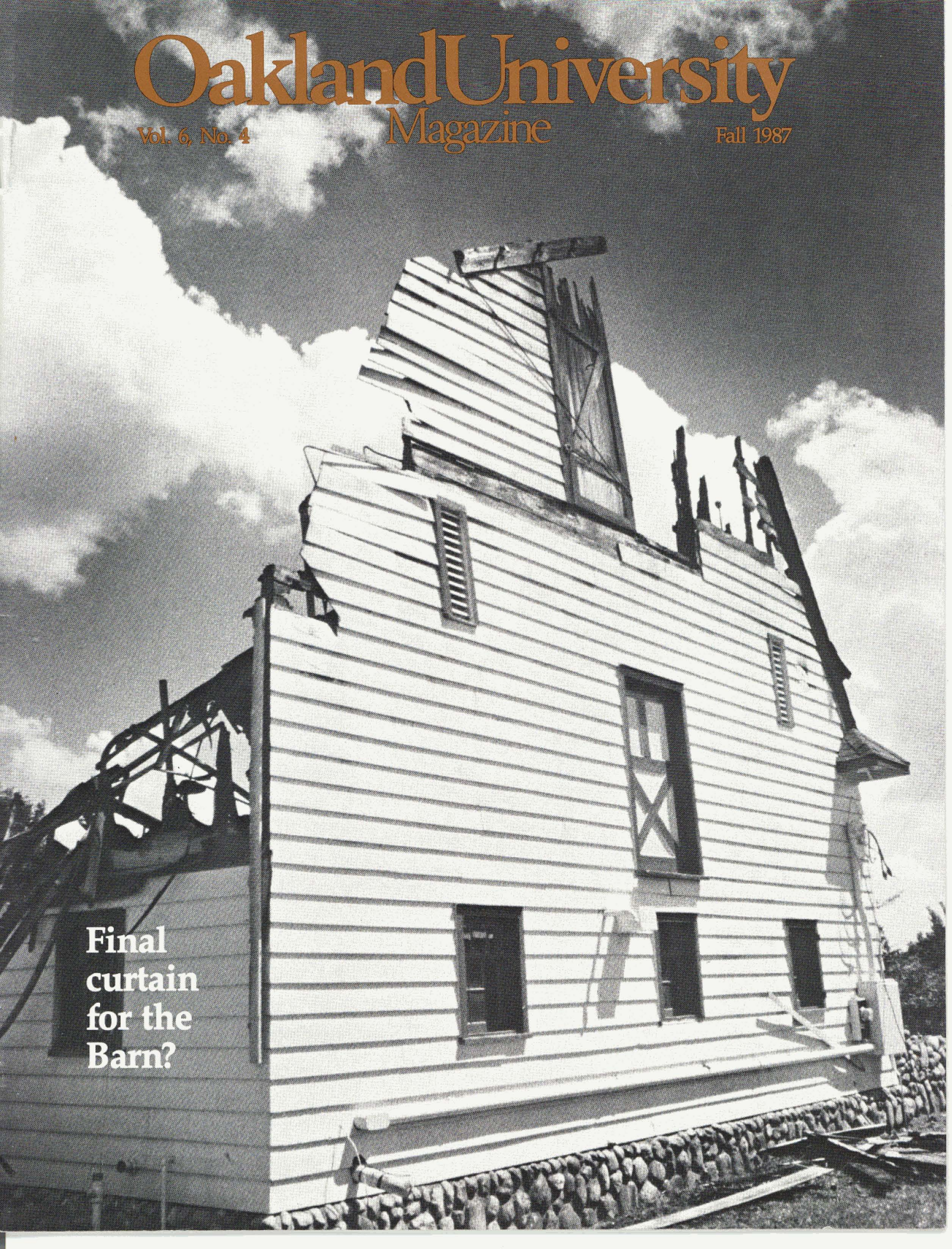


# Oakland University

Vol. 6, No. 4

Magazine

Fall 1987



**Final  
curtain  
for the  
Barn?**



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All Oakland alumni are invited to  
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University Alumni Association and its  
affiliates. Call the Alumni Relations Of-  
fice, (313) 370-2158, for meeting times  
and locations.

**OUAA:** December 7

**Arts and Sciences Alumni Affiliate:**  
November 5, December 3

**School of Business Administration  
Alumni Affiliate:** November 10,  
December 8

**School of Engineering and Computer  
Science Alumni Affiliate:** November 6  
(annual dinner), November 19,  
December 17

**School of Human and Educational  
Services Alumni Affiliate:**  
November 11



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On the eve of his retirement, GM President Jim McDonald talks about competition, trade and the need for industry/academia interaction.

*A President's Club profile*

## 13 Sayonara, Tokyo

Ten weeks in Japan gave an Oakland senior a new view of international relations — and something to write home about.

## 15 That Old Black Magic

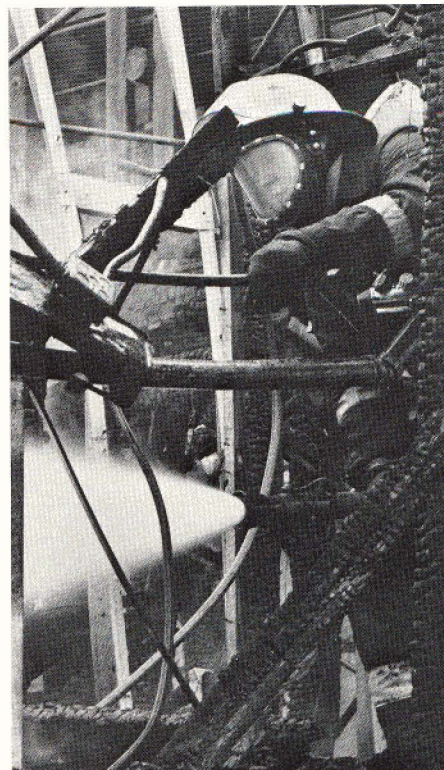
There's more to voodoo, witchcraft and ESP than meets the eye. So say the Oakland researchers who've gone to unusual lengths to study them.

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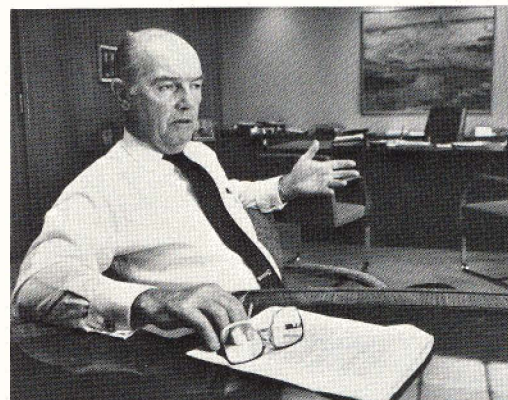
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Geoffrey C. Upward  
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## Barn's fire still burns

THERE WAS SOMETHING almost mystical about the Barn. Even those of us who weren't "Barnies" knew that. It had an appeal that went beyond its weather-beaten facade, even beyond its legendary reputation as a place where things just seemed to happen.

So, when the Barn burned in August, the university community instantly felt the loss and collectively shed a few tears. More I think for the passing of a small piece of Oakland's history than for the building itself, for the Barn's glory days clearly belonged to the past.

As a student gathering spot, it had been limping along on its last legs for several years. The Barn needed major repairs, and the university desperately needed storage, but it was hard to get past the fact that closing it to students would have effectively consigned the popular Barn to a role as the campus attic. Periodically, student groups tried to keep the dream alive, urging that it continue to be used for student activities.

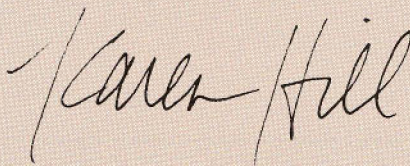
They were successful in keeping the Barn open; however, the cold reality is that few students went there much. It may have been too far off the beaten path for some, too low on the list of priorities for others. In any case, it was a ghost of its former self.

This I know better than ever, thanks to the many alumni and students who wrote in response to our request for Barn memories. Their vibrant portraits of the Barn, the many hours they spent there and its impact on their lives leaves an unmistakable impression. Loyalty to the Barn, in case any doubted, runs deep.

Take Morrey Weininger, a Birmingham, Michigan, mail carrier. As the Barn's unofficial photographer (his photos are on pages 7 and 9), he's been on the scene of virtually every Barn performance since he was a student here in the '60s. Morrey never graduated: he was drafted and served in Vietnam, and while he continued to take classes afterward, he didn't complete his degree. But he's every inch an active alum. In fact, he rushed out to the Barn to photograph it the day it burned. As he did, he couldn't help but think about the hundreds of photos he'd taken and their negatives — many of them buried in the smoldering rubble of the Barn.

There's no predicting exactly what on a campus will capture students' imaginations. Somehow, though, it always seems to be those broken-in, down-at-the-edges sorts of buildings that harbor the soul and evoke memories. At the small college I attended, the most cherished building was an old dormitory that had been built in 1899. As the years passed, it went beyond saving. When it was torn down, a few wept but everyone felt the loss. There was a hole where Wright Hall used to be, and it took time to adjust.

The Barn's demise was like that. Its corner doesn't look the same. For some, the campus simply won't feel right for a while. But time marches on, and the loss will soften. The Barn had a life of its own, and it has its own special memories, too. Not just for those who wrote to share their stories (page 8), but for everyone who's been a part of Oakland.



*Managing Editor*

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## That's what friends are for

Distinguished Professor G. Mennen Williams brought an old friend in to address his Honors College leadership class in September: Michigan's Lt. Governor Martha Griffiths. Williams, a former governor and Michigan Supreme Court justice, and Griffiths have crossed political paths for the past 40 years.

Griffiths advised students to take the initiative if they wish to become leaders. "You have to work when others aren't doing anything," she said. "That also means having to give up free time and being willing to carry the load yourself."

