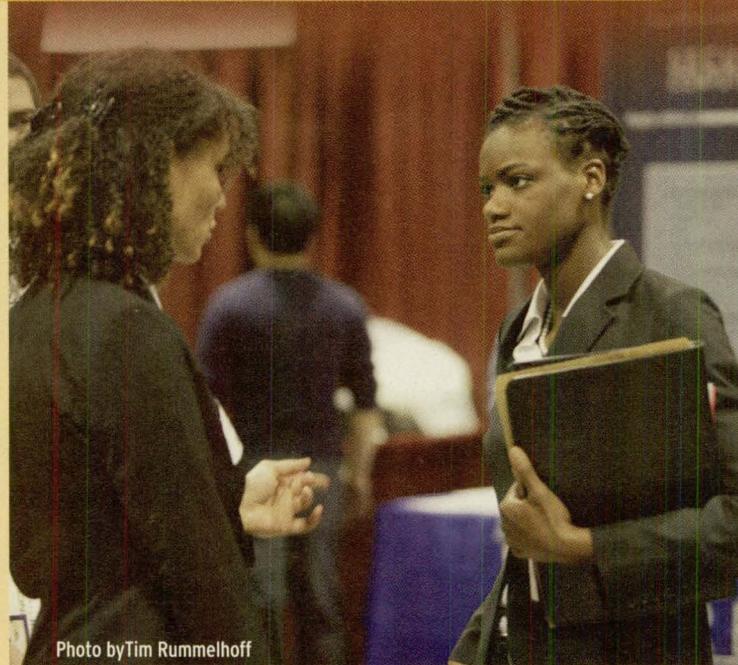
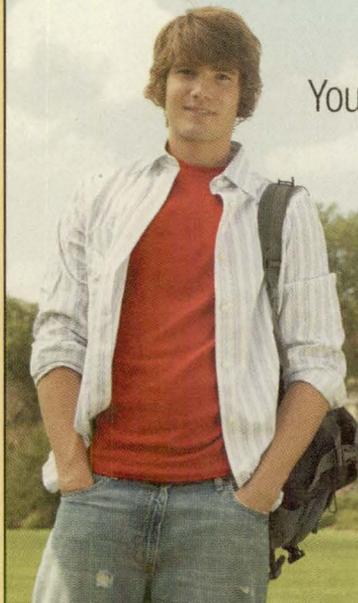


Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

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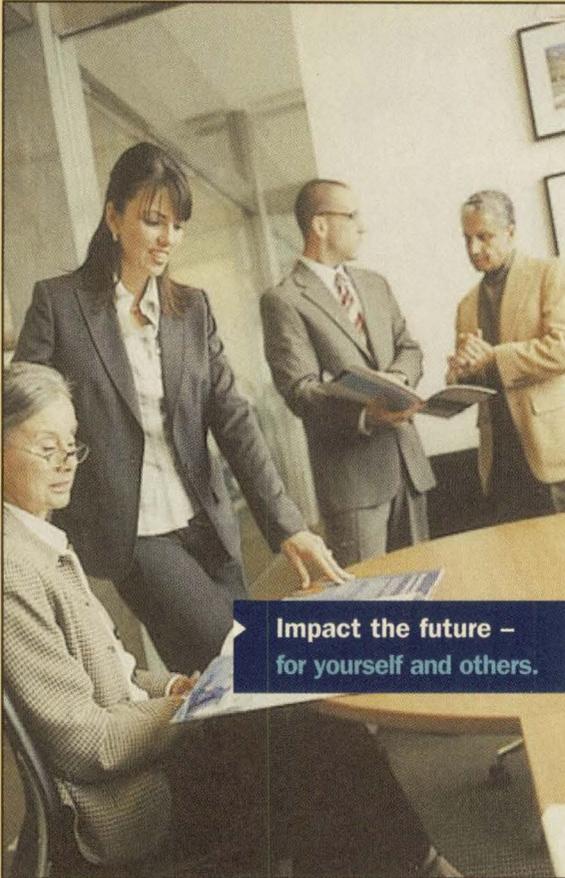
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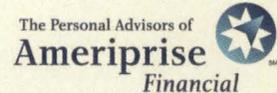
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For All of Its Flaws

By the 1930s, Jewish students were active in almost every aspect of campus life at the University of Minnesota. It would be untrue, however, to suggest that Jews were universally welcomed. As the decade progressed, the rise of blatant and virulent anti-Semitism, so evident and deeply disturbing in Europe, had its adherents in Minnesota.

THIS IS THE **SECOND** IN A TWO-PART HISTORY.

Despite the global turmoil in the years prior to World War II, the University of Minnesota provided most of its Jewish students the opportunity to lead a pleasurable college life, leaving ample room for some of the more placid traditions of being a student. Such as taking a moment to suggest to an overly concerned parent that she butt out of your social life. 🌸 “You asked who Ann Wenzel was, was she Jewish, and why didn’t I take Edna Friedman’s friend,” Donald Frankel (B.S. ’39) writes with a hint of peevishness to his mother, Irene Page Frankel. “I answered in the last letter that Ann is not Jewish and that she *is* Friedman’s friend.”

Donald was the son of Hiram Frankel (J.D. ’05) of St. Paul, one of the first Jews to graduate from the University of Minnesota’s College of Law, a past president of the Law School Alumni Association, and the first Jewish member of the board of directors of the General Alumni Association. Hiram had passed away by the time his son enrolled as a student at the U in the mid-1930s, but the young man’s mother kept close tabs on Donald, who would soon become an aeronautical engineer and serve in England at the start of World War II as an inspector of Curtiss aircraft. Some of the correspondence between mother and son is in the Minnesota Historical Society’s collection.

Donald Frankel’s letters suggest a level of comfort and ease with his place at the U, befitting a second-generation Minnesota student. They also reveal the importance of his Jewish identity and give a sense of its day-to-day meaning. For Jew-

ish students at the U, the crisis in Europe, assimilation pressures versus traditional Jewish values, and seders at the Menorah Society all mixed with term papers, money issues, and watching Golden Gopher football on Saturday afternoons.

There were distinctions, however. In another letter to his mother, Frankel makes reference to a local murder case, which is rumored to involve the Minneapolis gangster Kid Cann. “My coach did say something about Kid Cann,” Frankel writes. “He said, ‘I don’t understand why men like Kid Cann and Leopold and Loeb are that way as most Jewish families are very fine and bring their children up very well.’”

Moments of casual anti-Semitism were familiar to Jewish students at the U; so, too, was institutional prejudice. Though Frankel had a pretty full life on campus, with opportunities to join University organizations and affiliated groups, including a growing number of Jewish fraternities, the Greek system at the U was largely segregated by race and religion and would remain so into the 1950s. In fact, a survey conducted by the U in the late 1940s found that more than 30 fraternities and sororities banned “Hebrews” from acceptance. The University was reluctant to enforce change without a consensus approach that included other colleges and universities across the nation, which were beset by the same practices.

No meaningful challenge to anti-Semitism was common practice at the U. For example, until the late 1940s, when

BY TIM BRADY



Edward Nicholson (pictured in 1928), the first dean of students at the University, kept notes on leftist organizations and students, most of them Jewish, and reported on their activities to the FBI and right-wing strategists.

more University housing was made available on campus, Jewish students were limited by anti-Semitic boarding policies practiced by individual homeowners. Never mind that the University kept lists of approved boarding houses for its students and could have put the screws to discriminatory boarders by simply taking their names off the list.