The price of political leadership, Griffiths said, is working tirelessly to identify causes, raise funds, organize a campaign structure and obtain endorsements.

"Don't expect to be thanked," she added. "You may be years later, but not immediately."



*Lt. Governor Martha Griffiths speaks on the price of leadership during a visit to an Honors College course taught by longtime colleague G. Mennen Williams.*

## Gallery mounts 'dazzling' exhibit

An "eye-dazzling and mind-striking array of art works and objects," in the words of Meadow Brook Art Gallery Curator Kiichi Usui, come together in stunning form as part of the gallery's season opening exhibit, *Magic in the Mind's Eye*, Parts I & II.

Drawn from the collection of Kempf Hogan, a member of the Meadow Brook Gallery Associates board, the exhibit juxtaposes contemporary paintings and sculptures with striking examples of tribal and folk art, textiles, whirligigs, windtoys, farm implements and other items. The affinity among the works defies conventional categorization or chronology and can be discovered by each viewer, Usui said.

Part I (October 4-November 8) focuses on contemporary paintings, sculpture and three-dimensional objects. Part II (November 22-December 27) contrasts textiles and paintings.

The gallery, located in Wilson Hall on Oakland's campus, is open Tuesday-Friday, 1-5 p.m.; weekends 2-6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. through the first intermission of Meadow Brook Theatre performances.

## University's first employee wraps up 30-year career

George Karas, hired in 1957 to become the new engineer of a university yet to be built, retired July 31 after 30 years at Oakland.

Interviewed by Alfred and Matilda Wilson at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center prior to a football game, Karas at first considered the job "insignificant — but it turned out to be the chance of a lifetime. I don't think anyone else has had the opportunity, the tremendous job that I have had."

Looking back on his career, Karas said he most enjoyed "involvement in the design and implementation of a brand new university — a city! — of 12,000 on absolutely vacant pasture land. There aren't very many people who can go out and build a city in a lifetime, much less work at a university at the same time."

Karas, president of the Rochester Hills, Michigan, city council, has left his mark in the decisions that go into design and

construction of buildings, the nuts-and-bolts side of things.

But he wears his pride on his sleeve. "It's still a thrill to watch young people graduate," he said. "I am proud of what we constructed at Oakland University."

## Car dealers endow scholarships through campaign

A college education will become more affordable for families of the Greater Detroit Dodge and Chrysler-Plymouth dealer association.

Through their gifts of \$15,000 each to the Campaign for Oakland University, the associations have created endowed scholarships. Awards will begin in the fall of 1988.

The purpose of the scholarships is to encourage the pursuit of higher education among the association's employees and their children and grandchildren.



## Alum lauded as "Woman of Promise"

Colleen Ochoa of Waterford, Michigan, was one of 100 graduating seniors chosen by Good Housekeeping magazine in its July salute to "100 Women of Promise, the Class of '87."

A finalist for the university's Matilda Wilson Award, Ochoa also was named an outstanding senior by the Michigan Association of Governing Boards.

The communications major worked for a year as a constituent service representative in the Pontiac office of U.S. Representative Bob Carr. She intends to enter graduate school to study student affairs or educational administration. Ultimately, she hopes to lobby in Washington, D.C., on behalf of education.



Colleen Ochoa

## MBHEI launches program for diabetics

The Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute has broadened its offerings with a program aimed at diabetics.

The 12-week program helps participants become more self-reliant in coping with diabetes through its emphasis on proper exercise and nutrition and on strategies for coping with the disease. Participants work with institute staff in cooperation with their own physicians.

Goldie Hargraves of Lake Orion, Michigan, a participant in the pilot program, gives the diabetes session sound reviews. "I can hardly wait to get to class," she said. "If you feel bad when you arrive, you are mentally lifted when you leave. No one waves a magic wand — it takes work, but the group support makes success possible."

## Quartet makes fine impression in Italy

Oakland's Lafayette String Quartet put another feather in its cap with an impressive showing at a music competition in Italy this summer.

Musicians Ann Elliott, Joanna Hood, Pamela Highbaugh and Sharon Stanis

made it to the second round of the Paolo Borciani International String Quartet Competition in Reggio Emilia, near Milan, Italy. They competed against 20 string quartets from around the world, including three from the U.S.

The outing was the quartet's first international competition. The group hopes to compete next spring in Portsmouth, England.

## Olson named dean of health sciences

Ronald Olson, formerly assistant dean for research at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been named dean of the School of Health Sciences.

Joel Russell, professor of chemistry, served as interim dean prior to Olson's appointment.

Olson has a strong record of accomplishment in the health-behavioral science field. While at the University of Illinois' College of Associated Health Professions, he coordinated the development and implementation of graduate programs in

several fields. Olson also served as chief psychologist for the Temporomandibular Joint and Facial Pain Research Center in the university's College of Dentistry.

## Professor Roy to compete for Swiss research prize

Biologist Arun K. Roy has been invited to Switzerland to compete for the Sandoz Prize in Gerontology Research. Twelve researchers will participate in the conference, slated for March 1988. It is sponsored by Sandoz, an international pharmaceutical company, and administered by the International Association of Gerontology.

Roy, who studies proteins and hormones related to aging, also was asked to present his latest research at the 1987 International Symposium on Cell-to-Cell Communication in Endocrinology, held in Florence, Italy, this fall.

## Oakland prepares for 10-year accreditation review

Oakland University has begun preparing a comprehensive self-study report in preparation for its 10-year review by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges in 1989.

Acting Associate Provost Sheldon Appleton will chair the steering committee preparing for the review. He will be assisted by 12 faculty and staff members.

The aim of the accreditation review process, according to the North Central Association is "to provide public confirmation that what the institution is doing is of acceptable quality and to assist each institution in improving its own activities."

## Estate takes European service bases by storm

The only thing missing was veteran showman Bob Hope when Oakland University's Meadow Brook Estate hit the entertainment trail for a six-week tour of



U.S. military bases in Europe.

Six members of the commercial music show ensemble took their song-and-dance act to Iceland and West Germany, performing for hundreds of U.S. service personnel. Selected through audition by the U.S. Department of Defense, the Estate performed six days a week to audiences ranging from 10 to 1,000. Members received the DOD's Morale Support Medal, which is rarely given to amateurs.

Making the trip were vocalists Anita Schamante of Royal Oak, Kelley Oresky and Jennifer McClure of Sterling Heights, Paul Ayotte of Shelby Township, Michael Gordon of Mio and Michael Maddelein of Richmond.

The 1987-88 Estate, which has 10 members, hopes to be invited to perform on tour next year. Prospective sponsors are invited to call Estate director, Michael Naylor, (313) 370-2045.

## French researcher addresses Oakland conferees

Etienne-Emile Beaulieu, developer of RU-486, the experimental anti-gestational drug being studied by Oakland biologist Virinder K. Moudgil, was on hand for the September 20-22 conference, "Steroid Receptors in Health and Disease."

Beaulieu, a researcher from the University of Paris, spoke at the conference held under the sponsorship of Oakland University and Sero Symposia, USA, the education division of Sero Laboratories of Geneva, Switzerland.

Moudgil, who coordinated the conference, said that more than 100 researchers of international repute attended. Topics included cloning and expression of cloned receptors, involvement of receptors in growth and control of breast cancer cells.

## Corneal research leads to \$50,000 award for Riley

Michael V. Riley, professor of biomedical science, has won a \$50,000 recognition award to further his pioneering work in understanding how the human cornea maintains the clarity needed for sight. He is one of 12 scientists to be honored by the



*Etienne-Emile Beaulieu, developer of RU-486, the experimental anti-gestational drug being studied at Oakland, was one of more than 100 researchers who visited campus for the September conference, "Steroid Receptors in Health and Disease."*

Alcon Research Institute of Fort Worth, Texas.

Riley was among the leaders in determining that cells in a thin membrane called the corneal endothelium act as tiny pumps that force excess water from the cornea. Damage to these cell pumps, from age, toxic damage or disease, causes the cornea to become cloudy; light entering the eye is then scattered or diffused, and a transplant operation may become necessary.

## Virgil Thomson cancels residency

An injury has forced noted composer and music critic Virgil Thomson to cancel his engagement as a visiting professor

during the fall semester; however, Thomson may still come to campus this spring, as originally planned.

Thomson, 90, is recuperating from a fall. He was advised by his physician to cancel any extensive travel, including his trips to Oakland as a lecturer.

Thomson had been named the university's first McGregor Professor of the Humanities and Arts, a chair established through a gift from the McGregor Foundation to the Campaign for Oakland University.

"We are as disappointed that Mr. Thomson won't be here this fall as we are hopeful he'll be able to come in the spring," said Brian Murphy, director of the Honors College, which coordinates the McGregor program. "We wish him a speedy recovery."



# Final Curtain?

by Cindy Hoogasian



Photo by Mel Gilroy

**After escaping the wrecking ball countless times, the Barn Theatre's luck finally ran out. Fire brought down the house for good in August. Or did it?**

**A**SCANT TWO WEEKS after 150 "Barn alumni" — from as far away as California and Jerusalem — gathered to celebrate their memories at a 20th reunion, Oakland University's landmark Barn Theatre was destroyed in an early morning fire.

The fire broke out at 6:45 a.m. August 17. When extinguished by Auburn Hills firefighters less than an hour later, the second story was in ashes, with the ground floor damaged by water and smoke — but still standing.

Lost in the fire were 24 years of Student Enterprise Theatre memorabilia, an estimated \$58,000 worth of production materials used by the Center for the Arts and a number of paintings by John Beardman, professor of art.

State fire investigators examining the rubble for the cause of the fire ruled out arson but were unable to establish the exact cause. However, the blaze is believed to have been sparked by lightning.

Mel Gilroy, assistant director of public safety and a former Oakland student, was one of the first called to the scene. As he arrived at 7 a.m., he found the flames already licking the sky.