Quota systems restricting Jewish students and faculty seemed to govern certain colleges and departments within the University, and Jews were discouraged from other educational opportunities by suggestions that their expertise in those fields wouldn't be welcome in the world. But the idea that the University might be complicit in societal anti-Semitism was a hard notion for the administration to grasp. A 1939 note from the director of the University's employment bureau, which oversaw campus jobs and career opportunities, to University Dean Malcolm Willey described why "the agency is not in a position to dictate when certain qualifications are established by the employer. There are certain departments in the University that have set up definite racial qualifications for candidates for their jobs," wrote Dorothy Johnson. "Many more employers outside the University have done so. The Jewish problem has always been a difficult one in the Employment Bureau, and we have made every effort to place these people, even to the extent many times of personally soliciting jobs for them."

The U also pled innocent to charges of maintaining quotas detrimental to Jewish students. In one instance, the U implied that systems it used to count Jewish students were not meant to limit numbers, but instead were designed to offer equitability. When the national offices of B'nai B'rith charged the University with putting a cap on the number of Jewish



After graduating in 1939, Donald Frankel, the son of one of the first Jewish students to earn a law degree from the U of M, inspected aircraft in England at the beginning of World War II.

students accepted for internships at the Mayo Clinic, the University responded by saying the number of Jews selected for the program was dictated by a quota reflecting the percentage of Jews in Minnesota as a whole—about 2 percent. But that was a *minimum* level, according to the U; and the fact that the number of students accepted into the program approximated that percentage was simply a measure of the number of qualified students who applied to be Mayo interns. It was a difficult rationalization to refute in an era before standardized testing and when the quality of student applicants was being judged by the same people who claimed that any prejudice in the matter was strictly benign.

Local historian Laura Weber (B.A. '77, M.A. '88), writing in the spring 1991 *Minnesota History*, documented another instance of a University department coming to the "aid" of its Jewish students. In 1939, three young women in the U's dental hygiene program were called into the office of the department chair and advised that they were on a fool's errand. No one in the area hired Jewish dental hygienists, they were told. It might be best for them simply to drop out of the program and pursue something else, they were advised.

All three of the discouraged students would soon leave dental hygiene, but word of the chair's advice spread in the local Jewish community, prompting a committee of Jewish leaders, including faculty member Dr. Moses Barron (M.D. '11) and businessman Arthur Brin, the husband of U alumna Fanny Brin (a past president of the National Council of Jewish Women), to make inquiries of Dean Willey. The University would soon hold a conference "on the topic of the implied duty of colleges and universities to assist those they had trained to find jobs"—the first meeting of its kind in the country, according to Weber, who adds, however, that no direct link was made between the conference and the incident involving the would-be hygienists.

The University, in fact, was sending many Jewish graduates into a local community, but it had little interest in employing them. The Minneapolis Public School system was notorious for rarely hiring Jews for any position. A 1947 survey, conducted for the city by Fisk University, counted a total of 13 Jewish teachers, elementary and secondary, in the entire

121 schools of the Minneapolis system. The schools employed one Jewish clerk and three Jewish nurses. In addition, the survey found that 60 percent of all retailers and manufacturers in the city made it a practice of not hiring Jews. Hospitals in the city were similarly prejudiced, a fact that prompted the local Jewish community to organize and fund the creation of Mt. Sinai Hospital.

Anti-Semitism was so pervasive in Minneapolis that, in 1946, journalist Carey McWilliams, writing in the journal *Common Ground*, famously declared the city “the capital of anti-Semitism in the United States.” He noted that service clubs in Minneapolis—ranging from AAA to the Rotarians, Kiwanis, and Lions—restricted Jews; that dining and athletic clubs prohibited Jews; and that in the city’s most noteworthy industries—lumbering, milling, transportation, utilities, banking, and insurance—there was a paucity of Jewish involvement.

For a community that was on the brink of electing Hubert Humphrey as its mayor, and would soon begin a long climb toward the liberal progressivism that is ascendant in Minneapolis today, both the survey and McWilliams’ label were shocking accusations. But as historians Hy Berman and Linda Mack Schloff (B.S. ’60, B.A. ’82, M.S. ’86, Ph.D. ’98) wrote in their 2002 book *Jews in Minnesota*, area Jews at the time “were not surprised, for they had long lived with discrimination, housing restriction, stereotyped views, hostility, and other manifestations of anti-Jewish sentiment.”

Under these circumstances, it perhaps isn’t surprising that the University, for all of its flaws, was viewed with a higher regard than other institutions in the area by local Jews. Beyond institutional rationalizations about quotas, housing discrimination, and matters of equal employment, however, the U of M had its own elements of flagrant anti-Semitism.

The economic upheavals of the Great Depression had prompted a rise of political activism and an increasing polarization of politics in the state. Forces on both the left and the right were active throughout Minnesota and on the University campus. In this era of dangerous and dramatic politics, many on the right were quick to link Jews with radical elements on the left.

At the University, that connection was made by the dean of students, Edward E. Nicholson, whose interests in the leftist organizations on campus went far beyond his duties for the University, ultimately revealing a deep-rooted anti-Semitism. As historian Hy Berman first reported (in an article published in the journal *Jewish Social Studies* in 1976 titled “Political Antisemitism in Minnesota during the Great Depression”), Nicholson not only kept notes on the activities of a number of organizations, students, and faculty members; he reported on them to the FBI and a variety of right-wing stalwarts, includ-



Within a year of arriving on the University of Minnesota campus, the Hillel Society had a membership of nearly 500 students. Primarily a center for Jewish students for religious, social, and cultural gatherings, Hillel also reached out to non-Jewish students, including with an annual seder.

ing a man named Ray Chase (J.D. ’17).

In the 1930s, Chase, a former Minnesota congressman, headed a research group of his own founding and design. Its main interest was ferreting out leftist activities and reporting them to the public and Chase’s conservative allies. His most notorious moment came in the 1938 gubernatorial campaign, which was marked by the most blatant instance of anti-Semitic politics in the history of Minnesota. A pamphlet of Chase’s creation, provocatively titled “Are They Communists or Catspaws?,” purported to link advisers to Democratic governor Elmer Benson to Communist party activities. The five men featured in the accusation were all Jewish. And one, Sherman Dryer, was first brought to Chase’s attention by Dean Nicholson when Dryer was a student at the U.

Nicholson corresponded with Chase beginning in the mid-1930s, offering details on various campus organizations. He also reported on individual students, and these notes were catalogued by Chase in a document titled, “Notes on Radicalism at the University of Minnesota.” They reveal a cold prejudice. Dryer, for instance, was characterized, in part, as: “Jew. Communist. Agitator and Publicist.”

Other names and descriptions sent by Nicholson to Chase include a former *Minnesota Daily* reporter named Arnold “Eric” Severeid (B.A. ’35), but most were Jewish.

Robert Loevinger (B.S. ’36), the son of an early graduate of the U of M Law School, Judge Gus Loevinger (J.D. ’06) of St. Paul, was listed as: “Campus agitator and Marxist. . . . Controlled U *Forum*, 1936-37. Jew.”

Joe Toner (B.A. ’39) was: “Jew. Editorial Director of [*Minnesota Daily*]. Radical agitator. Contributed to ‘Menorah Flash,’ in which he advocates Communist attitude of Jews. Carried on work of Sherman Dryer.”

Lester Breslow (B.A. ’35, M.D. ’38, M.P.H. ’41): “Communist leader and agitator. . . . Son of Breslow, druggist across the street from the N.W. Hospital. Russian Jew. . . .”

Chase’s research group and his red-baiting pamphlet had their desired effect. By association with his five Jewish advisers, Governor Benson was linked to the Communist party and was defeated by Harold Stassen (B.S. ’27, J.D. ’29) in the 1938 gubernatorial race. The contest was so notorious for its blatant anti-Semitism that it prompted the Jewish community in Minnesota to create the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), an organization formed to document and publicly protest anti-Semitism in Minnesota. The JCRC continues its work to this day.

Nicholson, meanwhile, also carried on, feeding information on leftist activities at the U to Chase into the 1940s as he continued to serve as dean of students.

Beyond the drama and perfidy of the era, Jewish students at the U led lives that would have been familiar to the first generation of campus Jews. The Menorah Society, the

first Jewish group founded at the U, remained an active force, though it began to suffer by not having a permanent home on campus. In 1940, it was joined at the U by the Hillel Society, which had quickly emerged as the largest Jewish campus organization in the nation after its founding at the University of Illinois in the early 1920s. Within a year of its arrival at the U of M, Hillel had a membership of nearly 500 students, and it wound up subsuming the Menorah Society during World War II.

Though Hillel also lacked a permanent home its first decade and a half on campus, it nonetheless provided a center for Jewish students for religious, social, and cultural gatherings. Among Hillel activities were Friday evening services, an athletic club, and a drama group called the Hillel Players. It also sponsored a number of dances and parties through the course of the year, including a Purim Carnival, a “songfest,” and a skit night.

Hillel reached out toward the non-Jewish community on campus as well. Beginning in 1943, Hillel offered the King Gustav Scholarship to a junior student active in interreligious and intergroup activities. The scholarship was intended to honor the King of Sweden “for his courage and humanitarianism in sheltering Jewish refugees during the war.” Beginning in the late 1940s, Hillel hosted an annual seder for all students on the Sunday before Passover that drew capacity crowds and required reservations.

Nineteen fifty-five was the first year in which the University of Minnesota offered instruction in Hebrew. Though it was an evening course offered through University Extension, it did prompt discussions about creating a chair in Judaic studies. Those discussions would continue for almost two decades, when in 1974, a Jewish studies program was created and attached to the Department of Ancient and Near East Studies.

As in virtually all phases of campus life, the 1960s brought changes to the Jewish community at the U of M. The faculty became increasingly open to Jewish members; political activism surged as it hadn’t since the 1930s; and traditional campus organizations like fraternities and sororities suffered and sometimes fell by the wayside. Hillel, too, saw a drop in participation. A 1970 survey of Jewish students reported that three-quarters of the 400-person sample “never” or “seldom” attended Hillel.

The blatant anti-Semitism of earlier times occasionally reared its ugly head—there were swastikas painted on Hillel in a 1962 incident, for instance—but the incident that brought attention to the subject most prominently took a subtler form.

In 1974, as the Board of Regents was conducting a search for a new president for the University, a faculty advising committee accused a few of the regents, who had asked potential candidates about their religious affiliations, of oblique anti-Semitism. The regents claimed that their questions were intended to discern a “life ethic” in candidates, not a



David Edelstein, denied membership in Phi Beta Kappa at the University in the 1910s because he was Jewish, would later create a foundation that dedicated funds to the study of anti-Semitism at the U.

measure of them on the basis of religion. But some members of the faculty were less certain of those intentions, since one of the finalists was Jewish and would have been the first Jew in the University’s history to become president.

When the story that regents were asking questions about religion broke, it made headlines across the state, and the controversy ultimately became the subject of committee hearings and a report from the Minnesota State Legislature. In the final analysis, the regents were found to be not guilty of anti-Semitism, though it was stated, in the report, that they had improperly questioned the candidates.

C. Peter McGrath was ultimately named president, serving until 1985, and the University has since had two Jewish presidents: Ken Keller (1985–88) and Mark Yudof (1997–2002).

Despite this incident, it was hard not to believe that a new era had arrived in the relationship between the University of Minnesota and its Jewish community. This was still a campus serving a predominantly Protestant, white, rural/suburban population. Nonetheless it was undoubtedly more accepting of those who didn’t fall into one of its majorities.

The Jewish community of Minnesota has maintained its fondness for, and dedication to, the University through thick and thin. According to a 2004 demographic survey conducted among the St. Paul and Minneapolis Jewish communities by the United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul and the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, a remarkable 55 percent of Jewish households have a member who attends or attended the University.

Jewish alumni have also helped advance Jewish studies on campus. For example, Nathan (B.A. ’29) and Theresa (B.S. ’33) Berman contributed funds to create the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, housed at the University of Minnesota’s Andersen Library. They also, along with their son Lyle Berman (B.S. ’64), and his wife, Janis, donated the funds to create an endowed chair for the Jewish Studies program at the U. David Edelstein (B.S. ’16) was denied membership in Phi Beta Kappa because of his Jewish origins; yet over the years the Edelstein Family Foundation, an institution of his creation, has given much to the U—some of it in the form of funds dedicated to the study of anti-Semitism.

The handful of Jewish students who first gathered at the University of Minnesota a little over a hundred years ago to form the Jewish Literary Society, the first Jewish cultural organization on campus, would no doubt be proud at what has since transpired. ■

Tim Brady is a frequent contributor to Minnesota. The first part of this history appeared in the January–February issue (visit www.alumni.umn.edu/minnesota). He thanks Laura Weber, Linda Mack Schloff, and the University of Minnesota Archives for their help and guidance in creating this article.



The Mee Generations

Gopher roots run deep in slugger Mike Mee's family.

BY SHEILA MULROONEY ELDRED // PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN MARSHALL



Mike Mee lived everything most young baseball lovers only dream about: He traveled to Major League ballparks with his father; he hung out in the press box at the Metrodome after Twins games with his grandfather; and, in between games, he played Wiffle ball in the backyard while listening to his dad's tales about the College World Series. ■ "I always thought that was cool as a little kid," says Mee, in his typically understated way. "I remember one spring training when I was 8 or 9 my dad pulled some strings and I got to meet Roberto Alomar, my favorite player, when the Blue Jays were playing the Cardinals."

Not only do Mee's baseball bloodlines run strong, so do his Gopher roots. This year, as a versatile senior who can play both outfield and first base for Minnesota, Mee is carrying on a family tradition that stretches back to his great-grandfather James Mee, who wrestled and played football for the Gophers in the early 1900s. It was Mike's grandfather, Tom Mee, Sr., (B.A. '52) who began the family's baseball tradition, playing a few games for the Gophers in 1949 before leaving Minnesota for the minors. After playing two seasons of independent minor league baseball, Mee went on to work for the first incarnation of the St. Paul Saints. Later, he became the first front-office person hired when the Twins came to Minnesota in 1961. Now retired from his role as public relations director, Mee still serves as the official scorer for Twins games.

Tom Mee, Jr., (B.A. '81) Mike's father, made his mark at Minnesota early in his career, one of a select few freshmen to travel extensively with the team after a rule change permitted freshmen to join the varsity squad. In 1977, playing on the same team as Hall of Famer Paul Molitor, he batted .375 and led the team with 39 RBI, helping the Gophers to a trip to the College World Series. He went on to play in the minors before eventually becoming the director of television services for the St. Louis Cardinals, where he still works. So when it came time for Mike to choose a college, the only real decision was what color cap to wear: maroon or gold. "Growing up I always looked at Gopher baseball as something I wanted to do—it wasn't a hard decision," Mee says.