"All the way to campus I thought, 'Oh God, the Barn's burning down,'" Gilroy recalled. "It was very emotional. But when I got there, it simply became a fire scene and it was work. By 9:45, I was standing on the roof, waist-deep in debris, and I thought of the times I had spent in the building as a student, getting ready for plays. The loss really hit me at home that night."

As news of the Barn's demise spread across campus, Carl Barnes Jr., director of the Center for the Arts, was struck by what was for him a double loss. The Center for the Arts stored many of its stage platforms, flats and props in the Barn — a devastating loss to an organization that supports student productions. Yet, he said, he felt even worse about the destruction of the mementoes of two

decades of Oakland's Student Enterprise Theatre.

The university quickly came to the Center for the Arts' aid, Barnes said, offering \$10,000 so it could begin replacing production materials for the fall performance season. As always, the show will go on, albeit with much simpler sets than had been anticipated, he said. Donations of furniture and props have been forthcoming, as well, providing greatly needed assistance.

Before its life as a student center, storehouse and theatre, the Barn was part of a 14-building dairy complex on the Meadow Brook Farms estate of university benefactors Alfred and Matilda Wilson.

Alfred Wilson, who made his fortune in the lumber industry, hand-selected all the timber used to build the Barn. His care in choosing knot-free oak produced dividends years later when the structure was converted to a theatre; the wood was not only visually pleasing, but tremendously resonant, said Tom Aston,



assistant director of the Center for the Arts, adjunct assistant professor of theatre, and resident expert on the Barn and its history.

"During performances, you could literally feel the building vibrate with rich, clear sound," recalled Aston, himself a former Oakland student and Student Enterprise Theatre activist.

Both the Barn and the adjoining building, known as the Creamery, enjoyed many incarnations during the years, Aston said. The Creamery, in fact, was transformed into Oakland's first men's residence hall, housing students during the 1959-60 academic year.

Work began to transform the Barn into the new home of the Student Enterprise Theatre in July 1967. After Varner Hall was built, with its student theatre and recital hall, productions moved across campus. Since 1983, the Barn has been used as a student coffeehouse.

The future of the Barn, as has historically been the case, is uncertain. It is insured for replacement value, but no decision has yet been made to restore the structure, or to raze what's left. Ironically, the university spent \$36,000 over the past year to upgrade the building — including reroofing, painting and installing a fire barrier between the first and second stories, likely the reason the ground floor was not destroyed in the blaze.

But to Aston and the hundreds of Oakland alumni who loved it, even a reconstructed Barn won't be the same as the comfortable old building they remember.

"I think the physical loss of the structure is in itself nearly overpowering," he commented. "But what has been the most difficult to deal with are the large volumes of alumni phone calls and the depth of distress the alums are feeling about the loss of the structure."

"I've talked through countless phone calls from people, many of whom met their spouses through the Barn Theatre program. It's difficult to deal with the personal loss each alumnus feels. Even though they've been away five or 10 years, they still feel quite attached."

The Barn does have a certain mystique that envelopes those who have been associated with it, says Gilroy.

"We tend to humanize it," he explains. "I feel as though I lost a friend. It's almost a personal loss. The spirit of the Barn is part of everyone who was there. We all learned to deal with adversity when we worked at the Barn. But the Barn is like the Phoenix and the fire: we all expect it to rise again." ■

*Cindy Hoogasian ('78) first visited the Barn in 1974 to see Hair performed. Hoogasian lives in Southfield, Michigan.*

## Barn alumni reunite to toast 20 years of alternative theatre



Photo by Morris W. Wetner

*More than 150 Oakland alumni returned to campus the weekend of August 1 to take part in the 20th annual Barn reunion. Oakland University Magazine sent freelance writer Susan Salter, an '83 graduate, to cover the event. In the wake of the August 17 fire that destroyed the Barn, her story — written just days before the blaze — holds special meaning for the many alumni and community residents who were Barn regulars (and irregulars) during the decades it served as a theatre and gathering place. —ed.*

The Barn Theatre isn't an imposing structure. Hardly noticeable, in fact, tucked away behind Hannah Hall of Science. It's yellow-painted wood lacks the gravity of Kresge Library or the sheen of O'Dowd Hall.

The Barn doesn't have many visitors these days. Plays are no longer performed there. But what the Barn does have is friends — about 150 of them, mostly Oakland alumni from the 1960s and '70s, gathered there on a humid weekend to reminisce and celebrate two decades of creative experimental theatre on campus.

From 1967 to 1984, under Tom Aston's supervision, the Barn was a nurturing presence at the developing university. Aston, adjunct assistant professor of theatre and assistant director of the Center for the Arts, recalls that the Barn was never "state-of-the-art in electronics, but it was a very good — an excellent — alternative training ground for non-theatre majors." That meant every Oakland student during the Barn's heyday, since Oakland didn't offer a theatre major.

The theatre bowed in November 1967 with "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off," and hosted dozens of plays and musicals during the coming years. Two productions, "Alice" in 1976 and "Jerryrig" in 1980, went on to earn

regional theatre awards — quite an achievement for an ensemble whose home was without heat in the winter, ventilation in the summer and, for a few years, bathrooms.

On this reunion night in the Barn's lower-level coffeehouse, the "Barnies" remember these past glories fondly. But their key recollections are the small victories. Their emotional ties to the place are what made their university days special, alums said.

"I was wandering around the campus one day and I saw this barn and ramp. I thought, 'What's this?' The Barn. 'Is there anything I can do?,' I asked. They handed me a broom." That's the way William Horton ('71) remembers his introduction to the footlights. Within a short time, the Barn "became central to my life at Oakland and formed my future," said Horton, who now directs high school theatre in Phoenix, Oregon.

Like Horton, many Oakland students used their experiences at the Barn as springboards to careers in the arts. Mick Fair ('76) of Chicago, who now performs in children's theatre and commercials, says the "physical challenge" of cold stages and frozen props actually prepared him for the dramatic realities outside the university. "The Barn is unique," he said. "You get used to working under all conditions. Education theatre tends to be cloistered, so when you get out in the world you tend to find yourself in unusual situations. The Barn prepared me for that."

Loyalty to the Barn runs deep. Out-of-towners Fair and Horton both doubt they would have made the trip back to campus for any other reunion.

Even students who chose careers outside the theatre retain the Barn's influence, says Catherine Sabanos ('82) of Rochester. "Your workplace becomes the stage."

The Barn's life as a theatre ended in 1984 after the structure was deemed unsafe for public assembly. The news hit hard. Lisamarie Kaleita ('84), a Warren, Michigan actress and dancer, said it was "very much a shock" to be abruptly evicted. She, like many alumni, holds high hopes for the Barn's eventual rebirth.

"If I made a million dollars tomorrow, I'd probably donate half of it to renovate and reopen this place."



# Readers remember the Barn

## Saving the barns

In 1962, or thereabouts, the barns were being sold for \$200 to be demolished for scrap. One small barn had already been torn down, leaving the Belgian horse barn and the cattle barn. No one went out that way very much and the barns were not locked. With someone and for some reason, both forgotten, I went through them. They were built more beautifully and solidly than most people's houses. The animals' quarters were lined with ceramic tile. Then there was the impact of the empty loft in the cattle barn. It was a very large space and took your breath away, as large spaces do. Everywhere was a beautiful, warm brown color. The loft in the cattle barn was, I decided, like a cathedral (although, being a kid from Royal Oak, Michigan, I had never seen a real cathedral — just slides of their outsides in John Galloway's art history class).

At Oakland, my academic record was littered with incompletes. I was always looking for distractions. It was *wrong*, I decided, to tear down these beautiful buildings. Maybe the loft could be a theatre. So I went back to the Grill, where I spent an enormous amount of time, and talked up this opinion. (In the large corporation where I now work, this is called "socializing the issue.")

I remember going with some recruits to see an administrator (probably a dean — everyone was a dean back then — there seemed to be more deans than students). This man gave us some discouraging information on fire codes, especially for rooms in wooden structures above the ground floor and intended to hold crowds. I also didn't fully appreciate the fact that saving the barns would make his job a lot harder than tearing them down.

I remember dragging (former university president) Donald O'Dowd out to see the loft. He was also a dean then, I think, and we used to make jokes about all the Ds in his name and title. I was crazy about him, having come down with this attitude in his social psych class — I still have a soft spot for the stiff-necked, Harvard look. It was a cold spring: April and the temperature was still in the 30s. I remember standing in the cold loft and him saying something like, "I think you are having a love affair with the barns." Psychologists.

My next memory is of a "Save the Barns" demonstration — really more of a parade. There is an image of a young woman holding a "Save the Barns" placard and leading the show. She was a

student-leader type, which I despised, being a leftover-beatnik/hippie-precursor type myself. In fact, though, she probably understood deans a lot better than I did. I might have kept the barns from being torn down, but she's the one who saved them.

Several years later, my brother, then a student at Oakland, took me to see the loft of the cattle barn. It was (and I guess still is) a theatre. The big-space gasp didn't happen, though. There were partitions and lighting equipment hanging down. Much of that beautiful wood was covered with silvery stuff that was probably fire-retardant insulation. There were fire escapes all over the outside.

But the barn was still there.

Kay Lorentzen Mueller ('63)  
Rumson, New Jersey

## Private performance

It was dark. Darker than I knew it was possible to be. My eyes made moving, op-art designs out of this blackness. I sat at an old harmonium — a small pump organ like the ones traveling preachers carried with them on their rounds. I was

sitting on a platform high above the stage, playing diminished minor chords that filled the air with phantom sounds of music and wheezing. I played by touch alone.

Then there appeared a circle of light below me on the stage. A small circle illuminating a book. Reader and listeners were lost in the darkness. Woeful words of Edgar Allen Poe mixed with the music and the wheezing. The music droned, the words chilled, the night pressed upon us.