There were challenges, however. In one of his last hockey games for Richfield High School, Mee banged up his right elbow. Although the injury had adequately healed by the time he joined the Gophers, with a squad full of veteran players, Mee redshirted his first season. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Mee says he spent the year soaking up all the knowledge and atmosphere of college baseball during games and practices and giving his arm extra time to regain strength. He also kept in mind some words of advice passed down from his grandfather through his dad. "He always told me never to get too high or too low, to keep an even keel," Mee recalls. "That's probably the greatest piece of advice I've ever gotten from him."

As a freshman, with a completely recovered elbow, Mee batted .319 with six home runs, 53 RBI, 44 runs scored and 16 doubles, making him the first Minnesota freshman to drive in over 50 runs since Terry Steinbach—the former Gopher and 13-year Major League catcher—did it in 1981. That season, the Gophers won both the Big Ten regular season and tournament for the first time in school history, and Mee was named an all-American.

Mee still remembers the home run he hit against Purdue

in the tournament that year. "We were out at Siebert, and we had a big home crowd," he says. He'd struck out in his first at-bat, a little timid in front of so many fans. Minnesota had come from behind to take a 4-1 lead, and his home run in the eighth made it 6-1. "It was a thrill running around the bases. I still remember it vividly."

At that game, like every other Mee has played in, there's been another family presence in the stands: his mother, Debbie. A baseball fan herself, she's been the most influential person in her son's life. While he phones his dad after almost every game and they discuss his at-bats and fielding, "my mom is more the moral support," Mee says. "If I have a bad game, we'll go out to eat together. It's a nice luxury to have her there. When we can, we go to Twins games together. And if I keep playing after college, I'm sure she'll try and make it to my games."

Though Mee has been a strong performer for the Gophers his entire career—last season, for example, he led the team in runs and was second in RBI and in his sophomore season he was the only Gopher to play all 62 games of the season—he has not replicated the all-American form of his freshman year. Coach John Anderson worries that Mee has been too hard on himself. "He's a fierce competitor," Anderson says. "But sometimes your greatest strength can be your greatest weakness. He needs to be a little more forgiving—he can't take the team by himself."

That's something Anderson is hoping Mee can pick up from his dad, who, as Anderson recalls from his days as a student coach, was the team jokester. "He'd take the good with the bad and find the humor in it," Anderson says. "There's so much failure and adversity in this game you have to leverage yourself, stay the course, and be consistent."

Mee would like to conclude his college career the way he began it, with a championship. "We can compete for the Big Ten championship," Anderson says. "Mike would like to see his career end that way."

And like his dad and grandfather, Mike hopes to continue his baseball career in the pros. Eventually, he says he'll consider working in baseball in another capacity, possibly putting to use the degree he'll receive this spring in commercial recreation. "From letting my brother and me wear out the front and backyards playing Wiffle games to driving me to high school games and coming to my college games, my family has had a huge impact on my baseball career," Mee says. "I'm blessed and happy to be able to play in front of them." ■

Sheila Mulrooney Eldred is a Minneapolis-based freelance writer and frequent contributor to Minnesota.

Gopher sports news and notes

Within a few hours of his introduction as the new head coach of the football Gophers, Tim Brewster's rhetorical flair endeared him to the Gopher faithful. Moments into his inaugural press conference at McNamara Alumni Center on January 17, Brewster served up a morsel of hope to fans starved for a reason to believe in Minnesota football. "I'm going to have my football team prepared to play on Saturdays," Brewster proclaimed. "We're going to play with pride. We're going to play with toughness. We're going to play with passion, and we're going to win. . . . We're going to win the Big Ten Championship and we're going to take the Gopher Nation to Pasadena." Accustomed to dreaming of the Rose Bowl but not used to thinking of themselves as a nation, Gopher fans applauded approvingly.

A few hours later, athletics director Joel Maturi introduced the new coach to the crowd during halftime at Williams Arena.

The men's basketball Gophers were playing against Brewster's alma mater, Illinois, where he earned a degree in political science and was a two-time all-Big Ten tight end. "I can't tell you how excited my family and I are to be here," Brewster began. "I promise you this: On Saturday afternoons, our football players are going to play like their hair's on fire. . . . Together, we're going to get this done. We're going to take the Gopher Nation to Pasadena." Gopher Nation erupted into a deafening frenzy.

The search for a new head coach was set in motion by the December 31 firing of Glen Mason, whose last game was the Insight Bowl on December 28. The Gophers gave up a 31-point lead in the third quarter, losing 44-41 in overtime to Texas Tech in what was the biggest collapse in college football bowl history. Maturi, aided by a search firm, embarked on an extensive 18-day hunt for a new coach, ultimately swooping into the ranks of the National Football League to nab the energetic Brewster, tight ends coach for the Denver Broncos.

Brewster, 46, has 21 years under his belt as a coach in professional, college, and high school ranks, but Minnesota is



TCF Bank Stadium will feature a traditional horseshoe shape and brick facade. Its arched portals will be reminiscent of Memorial Stadium, which was located a few blocks away.

his first head coaching job beyond high school. Still, he exuded confidence during his campus debut. "I went to the National Football League to get my Ph.D. in football," Brewster said. "I'm ready to get on the road and go recruit. I'm ready to get this program going."

Gopher Nation is ready too.

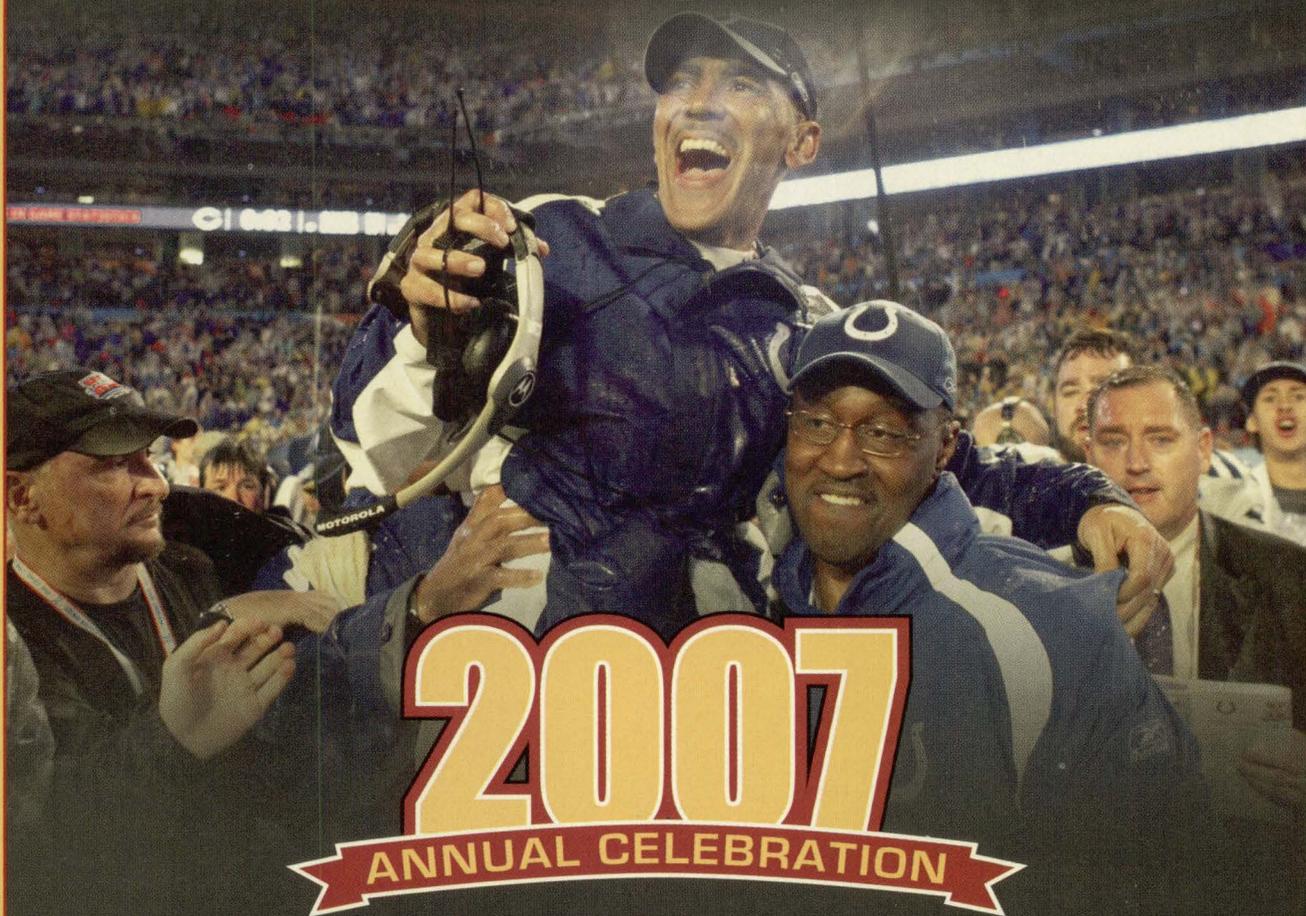
In January, the Board of Regents and the public got their first look at the schematic designs for the new on-campus Gopher football stadium. TCF Bank Stadium will be a traditional horseshoe design, blended with plazas, landscapes, a colonnade, and open gathering places. The west end will open up to campus and the downtown Minneapolis skyline. The design is for a 50,000-seat facility that can be expanded to 72,000 to 80,000 seats.

The design comes in at a cost of \$288.5 million, nearly \$40 million over original estimates. The added cost reflects changes intended to enhance the fan experience—for instance, seats will be roomier than traditional stadium seating—improve campus aesthetics, and incorporate sustainable architecture designs. Other cost increases are due to changes to the building code since the initial feasibility study and to engineering challenges because of the type of soil on the stadium site. The Board of Regents approved the design and the capital budget request for the increased cost by a vote of 11 to 1. TCF Bank Stadium is scheduled to open on September 12, 2009. —*Cynthia Scott*



Tim Brewster

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



2007

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Celebrate the Pride & Spirit of Game Day!

WITH TONY DUNGY '78, HEAD COACH, WORLD CHAMPION INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

5:30 p.m. – Reception and Dinner

7:30 p.m. – Program

Mariucci Arena

(Corner of 4th and Oak Streets across from the TCF Bank Stadium site!)

Tony Dungy '78 – Keynote Speaker

Head coach, world champion Indianapolis Colts, and former Gopher football star

Stan Freese, '67 – Special Guest

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Afloat, but with Purpose

The waters of Minnesota's north woods can't agree on where to go—some flow up toward Hudson Bay, while others head for the Great Lakes or down the Mississippi River. Andrew Keith (B.A. '82) found all three routes intriguing, so he set out to explore them—by canoe and kayak. In his memoir, *Afloat Again, Adrift: Three Voyages on the Waters of North America*, Keith takes readers thousands of miles north, east, and south as he paddles his way to the sea.

The three remarkable journeys are braided together, their chapters alternating as Keith guides the reader on a gentle spiral toward the coasts. The first trip, traveling the Mississippi by canoe, was made in 1977, when Keith was 19. A friend accompanied him from Lake Itasca to Iowa, and he was on his

own after that. On the other two trips, he had a companion for the full length, and good thing—some of the portages would have thwarted even the hardest solo traveler.

Perils abound on all three voyages—large waves, thunderstorms, brutal rapids, impenetrable fog, a May snowstorm, and fickle winds. Pesky creatures, from mosquitoes to black flies to polar bears, come on the scene; Keith's canoe takes a four-mile trip one night without him; and on frigid Lake Superior, hypothermia is always lurking just below the surface.

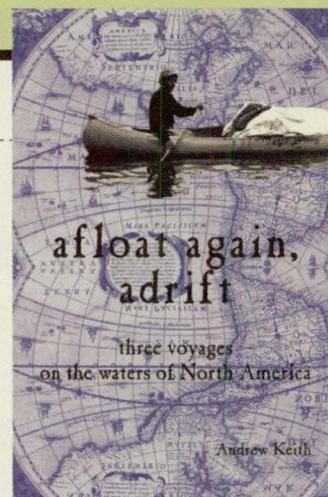
Keith has a wilderness lover's acceptance of natural dangers, and a dimmer view of the manmade ones. On the more industrialized waterways, he's dismayed by the paper mills and nuclear facilities, falls ill after passing a large sewage plant, and is ever-vigilant for the wakes of ships and towboats. One particularly heart-pounding account of a too-close encounter with a barge is as engrossing as a scene from an action film.

For Keith, of course, the benefits outweigh the risks. He meets an amazing array of kind strangers, from a Canadian bear wrestler to a group of motorcycle buffs in a leaky yacht who give him a lift into New Orleans. After one evening of carousing with some Missourians, he writes: "We knew we wouldn't see each other again, but it didn't matter—for one afternoon we were many friends, and that is a vision of truth."

Perhaps most enjoyable for Keith is the staggering beauty he finds in both the scenery and the fauna (eagles, beluga whales, even a swimming moose). As he and a companion pitched their tent on the soft floor of a pine forest in Quebec, "we felt an absolute unity between ourselves and everything surrounding us. We were the circle. Life itself was sufficient—healthy, free, outside and in wild country."

Despite some solid stories and evocative phrasings, *Afloat* feels under-edited, from the grammatical and spelling errors to the slow spots—not every unremarkable portage or bay, for example, deserves a mention by name. Still, if you've ever canoed or kayaked for an afternoon and wondered what it might be like to just keep going, Keith's physical and emotional journeys offer inspiration. "I can think of no better way for young adults to discover their backyard and their inner selves than following any river downstream," Keith writes—and he makes a compelling case.

—Jim Foti



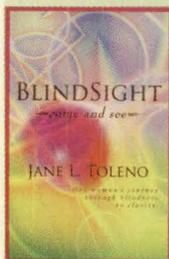
Afloat Again, Adrift: Three Voyages on the Waters of North America
Aliform Publishing, 2006
By Andrew Keith (B.A. '82)

Bookmarks

BlindSight

By Jane Toleno (B.A. '97)
Singing River Publications (2006)

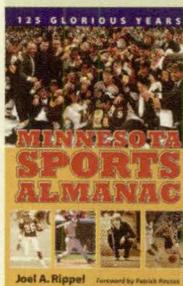
Toleno, who has been physically blind since birth, invites readers to enter into her world. In personal essays and poems, Toleno offers a generous telling of her personal history of dark, light, and blindness. In the process, she illuminates the vast territory of commonality shared by the sighted and unsighted, as well as the unique terrain of her life.