This was the most memorable Halloween night of my life. The year was 1971; I was playing keyboard for the SET (Student Enterprise Theatre) production of "Three-Penny Opera" and a group of us had gotten into the Barn when one brave soul climbed the back wall to the loading door. No permanent ramp existed then. In the most complete darkness I have ever known, I crawled up the steps to the raised "pit" and played while another of the company read from Poe by weak flashlight. It was a fantastic night!

Sara "Olga" Sieland-Bucy ('77)  
Detroit, Michigan



"West Side Story," 1975

Photo by Jundug Clark



## The crucible of creativity

In the spring of 1972, I was privileged in mounting a production of *A Hatful of Rain* in collaboration with a brilliant company of energetic people, many of whom were completely new to the theatre. I sought out some of the first-timers with what was probably obnoxious persistence; some of the Barn's most seasoned actors were also recruited. I was especially humbled by the challenge of directing my acting teacher, Tom Aston, who played the sinister role of "Mother."

The standout of the debut thespians whom I had pressed into service, however, was (the late) Professor of Psychology Irving Torgoff. Irving adeptly played the role of an out-of-touch father in a taut family drama surrounding the drug addiction of a returned Korean War veteran. Irving was anything but an out-of-touch father figure to the cast. The model of his personal risk-taking in assuming a completely novel challenge in mid-life, coupled with the easy, earthy manner in which he bridged considerable age gaps and status differences, was an experience that promoted the development of everyone associated with the production.

In what crucible, other than Oakland University, could this kind of creative process — involving diverse members of the university community — have been forged? I am deeply grateful to the university and to the good and uncommon people who were drawn to the university for having helped me create a small place in it all.

**Eliezer "Larry" Margolis ('73)**  
*Evanston, Illinois*

## Sanctuary, incubator and home

My recollections of the Barn are in bits and pieces, already faded at the edges like old photographs.

In the winter of 1981, I worked on sets for *The Importance of Being Ernest*. One afternoon when the campus was reeling under the onslaught of a blizzard, I was stranded by my ride-pool partner and waited in the Creamery for rescue. While snow piled up on the windowpanes, I explored the old house — venturing into the cellar, a bit dark and musty, even forbidding, but stacked with old sets that spoke more vividly than playbills. Outside, muffled by the snow, the campus seemed eerily quiet and still. After spending a few hours daydreaming among the clutter, I felt that I had been part of every play performed in the Barn, since its earliest days as a theatrical showcase.

I met a lot of talented people at the Barn, too many to list. Tom Aston sat quietly in the frequent mayhem, gently

directing his flock. We gravitated there, wanting to save the Barn from stagnation, even beginning a coffeehouse to showcase new talent. Despite our ambitions, the Barn and the Creamery weren't merely stages for our budding actors' egos — they constituted Sanctuary, a corner of campus where we could escape SOC 100 or SCN 201, and explore our hearts as well as our intellects.

Until I read the call for input in the magazine, I really hadn't stopped to think about all the time I spent at the Barn. I can't help but hope that other people were touched as well by the opportunities afforded by the Barn. We were given a chance to grow, to learn about life in a way that had little to do with academia, but everything to do with art.

**Pamela Diane Schultz ('84)**  
*Warren, Michigan*

## Chill without, warmth within

The winter of my freshman year was so cold that in the Barn's dressing rooms we huddled together like puppies. We would take turns wearing the fur I wore on stage. And believe me, that was only the first time I battled the elements in that building: It was often so cold we would jump around to stay warm, or so hot that your costume never totally dried out between performances.

The experiences I had at the Barn were some of the best of my life. I worked with the most talented people I have ever known. We all had endless chances to grow and Tom Aston was amazingly tolerant of our "growing pains." I am currently recovering from a disabling neurological illness. I don't regret that I

can no longer dance and run like in those years at the Barn. I am so grateful for the times I did have. Working together like we did is an experience I wish everyone could have.

**Clarice A. Rapset ('83)**

## The lure of living history

I came to Oakland in 1984 as a freshman, straight from the comfortable world of high school. My high school was in a small suburban town where everyone knew everyone else, so the move to a college with 12,000 students was quite a jump.

The Barn had an effect on me even before I moved to campus. During my free period at orientation, I chose to walk to the Barn, as opposed to a softball or volleyball game. In the middle of all the instruction about what classes to take for what major and what building was where, here was a building that was a constant reminder of how Oakland came to be. The entire frightening experience of being a freshman faded in the shadow of the campus's biggest landmark.

As a Student Life Scholarship recipient, I was required to stay active in two organizations on campus during the academic year. My involvement with CoffeeHouse Productions (at the Barn) started because one of its founders, Kate Royce Burdick, was my head resident. My involvement has continued because of my growing attachment to the structure.

The Barn's legacy is a commitment to education that cannot be ignored.

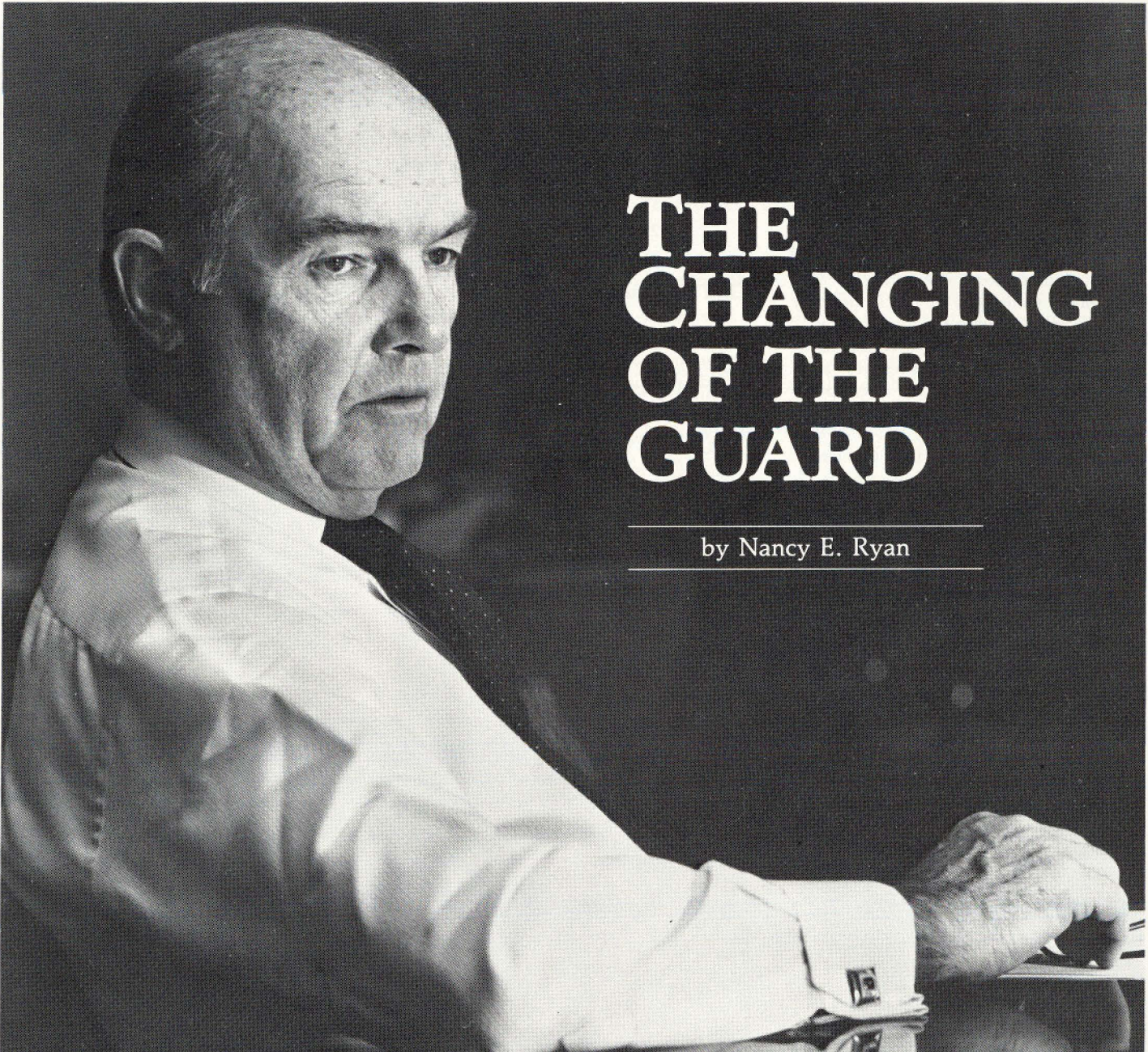
**Natalie A. Olsen (Junior)**  
*Roseville, Michigan*



*"Eh?" 1969*

*From left: Jeffrey Zabner ('70) and William Horton ('71)*





# THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

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by Nancy E. Ryan

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## On the eve of his retirement, GM President Jim McDonald talks about competition, trade and the need for industry/academia interaction

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE'S August 24 interview with GM's James F. McDonald captured his thoughts on a variety of subjects, including industry/academia interaction and the future of the domestic automotive industry. We are grateful for his insight, time and cooperation — and wish him a fruitful retirement. —ed.

It was the autumn of his presidency, five working days before his retirement as president and chief operating officer on General Motors Corporation at the mandatory age of 65. Yet the office on the 14th floor of the monumental General Motors Building — a surprisingly unpretentious office behind two sets of locked, glass doors — clearly belonged to F. James McDonald. Countenance says a lot.

A life-like portrait of his wife, Betty, garbed in formal attire, taken by retired GM photographer Jim Israel, bespoke of McDonald the family man, as did photos of the McDonalds' children and grandchildren.

Before seating himself for the interview at hand, McDonald briefly overlooked the Detroit skyline below, including the highly automated Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly Center (Poletown) — completed in 1983 at a cost of approximately \$500 million — one of the many undertakings begun during his 6½-year tenure as second-in-command at GM.

His was a tenure marked by both the planting of seeds and drought, by an aggressive, division-wide reorganization and wide-scale implementation of high-technology processes, by a nagging decline in U.S. market share and persistent trimming of the white-collar ranks.

McDonald, a 47-year GM veteran, takes all of the above in stride. Like the GM Building itself, he has provided a firm foundation while weathering many a storm. And, his legacy extends beyond the doors of the multinational giant he has served.

In 1976, for example, the McDonalds chaired the Meadow Brook Music Festival Executive Committee. McDonald chaired the first Board of Visitors of the School of Business Administration (then known as the School of Economics and Management) — a post he held from 1978 to 1984 — and was the featured

speaker at the SBA's premiere Dean's Lecture Series in November 1982. He is a member of the Oakland University Foundation, the President's Club and the steering committee of the Campaign for Oakland University. The list goes on — at Oakland and at other institutions of learning.

**Ryan:** *Oakland University is keeping up with industry in a variety of ways — including its various boards of visitors and the Oakland Technology Park. In your opinion, what are the primary benefits of industry/academic technology transfer? What can be done to accelerate technology transfer between industry and academia?*

**McDonald:** American industry needs all of the ideas it can garner from any source to help it be world-competitive. A great deal of talent and innovative ideas exist in academia; many universities have great research capabilities. Any ways to improve communications between industry and academia will help accelerate the transfer of technology.

Oakland has a unique opportunity for technology transfer in that many of its students — particularly those enrolled in the graduate school — are full-time employees in industry. If these students are informed about what's going on within Oakland, that information will be siphoned back to industry. There's a whole flock of automatic messengers attending classes out there. In addition, we have employees who serve on various Oakland boards. A periodic university-sponsored seminar aimed at telling industry what's going on internally might also be helpful.

**Ryan:** *High-technology processes — robotics and computer-integrated manufacturing, for example — are described as prerequisites to increased U.S. manufacturing strength. Research and development at universities such as Oakland, with its Center for Robotics and Advanced Automation, are working to further develop these technologies. In your opinion, are these technologies living up to their reputations?*

**McDonald:** I think that high-technology processes are living up to our expectations — they're being utilized to improve our productivity. If you look at some of our modernized body shops — either in

the automobile or truck side of the business — you'll find that they're heavily automated and full of robotics. If you look at our paint shops, you'll find the same thing.

I hear people say that you don't have to go to high technology, that you don't have to automate, that it's all a matter of management principles. I disagree with them. I think that you have to take advantage of all the management principles you can. But in lieu of the situation in this country, we have to automate . . . even if we hear "Well, it didn't work as well as it should have." If you're going to be a leader in high technology and you're going to ask your creative people to reach out with new ideas and new ways of doing things, you're going to periodically stumble. If you simply go with what's already been tried out, you probably won't stumble, but you won't lead, either — you'll be a follower. We have to be a leader. Consequently, we have stumbled here and there. But that isn't a terrible sin by itself — it's what you learn from the stumble that counts. That's the real judge of management.

**Ryan:** *What other issues critical to manufacturing competitiveness should academia explore?*

**McDonald:** How best to acquaint or educate our work force on the competitiveness of the organization. I believe that's an important facet that universities should look into. I don't believe in saying to a work force, "If you don't work harder, you're not going to have a job." I think that the sharing of information is a very important factor.

Whenever management says, "We have to do something different," that same information has to be conveyed to the other people involved — the work force, the union leaders and so forth — so they arrive at the same conclusion. The technique for doing that needs to be further developed. We're trying to do it. Based on past history, there tends to be some disbelief, exemplified by the feeling that "What they're feeding me isn't really true."

How do you convince them over a period of time that what you're showing them is true? You obviously do that by never kidding them and never giving them false figures. It's an obligation on



the part of management to let the work force know as much as possible. I'd just like to know if there's a unique way to go about it.

**Ryan:** *Traditionally, Oakland has had a strong presence in the continuing education realm. Do you feel that today's young automotive executives and engineers are pursuing continuing education activities to the fullest? What place will continuing education hold in the automotive company of the 1990s?*

**McDonald:** The obvious answer to that is no, because whatever you're doing you can do more of. We certainly encourage our people to update themselves through tuition rebate programs and the like. This is such a fast-moving world, I don't see how you can get along without continuing education.

Continuing education needs are going to vary from each one of the individual units. High on the list for manufacturing people is work force/union leadership and management integration — and all of the things that go into creating a better relationship. There has to be help from academia in teaching leaders — both on the management and union sides — how to accomplish this and what the potential pitfalls are.

**Ryan:** *If you were to name the most major change in the automotive industry in the past 10 years, what would it be and why?*

**McDonald:** Ten years prior to 1977, it was government regulations coming into our industry in terms of fuel economy, exhaust emissions and so forth. In the last 10 years, it was the 1979 revolution in Iran, which allowed foreign competition to get a strong foothold in this country and to develop a distribution system. In the early months of 1979, before the Iranian revolution, we had all kinds of Chevettes in inventory and the Japanese had big inventories that weren't moving. They weren't really considered a big threat. But the fuel lines and the resulting poor economic picture — double-digit inflation, interest rates above 20 percent — combined to help foreign competition get established in this country. That's a permanent change, the fact that they're here.

The resulting effect is that the domestic automotive industry has really grabbed hold of things and said, "Hey, we're going to take on this challenge — we're not going to let them wash us down the drain." It got everybody working together toward the objective of improving productivity and quality.

What's now going on in General Motors is truly exciting — maybe the most exciting thing that's happened within the industry in years. We went through a major reorganization so we

could better handle what we saw as down-the-road competitive pressures and made some tremendous investments in plants and products. We've improved our quality considerably. Our cost structure is improving. We've come out with some world-class vehicles; we've closed the gap with those that may not yet be classified as world-class. All of that — and certainly our relationship with the union — has improved immensely in response to the pressures of the early 1980s. These pressures were felt by all of us — not only management, but union leadership, the work force . . . everybody.

**Ryan:** *What was the objective behind the GM/Toyota joint venture in Fremont, California?*

**McDonald:** We wanted a car at the end of the line as soon as possible and to

## ***"The whole country needs to pull up its socks and take on a competitive attitude."***

learn more about Japanese manufacturing techniques. We've had the privilege of sending some visitors to the NUMMI (New United Motors Manufacturing, Inc.) plant, which is run by the Japanese. We don't have to copy what the Japanese are doing — we've got to realize that our cultures are different. Because of their culture, they can do some things differently. But we've learned a tremendous amount from the joint venture.

**Ryan:** *In your opinion, what is the future of the U.S. automotive industry — with such problems as foreign competition, labor disputes and limited oil resources facing it?*

**McDonald:** The domestic automotive industry — and I speak easier for General Motors than for any other company because I know it better — is going to remain the dominant factor in the automobile business. We do have a

long way to go to assure that position. But the things that are under way inside General Motors are absolutely great. We don't care where the challenge is coming from — we're going to be world-class in both cost and quality; we're going to take them out of the marketplace. We see some of that already under way. Some of our new products — such as the Corsica, the Beretta and the 400 Series trucks — are increasing in daily selling rate every 10-day period.

I don't have any qualms about our potential to be world competitive. I say potential because there are still some things to clean up and work out. There's still a great need for the work force, union leadership and management to work together, look at the problems and figure how to take those problems on. That's being done to an outstanding extent in some plants and not so well in others. But I have nothing but high hopes and confidence for the future.

**Ryan:** *What do you have planned for your own immediate and not-so-immediate future?*

**McDonald:** Well, I'm on three outside boards right now — for H. J. Heinz Company, Georgia-Pacific Corporation and K mart Corporation. And I'll join a fourth board in September. They haven't announced this yet, so I can't either. I'm already co-chairperson of the GMI Engineering and Management Institute's capital campaign. I'm also going to take on fund drives for Beaumont Medical Center and the Up With People organization. And we're building a new home. I think with all of that — and what Mrs. McDonald has in mind — I'll keep busy. We're going to spend most of our time in this part of the country and some of the more miserable winter months down in Florida. At my retirement party, Mrs. McDonald said that I'm going to wear away, not rust away.

**Ryan:** *Is there anything we haven't covered that you'd like to add?*

**McDonald:** Just one inside observation. The U.S. has a right to be concerned about its competitiveness. It should encourage and help those companies that are trying to reach that competitive status. There's a lot of fun in the bashing that's going on. We realize that if you're going to be number one, you're going to have your list of critics. That's all right. It isn't just GM or the automotive industry — the whole country needs to pull up its socks and take on a competitive attitude. Where this is happening it ought to be saluted, not criticized. ■

*Nancy E. Ryan ('82) is a freelance writer from Lake Orion, Michigan, and former assistant editor of OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE.*



# Sayonara, Tokyo

by Tony Boganey

Ten weeks in Japan gave an Oakland senior a new view of international relations — and something to write home about



WHERE CAN ONE GO to receive an in-depth education about Japanese business practices and have a great deal of fun at the same time? For me, the answer was, "Tokyo."

Last summer I participated in a 10-week seminar on Japanese business and society sponsored by International Internship Programs, a non-profit organization founded in 1979 and aimed at increasing international understanding and cooperative endeavors among business, organizations and individuals. It promotes world-wide exchanges for college students, educators and professionals.

The program in which I participated was an intense study of Japanese business structure and the cultural factors that influence it. The program consisted of in-class language training, on-site company seminars, a one-month independent research experience and a "cultural experience," which included living with a local family.

For the first six weeks, we began each day with two hours of language training. But, as is often the case, it's the out-of-classroom experiences that really plunge you into a country's culture. Especially when that experience involves Tokyo's subway system.

All the students in our program stayed with families who lived about an hour and half's commute from the study center, so we rode the subway (the cheapest and fastest way to travel in Tokyo) in for our morning lessons. Anyone who is familiar with the word "hazing" can appreciate our experience.