Minnesota Sports Almanac

By Joel Rippel (B.A. '80)
Minnesota Historical Society Press (2006)

There may be no other single volume on earth that contains the history of the Minnesota Fillies, the scores of every Gopher bowl game ever played, and every first-round draft choice in Minnesota Vikings history. And those are just a fraction of the facts packed in the *Minnesota Sports Almanac*, a comprehensive tour of 125 years of professional, collegiate, and outdoor sports in Minnesota. Rife with fascinating sports trivia and full of great photos.



Next Places

By Harvey Sarles
Syren Book Company (2006)

Sarles taught anthropology for 20 years at the University of Minnesota before becoming a professor of cultural studies and comparative literature in 1987. This collection of meditations, born of Sarles' questions about his own life choices, is meant to help others navigate transitions. Unexpected, sometimes quirky, and often pithy observations offer a road map for self-seekers and others interested in the larger questions of life.



Search

What's the best thing we can do for our kids?



Arts & Events

Bob Dylan's Missing Years

When most people consider the life and career of Bob Dylan, they invariably jump from Robert Zimmerman's working-class roots in northern Minnesota to the Greenwich Village hothouse of creativity in which Bob Dylan emerged as a counterculture icon. What they leapfrog over is a seminal decade—the time during which Zimmerman moved to Minneapolis, attended the University of Minnesota, and changed his name and his musical approach.

“Bob Dylan’s American Journey, 1956–66,” an exhibition at the Weisman Art Museum, fills in and examines those missing years. “Dylan was only here for a short time; he was a student at University from 1959 to 1960,” explains Colleen Sheehy, coordinating curator of the exhibition. “But it completely changed his life.”

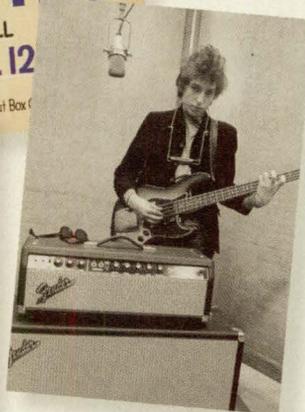
The show, created by the Experience Music Project in Seattle, explores the culturally turbulent 10-year period in which Dylan transformed himself from a young rock-and-roller to a folk troubadour and music innovator. Featured are more than 150 artifacts (instruments, photographs, hand-written lyrics, and letters) assembled from sources as diverse as the Bob Dylan Archives, the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and the Civil Rights Museum. Four short films, rare early concert footage, and a new filmed interview with Dylan about his formative decade are also on view.

But the Weisman, the only art museum presenting the traveling exhibition, has put its own unique stamp on the show. With assistance from University student interns, Sheehy, who taught an American Studies class on Dylan at the University in 2006, conducted extensive research in Hibbing, where Dylan grew up and graduated from high school. Sheehy and her team also met with local artists and historians to learn more about Dylan’s time in Dinkytown, the small-business hub adjacent to the University where the musician lived during his transformation from Zimmerman to Dylan.

As a result, the Weisman has added memorabilia, along with related paintings from the museum’s collections, that make the Minneapolis version of the exhibition “totally unique,” Sheehy says. Those additions include an enlarged snapshot taken by Dylan’s mother of the 17-year-old musician; photographs of the teenage Zimmerman in his first rock-and-roll bands; and audio recordings of the musician singing in his Hibbing living room and in his Dinkytown apartment.



Top to bottom: Bob Dylan at my Loft © John Cohen; a Town Hall concert poster from April 1963, courtesy of Barry and Judy Ollman; and Bob Dylan playing bass in a recording studio, 1965 © Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.



The desk on which Dylan’s high-school English teacher corrected papers (including a Zimmerman term paper displayed in the show), a street sign from the corner on which the Zimmermans lived, and a movie marquee

from a theater owned by Dylan’s uncle are among the largest pieces in the exhibition. “What we’ve added,” Sheehy explains, “is memorabilia and iconography that will help viewers understand more deeply why Dylan’s time in the Twin Cities was key to the formation of his artistry.”

A self-taught musician, Dylan was influenced by his high-school English teacher, “who impressed on him the power of words and the importance of poetry and opened him up to the history of western literature, which subsequently worked its way into Dylan’s lyrics,” Sheehy says. When Zimmerman arrived in the Twin Cities, Sheehy continues, “He sold

his electric guitar and bought an acoustic guitar, went to folk venues like The Scholar, and learned the folk repertoire. It was here that he starting using the name Bob Dylan.”

After moving to Greenwich Village, Dylan quickly became known as a folk singer, songwriter, and voice for civil rights, nuclear disarmament, and ending the Vietnam War. The exhibition, Sheehy says, “puts Dylan in the larger political and social movements of the time.” Dylan also began recording the first of seven albums he would release between 1962 and 1966, “each one of them an astounding group of songs,” Sheehy says.

“People are crazy about Dylan and have been for 40 years,” Sheehy says. “For those people, the exhibition provides an opportunity for them to really focus on and learn more about his early development. For others, the show gives them a chance to see what the fuss is about and why people remain so devoted to Dylan and his work.”

Clearly, Sheehy belongs in the former category. “I really think Dylan is one of the most important artists of the 20th century in any medium,” she explains. “He’s been so revolutionary, and the quality of his work has so much appeal and depth, it’s cross-generational. People will still be studying Dylan hundreds of years from now.”

“Bob Dylan’s American Journey, 1956–66” continues through April 29 at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, 612-625-9494. Admission is free.

—Camille LeFevre



Search Results Dinner table development.



U of M epidemiology professor Dianne Neumark-Sztainer researches the eating habits and body image of teenagers. She's found that teens who regularly partake in family meals engage less in substance abuse, have lower levels of depression, have higher levels of self-esteem, do better in school and have fewer eating disorders. Seems that supper with the family might be the most balanced meal of all. So the search continues. **Learn more and submit your single greatest question at umn.edu.**

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Life members of the UMAA are now entitled to a discount on room rentals at the McNamara Alumni Center on campus. The McNamara Alumni Center is one of the Twin Cities' premier venues for meetings, receptions, conferences, and many other gatherings of all sizes. The building, known for its unique and stunning architecture, is equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual capabilities and food by D'Amico Catering. This new benefit, available exclusively to life members, also includes reduced food and beverage minimum requirements. For more information, visit www.alumni.umn.edu/rewards.

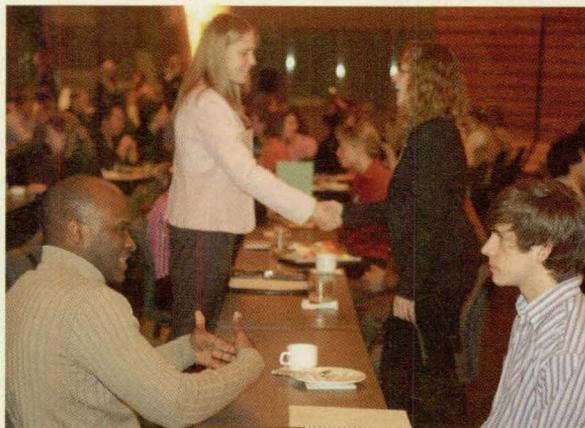
Celebrate with a Champion

Tickets are now on sale for the May 8, 2007, UMAA Annual Celebration featuring keynote speaker Tony Dungy (B.S. '78), head coach of the Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts. The evening will also include special guest Stan Freese (B.S. '67), talent casting and booking director for the Walt Disney Company, and performances by members of the Minnesota Marching Band. Held in Mariucci Arena, across from the site of the new Gopher football stadium, the evening includes a reception at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., and program at 7:30 p.m. Purchase tickets by calling 612-624-2345 or visit www.northrop.umn.edu. Discounts are available for UMAA members.



Net Speed, Net Gain

Approximately 130 students and their mentors sharpened their personal business skills at a Speed Networking event at the McNamara Alumni Center in January. Sponsored by the alumni association and the collegiate alumni societies, the Mentor Connection workshop featured an overview by Darcy Matz, who trains executives on personal presentation, persuasion, and polish. She gave attendees a few pointers, such as to stand up when shaking someone's hand, and to ask for a business card to contact someone later instead of monopolizing anyone's time. Participants then



sat in rows facing each other and networked. Every five minutes for a half hour, half the participants got up and moved to the next chair and met another person in their field of interest. Participants networked in designated discipline

areas, including health and medical, computer sciences and engineering, and architecture and design.

To learn how to become a mentor to a University student in any college, visit www.alumni.umn.edu/mentorconnection or call 612-624-2323.

DUNGY PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF HAYNES/AFP; NETWORKING BY JAYME HALBRITTER



Matthew Wehling

{ Alumni Spotlight } Matthew Wehling

Fiddling with Bows

Ask Matthew Wehling (B.S. '87) about life as a chemistry student at the University of Minnesota and he rattles off the 400 Bar's Thursday through Saturday music lineup: the Barking Ducks, the Jayhawks, and Willie Murphy. A musician himself, Wehling played guitar with the rhythm-and-blues band Avogadro and the Moles. "I spent a lot of time doing a lot of music—for better or worse academically," he recalls.

Still, he succeeded in chemistry and worked six years for a medical device company. But damage to his violin led to a more rewarding career. Today, Wehling is a nationally recognized violin, viola, and cello bow maker—one of only about 100 full-time archetiers nationally. Now 44, he works from the basement of his modest Northfield, Minnesota, home making bows that sell for up to \$5,200. His clients include Minnesota Orchestra violist Ken Freed and violinist Michael Doucet, founder of the Cajun band BeauSoleil.

Wehling works with musicians to get the balance and feel they want. For instance, adjusting the bow's camber or curve affects its response for off-string moves, played with a bouncing-type stroke. "Different musicians will want different amounts of bounce," he explains.

As a chemist, Wehling investigated implant failures and developed catheter coatings to prevent blood clots. But he didn't enjoy the bureaucracy of the job, he says. He continued playing music and one day, in the early 1990s, he picked up his unlatched violin case and the instrument tumbled out and broke. The fix was prohibitively expensive, so St. Paul violin maker John Waddle invited him to come to his shop on Sat-

urdays to learn how to repair it.

During that experience Wehling thought about violin making school, but he got interested in bow making instead and took summer courses with bow maker Bill Salchow. "By doing the work with my hands—and getting fulfillment from that and from the people I was meeting—I gradually realized that the [chemistry] work was not very fulfilling," he says. He took the next step and applied for apprenticeships in France, known for its world-leading bow makers. Less than a year later, master bow maker Benoît Rolland invited Wehling to come to France, interview, and show his work. Wehling was accepted, quit his job, and moved to Brittany in 1995. He lived there six years, studying under Rolland and later Georges Tépho. Since returning to the United States, he has won four Violin Society of America gold medals—two each for his violin and cello bows.

In one corner of Wehling's basement is a small stack of prized pernambuco, a dense reddish Brazilian hardwood and the gold standard for bows. "It's heavier than water," he says. "If it's good, it sinks." Stored nearby are hairs from Asian stallion tails for bowstrings. Files, chisels, and other tools are readily handy on his two-by-four-foot workbench. He still uses the wood planes he made himself, a pre-apprenticeship test and essential tools for bow makers. Rolland sent him instructions and told Wehling to make the planes on his own. It "tells him that you have the wherewithal and the interest," Wehling says. "Looking back, it doesn't take all that much hand skill, but figuring out how to do it took quite a bit of chutzpah."

—Scott Russell



Advocate for the U

Citizen lobbyists are the most potent tool the University has at the Minnesota Legislature. That was the key message delivered to more than 300 students, staff, and faculty who attended the 2007 Legislative Briefing January 24 at the McNamara Alumni Center. President Bob Bruininks and other speakers laid out the specifics of the U's biennial request, which includes \$123.4 million in operating expenses and \$310 million for biomedical sciences. The bottom line, Bruininks said, is that the funding is needed to hold down tuition costs while maintaining academic excellence.

The majority of the \$123.4 million would go toward staff and faculty salaries. The University currently ranks 27th in faculty compensation among the top 30 public research universities. Steven Rosenstone, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, told the assembly that there are dire consequences for not paying competitive salaries. "Nothing works at the University without great faculty and staff. If we don't act to shore up compensation, our hard-fought gains will erode. We can't be in the top three [public research universities in the world] if we pay in the bottom four," he said. The remainder of the request would be used on technology and infrastructure, education initiatives, and general operations.



Connie Delaney, dean of the University's School of Nursing, addressed Legislative Briefing attendees about the correlation between the nationwide nursing shortage and a critical shortage in nursing educators. Adequate funding of the health sciences is the only way to address the crisis, she said.

The \$310 million request would be used to establish the Biomedical Sciences Research Facilities Authority, an initiative that calls for creating 600,000 square feet of state-of-the-art research facilities on campus over the next 10 years. The new facilities would allow the University to gain a foothold in the top tier in the fiercely competitive world of biomedical research.

Your voice is still needed at the legislature. Join other alumni, students, faculty, and staff for a rally at the state capitol on March 28. It's your opportunity to tell your legislators how important the University is to the future of Minnesota. Access to further information, educational materials, and other resources are available at www.SupportTheU.umn.edu. Or, call UMAA Advocacy Director Mary Kay Delvo at 612-626-1417 to learn how you can get involved.



COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES ALUMNI SOCIETY
91st Annual Minnesota Royal
April 9-14

Classes Without Quizzes
April 14 at 9 a.m.

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ALUMNI SOCIETY
Spring Open House
April 1 at 11 a.m.

HUMPHREY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALUMNI SOCIETY

Washington, D.C., Alumni Event
March 13 at 6 p.m. at the City Club of Washington

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SOCIETY

Science and Technology Banquet
April 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Hilton

LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI SOCIETY

Spring Alumni Weekend
April 12-15 at the Law School

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER Alumni and Friends Social
March 12 at 5:30 p.m. at Pyramid Alehouse

Washington State History Museum
March 31, time TBA

Alumni and Friends Social
April 9 at 5:30 p.m. at Pyramid Alehouse

Seattle Sculpture Garden Tour
May 6 at the Seattle Sculpture Garden

RED WING CHAPTER Mississippi River Valley Winery Tour
May 19 at noon at the St. James Hotel

ROCHESTER AREA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE U OF M

Mississippi River Valley Winery Tour
May 19 at noon starting at the St. James Hotel in Red Wing

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY ALUMNI SOCIETY

Dean's Reception
April 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Saint Paul Hotel

Star of the North Meeting
April 28-30 at the St. Paul River Centre

South Dakota Dental Association Annual Session Reception
May 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CHAPTER

Annual Dinner and Children's Book Drive
Featuring humorists Fred and Lee Tobias
March 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Country Club of Naples

SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Bus-in for the Classes Without Quizzes Program
April 14 at 6:30 a.m. Mankato departure; 6:45 a.m. St. Peter departure

SUNCOAST FLORIDA CHAPTER

WUSF Tour and Luncheon
March 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the WUSF Station and Longhorn Steakhouse in Tampa

For more information visit www.alumni.umn.edu or call 612-624-2323 or 800-UM-ALUMS (862-5867).