The way I look at it, the Japanese in the subway station saw us as unsuspecting *gaijin* (foreigners or outsiders) coming to catch the train and said to one another, "Hey look! Here come some *gaijin* — let's have some fun." Everyone in the station appeared to get on the same train I did. Everyone! It even seemed that there were people in my car whom I had seen waiting for a different train. Seriously, riding the subways during rush hour was truly an enlightening experience, teaching me patience, stamina and the art of dodging flying elbows.

In addition to language lessons, we attended company visitations and seminars — exposing us not just to Japanese business thinking but to the work environment. In all, we visited more than 20 organizations, including Fuji-Xerox, the Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, the Liberal Democratic Party, Nissan Motor Company, Kirin Brewery Company, the Japanese Economic Journal, and the Japanese External Trade Organization. We also visited the American Chamber of Commerce, the United States Embassy and ACI Japan Ltd., an Australian trad-



ing company in Japan.

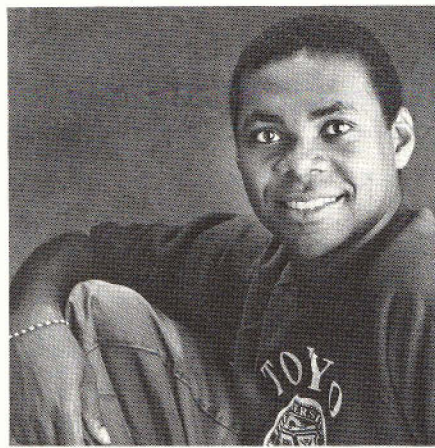
The visits usually began with an introduction to the organization and an overview of its role in the Japanese economy. Inevitably — and within the first few minutes in the case of the American Chamber of Commerce — we got around to the topic of U.S./Japan economic relations.

From these discussions, and my own study, I learned that the subject is much more complex than I had originally thought. A number of Japanese representatives attributed the trade imbalance between our two countries primarily to appreciation of the yen, the large U.S. debt, and the fact that Japan imports raw materials but exports finished products. American companies seem to have difficulty entering the Japanese market, they said, because Japanese consumers:

- Have a negative image of American goods and companies. They see American companies as unreliable, believing them willing to change markets abruptly and leave consumers with products that cannot be serviced. Japanese perceive American companies as more interested in turning quick profits than cultivating rapport with consumers, as compared to Japanese, whom they feel are willing to spend years in a market developing a consumer-corporate relationship necessary for success.
- Don't perceive American products as high quality items, and they feel American goods in general do not project the image of prestige that many other foreign products do.
- Feel there is an apparent lack of effort made in modifying products specifically for them, related to the impression there is a general lack of American understanding of Japanese culture and society.

To my surprise, the Japanese reps did not side-step the issue of trade barriers. Many agreed that Japan has some barriers to trade and that removing them would improve U.S./Japan trade relations. However, they seemed to feel trade restrictions were a smaller part of the problem than the perceptual barriers.

On the other hand, our discussions with representatives from the U.S. Embassy and the American Chamber of Commerce revealed that the U.S. takes quite a different view. These organizations told us the only way to decrease economic tension between the two countries and enhance American economic growth is for Japan to immediately eliminate all trade barriers, for Japan to consume more foreign goods, for it to shoulder more world debt, and for it to assume a greater financial responsibility for its defense. They appeared to have given little thought as to what American



companies could do to improve their own state of affairs.

These corporate visits were not only beneficial in providing me with fresh perceptions of U.S./Japan economic relations, they also provided me with resources for my independent research project. I focused on "Television Advertising in the Japanese Market: Its Significance and Use." Gathering information was not as difficult as I had thought it would be. There were quite a few publications in English, and many of the people I met with spoke English, but there were times when my broken Japanese did come in handy.

During our internship, we were further immersed in Japanese culture by living with local families. Living with two Japanese families, as I did, gave me a better understanding of Japanese culture, our differences and how to adapt to them. Neither of my families were "typical." One family, a married couple with two young children and a grandmother (the average-sized Japanese family) had an unusually large estate with two homes on it — one with four bedrooms, which they lived in; the other a two-bedroom home where I stayed. My other host family had a smaller home (more typical), but was headed by a divorced mother — a very unusual situation in Japan.

Living with these families — and just being in Tokyo — made me aware of the many subtle differences between our two cultures. In Japan there are unwritten rules on how to do almost everything, some of which date back centuries. Some I noticed pertained to introducing people, exchanging business cards, setting business appointments, seating arrangements, giving gifts and, probably most important, subway etiquette.

Another difference I enjoyed learning about was the crucial distinction between *honne* and *tatemei*, public and private responses. In the U.S., the setting in which questions are asked and responded to doesn't matter much; but in Japan the context is very important, and a

Westerner may have difficulty understanding an answer if he has asked a question in a wrong way — or in the wrong place. This is often true, in reverse, for Japanese visitors to the West.

One of the things I really liked about Tokyo was the feeling of safety. Even when we were in the center of Tokyo at night, we never had to worry about being mugged or harrassed or anything you would worry about in a city of comparable size.

Still, as a foreigner not used to Tokyo's concentrated population, it was hard to get used to the loss of open spaces. We took advantage of our need to get out of the city by visiting other parts of the main island, including Kyoto, Yokohama, Kamakura and Nikko, and by climbing Mt. Fuji, the experience of a lifetime. My only regret is that I did not have time to attend the memorial service of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima held in August.

Having participated in the internship, I cannot imagine receiving a fraction of the information I acquired in Japan from study alone in the states. I had the wonderful opportunity to live in a country I had only read about, and to get new information on a subject of strong interest to me: international economics, particularly U.S./Japanese relations. I believe a program like this is a prerequisite for anyone planning to live, work or do business in Japan. And I think it will be the best preparation I could have, since I hope to return to Japan after graduation. ■

*Few students gain first-hand cross-cultural experience of the kind Oakland's Tony Boganey did last summer. A senior from Muskegon Heights, Michigan, Boganey was one of nine American students chosen to participate in a 10-week business seminar in Tokyo. His trip was funded, in part, by the President's Club. Among his other honors, Boganey, a political science major and former University Congress president, was chosen from among 800 college students to receive a fellowship for the 1986-87 academic year from the Center for the Study of the President, a research institute in Washington, D.C. —ed.*



# That old black magic

by Susan Salter

**There's more to voodoo, witchcraft and ESP than meets the eye. So say the Oakland researchers who've gone to unusual lengths to study them**

*"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."*

— Hamlet, act I, scene V

**W**ELCOME TO the 20th century, Horatio.

Today many Americans, skeptics and believers alike, are drawn to the unexplained. Some go "In Search of," others *Out on a Limb*. Spirit channelers, psychics and faith healers are topics of household conversation. This past summer, thousands hummed their way through Harmonic Convergence. And witches defend their image in *People* magazine.

One fascinating aspect of this "New Age Science" — whether it focuses on the occult, the paranormal or a related field — is that it embraces classic disciplines: history, anthropology, literature, drama, art and philosophy among them. Not

surprisingly, then, Oakland scholars are among those who have turned their attention — and conventional research methodologies — toward such "sexy" subjects as witchcraft, faith healing and voodoo. Their findings not only pique the curiosity of those with a casual interest in such intriguing subjects, but frequently help flesh out these areas' sociological, historical and philosophical underpinnings.

Take, for example, Mary Karasch's study of how Afro-Brazilian religious rituals compare to those of other Western religions — research she undertook while preparing her 1987 book, *Slave Life in Rio de Janeiro*.

In addition to interviewing Brazilian religious leaders and collecting historical data, Karasch, associate professor of history, witnessed rites that culminated in the spiritual possession of some tribal worshippers — what some would label voodooism.

But to Karasch, Umbanda and Condomblé, two widely practiced religions in Brazil, offer compelling, often beautiful, images.

Among her favorites is the Condomblé Feast of the Saints, where "mediums assume the dress of the spirits — very elaborate, often in silks and satins." The "familiar" (attendant spirits, often taking animal forms) worship to the sound of drums used to call the spirits, demonstrating Condomblé's distinct African ties.

While imitative Condomblé rituals are frequently performed for Rio tourists, Karasch notes, "to see the authentic stuff, you have to go into the slums of the city." Karasch, who spent the 1986-87 academic year as a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow in Brazil, did view the "authentic stuff," but retained her skepticism. "I can report on what I have seen in Rio," she says, "but I don't have the same beliefs as the people there. If I did, I would have been possessed!"

Another Oakland scholar with a personal interest in the preternatural is James Dow, associate professor of anthropology.

Dow became a student of shamanism — spiritual healing — while examining the phenomenon in Mexico some years ago. Dow not only studied shamanism in preparation for his recent book, *The Shaman's Touch*, he learned how to practice the healing techniques, too.

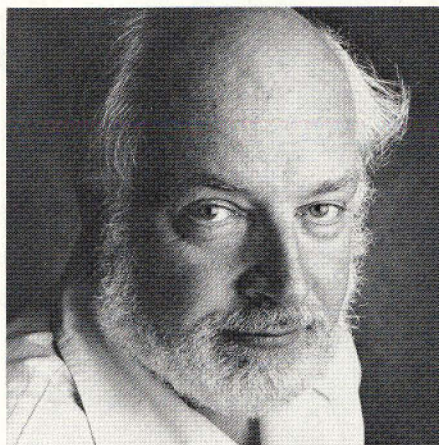
"I'm not a terribly religious person, but I was influenced by their beliefs," Dow admits.

Shamanism involves intricate rites that rely more on psychology than on biology. Says he: "Spiritual healing is based on myth, the belief that something is happening." Oddly enough, it is for that very reason that shamanism has closer ties to modern, "civilized" medicine than many skeptics would like to admit, Dow contends. He compares the effectiveness of some shamanic medicine to the placebo effect. In Western culture, a simple sugar pill administered by a trusted doctor using the proper words



*These orixas were originally gods of the Yoruba People, who were taken to Brazil from Nigeria as slaves. Today, they are important in Umbanda and Condomblé religious rites. Left: Oxala, son of the creator god. Above: Omulu, god of death.*





James Dow: "If you believe in only one way of healing, you're a believer — not necessarily a scientist." Below left: A paper cut-out of a god, used in religious ceremonies.

and attitude can influence a patient's recovery in about 30 percent of documented cases, he points out. "The way the pill is given is what has an effect on its usefulness." In the same way, a shaman can literally will a person back to health, using his own culture's symbolic processes.



While he is an advocate of shamanistic skills, Dow draws the line at psychic surgery, a sleight-of-hand ceremony where the shaman seems to actually dig into his patient's body. "That's going too far," Dow notes. "On the other hand, some myths (support) that the shaman is able to move something in the body."

Such research, relying as it does on tribal customs, can be a magnet for debunking — skepticism taken to its limit. "The whole idea of debunking spiritual healing is a mythological war," Dow maintains. "When you debunk something, you're not showing that it's logically untrue. What you're saying is, 'My myth is better than your myth.' If you believe in only one way of healing, you're a believer — not necessarily a scientist."

To Richard Brooks, associate professor of philosophy, an ideal skeptic would temper his or her doubts with an open mind. A student of parapsychology, Brooks is used to the raised eyebrows his area of interest seems to provoke among his colleagues. "Their attitude ranges from bemused skepticism to violent opposition," he says.

But, not everyone dismisses documented incidents of parapsychology without a hearing. Brooks' lecture, "Things That Go Bump in the Night," is a perennial favorite among community groups who seek his expertise through the university's Speakers' Bureau.

In pursuing his research, Brooks seeks verification of extra-sensory perception (ESP), telepathy and psychokinesis. "I try to get into scientific investigations of these claims," he explains. "Intense study

may damp down the excitement and allure (of the paranormal), but it doesn't necessarily make you a skeptic."

Brooks does harbor personal skepticism, as everyone does, and his is especially strong in the area of spiritualism espoused by actress Shirley MacLaine in her most recent book, *Out on a Limb*. "I have extreme doubts about its authenticity," he notes. "If you follow a (medium) you'll find that the spirits keep going back farther and farther in time. Look at it in the context of common sense and you'll find something suspicious in their claims."

Professional debunkers are no more attractive to Brooks than are spiritualists. He cites as example James Randi, a magician who gained fame and government funding by revealing the techniques of fraudulent faith healers and psychics. While Randi has exposed several obvious phonies, Brooks says, "he ignores tests not susceptible to debunking. The evidence strongly supports evidence of psychokinesis. I couldn't bat .400, but that doesn't mean Ted Williams couldn't. There are people who have legitimate abilities. If a real scientist is going to be honest, he doesn't want to (work like Randi)."

What has Brooks' research told him? He has some surprising news. "A careful



Mary Karasch: "If I had the same beliefs as the people there, I would have been possessed."





Richard Brooks: "There's adequate evidence to ground a basic belief in reincarnation." Below right: Tools of the trade for detecting ESP.

objective study of psychic phenomena gives us reason to believe that we are beyond the purely physical. There's adequate evidence to ground a basic belief in reincarnation." He also finds proof positive for ESP and psychokinesis. That latter skill is difficult to substantiate because, as Brooks puts it, "it's a hell of a lot easier to reach over and pick up something than it is to move it with your will."

The occult is just "a name for any religion not sanctioned by the Christian church," according to Jim Dow. Nevertheless, there is a realm of occult scholarship, and there witches hold a special place. Their history is so pervasive and their legend so universal, the public seldom remembers that true witchcraft is a religion — a celebration of Mother Earth — and that witches are not the satanic familiars of lore.

Joseph Klaits, associate professor of history, teaches a fall course called "European Witchcraft" — not a lab course, he warns, laughing. It is a subject that Klaits has turned into something of a specialty. He is the author of *Servants of Satan: The Age of the Witch Hunts*, whose ironic title underscores the images of witches during the 16th and 17th centuries, an era that saw literally thousands of witch trials.

Klaits examines the socioeconomic factors behind the purges of Europe and North America, rather than actual witchcraft. He has found that a typical "witch" of that era was an elderly woman, a widow perhaps, living a hand-to-mouth existence on the fringes of society. In other words, a perfect scapegoat for an age engulfed in religious reformation and on the edge of industrial revolution.

It was a time when God's will was held in account for any twist of fate. So, when trouble befell a household, it was easier and more logical to accuse the old beggar woman at the door of casting an odious "spell" than it was to believe that somehow God was punishing the household for a spiritual transgression.

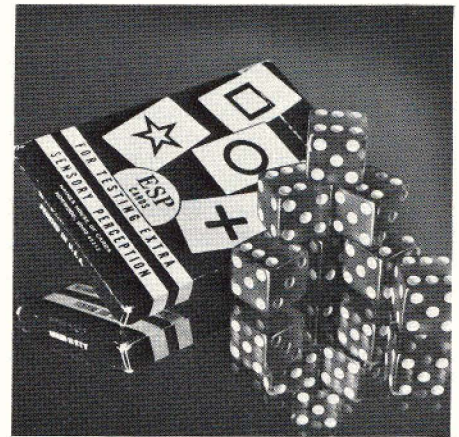
There's not a great deal of evidence explaining why the witch trials ceased, said Klaits, who has read transcripts of dozens of witch trials. He theorizes that two elements came into play. "First, the religious fervor of the age began to peter out after a century or so. And, it was the rise of modern science — the age of Newton and Galileo. The new picture of the world was more mechanical: mathematical laws replaced God's will."

But Klaits sees modern ties to the witch hunt tradition. "It has a lot to do with our values of charity and welfare," he says. "We still have our persecuted

minorities, our scapegoats. We just don't call them witches anymore."

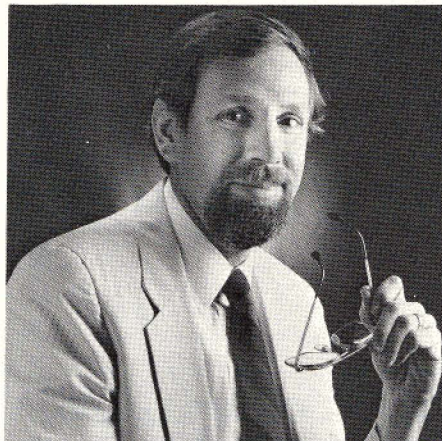
Actually, some people do. A wire service report in August of this year reported that 18 suspected witches were burned to death in Tanzania.

Clearly, the continuing interest in the roots and consequences of these intrigu-



ing areas will result in fresh discoveries as time passes. Brooks in fact, is sure of it. "We are only in the 20th century — we don't know everything about the universe," he notes. "There are many surprises to come in the future. ■"

Susan Salter ('83) is a writer/editor living in Southfield, Michigan.



Joseph Klaits: "We still have our persecuted minorities, our scapegoats. We just don't call them witches anymore."



## ALUMNI

1963

**Norman Kurilik** works for the UpJohn Company in public relations. His wife, **Ardith (Morris) Kurilik** ('64), received a master's degree in early childhood development from Western Michigan University in June, 1987. She teaches first grade in Portage, Michigan. The Kuriliks' oldest son is a sophomore at Oakland and their youngest son is in high school.

1964

**Marshall Bishop** has been promoted to vice president for instruction at Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac. He was formerly dean of arts and sciences at SMC. Bishop, who has been with the college since 1975, received his doctorate from the State University of New York. He taught college-level chemistry courses at Paw Paw High School from 1983 to 1985.

1968

**Sandra (Stroup) Volgy** is returning to Tucson, Arizona, where she will begin a private practice in clinical psychology specializing in family and child therapy. Volgy is leaving Florida, where she was an adjunct faculty member in marriage and family therapy at Florida State University and was in private practice.

1970

**Roberta Buss-Lyons** is a Roscommon Township deputy and recently ran for the Roscommon Board of Education. She and her husband, Jerome Lyons, have two children, Natalie, 9, and Travis, 6.

1971

**Tim Atkins** and his wife, Maureen, announce the birth of their second son, Jeffrey, born May 8, 1987.

1972

**Ellen R. Cooper** has been appointed serials/acquisitions librarian for the University of Tennessee, Memphis Health Science Center Library. She lives in Germantown, Tennessee, with her husband, Howard, and children, Stacie, 8, and Daniel, 5.

**Arthur R. Hughes** has been promoted to Southeastern U.S. audit manager for Sentry Insurance. He resides in Roswell, Georgia, with his wife, Christine, and their three children.

**Ray Miller** works at Michigan National Bank as a computer programmer analyst. Miller is also a freelance writer; his short story appeared in the July 19, 1987, issue of *Michigan*, the magazine of the *Detroit News*.

**Dan Spencer** has been in Japan recently interviewing and surveying managers at Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT).

1973

**Michele A. Fuerch** has been granted tenure at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin, effective in the 1988-89 academic year. Fuerch, assistant professor of romance languages, has been on the faculty since 1983.

**David Orndorf** was one of five candidates for the Brighton (Michigan) Board of Education. Formerly with the Pontiac school district, he later served in special needs vocational placement for the Brighton Area Schools.

1974

**Michael Mullaney** was a candidate for the Rochester (Michigan) Board of Education. He is employed by Electronic Data Systems. He is married and has two children.

1975

**Steven M. Kaplan** was elected to a four-year term as a trustee of the Southfield (Michigan) Board of Education in June, 1987.

**Patricia Lynn Prince** has become a principal member of the law firm MacDonald, Stone and Goren, located in Southfield, Michigan.

1976

**Margaret Culver**, a special education teacher at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills, Michigan, was the producer of "Extra Credit," a half-hour cable show focusing on how parents and teachers can work together for better education. The program received awards from the Michigan Education Association and the Oakland County Cable Communications Corporation. Culver is the public relations chair for the Farmington Education Association and, in Berkley, she was the first person awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Berkley Education Association.