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May 31-June 13

Cruise the Mediterranean on Crystal Cruise Lines
June 12-20

Village Life along the Dalmatian Coast
June 19-27

The Romance of the Blue Danube
June 28-July 11

Treasures of Italy and Switzerland
July 4-15

Scandinavian Discovery
August 2-12

Ukraine on the Dnieper River
August 3-16

Cruise the Passage of Peter the Great
August 21-September 2

For more information, call Christine Howard at 612-625-9427 or visit www.alumni.umn.edu/travel.



Feed Your Curiosity

Why should kids have all the fun at summer camp? Take a day to nurture new interests through Curiosity Camps, daylong interdisciplinary adventures led by University faculty on a wide range of topics. This photo of one of last summer's camps shows scientist and Regents Professor David Tilman, right, giving a tour of the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Natural History Area. Tilman's research at Cedar Creek was the subject of a recent *Science* magazine cover story on the future of biofuels. Curiosity Camp 2007 will feature outdoor workshops on topics from gardening to geology. UMAA members receive a 10 percent discount on tuition.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN RODGERS



Our U Is Changing—for the Better

This is not the University your parents (or you, if you're beginning to gray) attended. Remember the days when nearly anyone who wanted to attend the U was admitted? Did you ever hear people call the U their backup plan if they were turned down by a first-choice, "prestige" school? And who will ever forget Intro to Psychology held in Northrop Auditorium, with hundreds of students straining to hear the professor way up on stage?

You wouldn't recognize the University of Minnesota today! At the alumni association's January national board meeting, we invited three University officials to share what they know about the U's progress. It soon became obvious the U is making substantial strides toward becoming a top three public research university.

Tom Fisher, dean of the new College of Design, explained that students in his college don't learn simply by listening to lectures and memorizing facts for exams, but rather by finding solutions to critical, real-world problems. They've developed new technology to reduce labor costs and improve quality in housing. By designing simple, low-cost Laundromats for disaster victims in New Orleans, they've helped with the recovery after Hurricane Katrina. And students have won awards with their ideas for functional clothing to protect people in hazardous occupations, such as firefighting. The University's campaign "Driven to Discover" isn't just a slogan; it's what happens in purpose-driven colleges that address the major challenges of our society.

The days of almost anybody gaining admission to the University are long gone. The 2006 freshman class is the most academically prepared in U history. According to Jerry Rinehart, vice provost of student affairs, only one in six applicants is accepted into the College of Liberal Arts. I'm fortunate to not be applying for one of those openings. While the volume of applicants to the U has increased dramatically in recent years, the number of highly qualified applicants has exploded. Rinehart dispelled the myth that a high percentage of students come from other states and nations. In reality, 65 percent of U students are Minnesotans. What's more, increasing numbers of students want to be part of the campus community. During my day, most of us lived at home and commuted to school. Today, more than 80 percent of freshman students live in University housing.

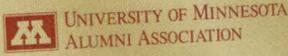
Access to the U is as important as ever, and attracting the best students requires significant public and private money. Judy Kirk, executive vice president of the University of Minnesota Foundation, explained that top students often need financial assistance to attend our university. In 2003, the foundation began its largest ever campaign to raise \$150 million for student scholarships and fellowships. In just three years, 45,000 donors contributed \$160 million. This resulted in a 38 percent increase in the number of students receiving financial aid since the campaign started, with each award being 40 percent greater—the average award is now \$3,760.

These are exciting times on campus, with the best and brightest students working with top faculty in modern facilities. Now, with help from the alumni association, funding is being requested from the state to continue these strides, including a consistent source of funding for a major biosciences research initiative. Such commitment from the state means that, in coming years, the University can provide the research needed to solve many more of our pressing problems, discover products that improve our quality of life, educate our workforce, and continue to be the economic engine for Minnesota.

To learn how you can be a part of making the U a top three public research institution, visit www.SupportTheU.umn.edu.



Dennis Schulstad, B.A. '66



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(reflects Nov. 16, 2006 – Jan. 15, 2007)

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Charles D. Lee	Robert O. Yopps
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Pamela R. Leonard	David M. Ziegenhagen
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Lost Pages of History

Last fall, Don Ward (B.A. '61) dropped by the alumni association offices with an old University of Minnesota yearbook in hand. Many alumni have donated yearbooks to the alumni association over the years, but the volume Ward brought was the first University annual ever published, the 1888 *Gopher*.

The years had not been kind to this historic book. Both the front and back covers were loose and some of the gold lettering had worn off. But I was grateful to accept it; we have one other from that year in our library, but it is equally fragile.

Together with University Archives and the McNamara Alumni Center's Heritage Gallery, the alumni association library—with its collections of yearbooks and volumes of the alumni magazine—plays an important role in preserving and honoring the University's history. These pieces of our collective history not only give us perspective on the past, they instill in us a sense of pride in everything that this University and its alumni have accomplished.

Don's visit inspired us to take inventory of our library. I discovered that we are missing only the 1967 yearbook, which is actually the last official yearbook published by the University. As to why the yearbooks ceased production, I'm told that they became too expensive to produce given the University's enormous, and growing, student population. About a decade later, an attempt to resume the yearbook tradition resulted in a slim green volume



Margaret Sughrue Carlson
(Ph.D. '83)

titled *The 1976-1977 Gopher*. And in 1979, the All-Campus Council produced a 39-page yearbook of sorts. The alumni association collection is missing both of these books, as well as a 48-page yearbook-type publication that Institutional Relations produced to document the years 1982 and 1983. We would love to add these to our collection as well.

I also discovered that a good many of the yearbooks in our collection are damaged. The 1888, 1889, 1895, 1899, 1901 through 1913, 1930, 1940, 1953 through 1956, and 1961 volumes are in very poor condition, many with missing covers, torn spines, and marked-up pages.

I found that all is not well with our alumni magazines either. This publication—the official magazine of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association—has gone by different names over the past 105 years, including the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*, the *Minnesota Alumnus*, *Minnesota Alumni Voice*, *Gopher Grad*, and *Minnesota Alumni News*, becoming *Minnesota* in 1978. I was certain that our library housed a complete collection, but I was surprised and dismayed to find that we are missing quite a few issues published in 1927–28, 1935–37, 1941–43, and 1975–78. And many earlier editions are damaged, especially those from 1901 through 1932.

So I ask for your help in preserving our past. At an alumni event not too long ago, I overheard someone mention that she had 40 years of alumni magazines stored in her basement. At the time, I missed the opportunity to connect with her, but perhaps by a stroke of incredible luck she will happen to read this column and be inspired to donate some of those magazines. And if you have and are willing to donate any of the above-mentioned yearbooks or magazines, please contact Christine Howard at 612-625-9427 or howard@umn.edu. I thank you in advance for helping us preserve our shared history. ■

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