**Bruce C. Greening** of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, has been appointed treasurer of ASC Inc., a worldwide automotive supplier. He was formerly an associate loan officer with Ford Motor Company's diversified financing operations department.

1977

**Rob and Anne ('82) Burns** travel throughout Michigan, Ohio and Illinois entertaining crowds at festivals, concerts and parties. Billed as "A Reasonable Facsimile," they play music from the Renaissance period on nearly a dozen primitive instruments, from recorders to dulcimers. The couple also performs 14th- and 16th-century court music under the name "Good Company," Baroque music from the 17th and 18th centuries as "Continuous Treble" and British and American folk music as "The Little Dickens Band." They also hold workshops, teach private lessons and perform in schools as part of the Young Audiences of Michigan program. Their first album, "About as Close as You Can Get," was recorded earlier this year.

**Marilyn Jean Kelly** of Birmingham has been elected president of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

**Warren A. Klope** was appointed assistant professor of electrical/electronics at Ferris State College. He has spent most of his career at the United States Army Tank-Automotive Command in Warren, Michigan.

**Mark C. Wolanin** is in private dental practice in Memphis, Tennessee.

1978

**Jan McKenna** has been named "Woman of the Year" by the American Business Women's Association — Troy (Michigan) Charter Chapter. She will represent the group at the national convention in Los Angeles, California, vying for "National Woman of the Year" honors. McKenna is an internal job transfer coordinator at Electronic Data Systems, facilitating the movement or placement of people within the company.

1979

**Judy Bisignano**, head of the junior school at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, is the academy's 1987 recipient of the Wansboro Award. Among her accomplishments, she developed an individualized approach for primary school students. She was named head of the primary school and, in 1981, head of the junior school. She started at the academy as a teacher's aide in 1969.

**Kathy (Plant) Browning** and her husband, Kevin announce the birth of their son, Kyle Michael, born June 6, 1987.

**Letha Williams** is director of community relations for Foote Hospital in Jackson, Michigan. She is president of the Michigan Hospital Public Relations Association and chair of the national newsletter committee of the American Society for Hospital Marketing and Public Relations. She earned a Master of Public Administration degree in 1985 from the University of Michigan.

1980

**Allan Benedict** has been named senior vice president of Nordhaus Research in Southfield.

**James Fiscus** is a senior programmer/analyst with Ford Motor Credit Company.

**Angela K. Hodge**, a 1987 graduate of Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, will begin her residency in psychiatry at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

**Curtis L. Hunt**, a 1984 graduate of the Wayne State University School of Medicine, has completed his residency in internal medicine at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. He began work at the Michigan Correctional Institution at Jackson in July.

**Patricia A. Morrison** has been promoted to marketing officer in the marketing services division of National Bank of Detroit. Morrison is corporate advertising manager in the division. She is a member of the International Association of Business Communicators and the Adcraft Club of Detroit.



**Christopher Smith** has joined the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Office of Public Affairs as deputy associate commissioner. Smith received the FDA Award of Merit in 1983 and the commissioners' special citation in 1983 and 1985. He joined the FDA as a field investigator in the Detroit office in 1976, inspecting FDA-regulated industries in Michigan and Indiana. He has held various posts in the offices of the Commissioner of Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs and the bureaus of Drugs and Medicine Devices.

**LaVerne E. Perrollaz, R.N., B.S.N.**, was named Michigan Hospice Nurse of 1987. She currently serves as interdisciplinary team coordinator at Hospice of Southeastern Michigan.

**Mary Zuby** has been named an area supervisor for the new Jacobson's Laurel Park Place store in Livonia, Michigan. Zuby began her career at Jacobson's in 1975 and has worked as a supervisor at the Birmingham store since 1986.

## 1981

**Mark A. Chadwick** has opened his own general law practice in Waterford, Michigan.

**Christine (Hall) Hansen** has recently been awarded a Ph.D. in psychology from Michigan State University. She is a research associate in Oakland's Psychology Department. Her current research on social cognition is funded by the National Science Foundation.

**Phyllis Cooper Klinger** is an associate lawyer at Rubenstein, Isaacs, Lax and Bordman in Southfield, Michigan. She is an active member of the Oakland County Women's Bar Association, Michigan Bar Association and Southfield Bar Association. She recently authored an article published in the *Michigan Family Law Journal*. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Detroit College of Law in 1986.

**Annette (Carey) Lockwood** has recently accepted a position as medical management specialist at Citizens Insurance Company in Livonia, Michigan. She is working on her master's in health services administration at the University of Detroit.

**Helen (Love) Van DeMark** is currently practicing civil law with Kisarchie Legal Services (a service for the poor) in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

**Mark D. Wood** is employed by Volkswagen of America.

## 1982

**David Butler** has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal. The medal is awarded for outstanding achievement or meritorious service while on duty. Butler is a clinical nurse at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

**John Cowan** is currently business manager for *New Art Examiner* magazine. He holds an M.A. in English from the University of Chicago.

**Colin Jordan** has accepted a professorship at Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield, Michigan, after receiving his Ph.D. in

mechanical engineering from the University of Windsor. His doctoral thesis was on non-Newtonian fluid flow. He and his wife, Sandra, announce the birth of their first child, Angus, born in March.

**Cynthia Medley** is owner and president of Midwest Medical in Chicago, Illinois. Medley started the medical supply company three years ago.

**Scott Simmons** has been made a partner in the accounting firm Butala & Simmons, Certified Public Accountants, in Mount Clemens, Michigan.

**Charles C. Smith** has been named superintendent of Boyne Falls Schools. He previously worked for the Akron-Fairgrove Schools in Akron, Michigan, and as a middle school and high school teacher, and teacher consultant for learning disabled students in Atherton Community Schools in Flint. He is completing a Ph.D. in educational administration at Michigan State University.

## 1983

**Genie Coe** has graduated from Bridgewater State College with a Master's in Education in counseling. She resides in Bridgewater with her husband and eight-year-old daughter, Amy.

**Daric W. Escher** has earned a master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California. He attended USC on a fellowship from TRW.

**Gregory Hancock** has received an M.A. in counselor education from Wayne State University. He is a case manager for Oakland County (Michigan) Community Mental Health.

**Ara E. Kallibjian** holds a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a surgical resident at Youngstown, Ohio.

**Susan J. Phelps** received her M.D. from Wayne State University School of Medicine and has begun residency in diagnostic radiology in the Wayne State Affiliated Hospitals.

**Greg Stanalajczko** has been promoted to manager of the computer services division of Modern Engineering.

**Fred Thelander** and his wife, Anne, announce the birth of their son, Joshua Gabriel, born December 2, 1986.

**Daren Wilson** spent a year at the Stanford University Accelerator Center. He is resuming study for a Ph.D. at Indiana University.

## 1984

**Michelle M. Bonds** is project coordinator of "Dreamers," a program to encourage and fund higher education for 78-fifth graders at Detroit's Roosevelt Elementary School. Bonds will develop group and individual counseling sessions with Dreamers and their families and will monitor and maintain records of school attendance and academic performance. The "I Have a Dream Foundation," which sponsors the program, was established by Mr. and Mrs.

Warren Coville of Bloomfield and is patterned after a similar New York project.

**Karen (Graziano) Breaugh** married Ronald Breaugh on April 11, 1987. She is a system specialist for Ameritech Publishing, Inc., in Troy, Michigan.

**Leslie P. (Crook) Scalise** is instructor of developmental studies at Prestonsburg Community College (a branch of the University of Kentucky) in Prestonsburg, Kentucky. She married Michael F. Scalise in 1986.

**Julie Hurford** has been accepted to the U.S. Air Force Officer Training School at Lakeland Air Base in San Antonio, Texas. She will start in November.

## 1985

**Delores Armstrong** has completed the skilled trade journey die-maker apprentice program at Pontiac Motor Division's Plant 14. She is the first black woman to complete the program. The secretary of Pontiac's Quality of Work Life organization, Women in Skilled Trades, Armstrong has organized an in-plant fund raising campaign to benefit, Haven, a Pontiac (Michigan) shelter for victims of domestic violence.

**Jane Ann (Parsons) Belland** is employed at Chrysler Corporation. She recently married Terence Lee Belland.

**Joe Alan Bubenzer** joined ITT Automotive in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, as director of sales-marketing for the North American operations of the electrical systems group. He was formerly manager-marketing, planning and sales for the Delco Remy division of General Motors.

**Kathleen Ebli** is Maclean Hunter Cablevision's new manager for Garden City, Michigan. She joined Maclean Hunter in 1981 as a customer service supervisor and was later promoted to the company's regional accounting and marketing departments.

**Dale Eschenburg** has been named chief project engineer for Fruehauf government services division. He will direct the division's engineering efforts for projects conducted for the U.S. armed forces and other governmental agencies. He previously served as project engineer with Borg-Warner Automotive in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

**Lon Keast** is vice president and commercial loan manager for First of America Bank, Wayne-Oakland branch.

**Martha Leonard** is the publicity coordinator for Harrah's Resort Casino in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

**Scott Pascoe** has completed basic training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. He received a commission as ensign after graduation from Aviation Officer Candidate School. Scott will continue flight training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola.



**Andrea Rosenberg** of West Bloomfield, Michigan, has been promoted to risk manager of Schostak Brothers and Company, Inc. Rosenberg joined Schostak in 1984.

1986

**Josie Canestrelli** is attending Wayne State University and expects to earn a Master of Social Work degree in 1988.

**Penny Lee Sommerville** is employed by Heller Financial, Inc.

**Kristy Smith** has joined the Coldwater, Michigan, *Daily Reporter* news department as a general assignment reporter.

**Patricia Stafford** works in the physical therapy department of Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Thomas D. Tewilliager** recently reported for duty aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. He joined the Navy in October 1986.

**Donna (Avesian) Yates** is a preschool teacher at the Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Head Start program in Houghton, Michigan, where she resides.

1987

**Angela Giacoletti** has been accepted to West Virginia University on a full, five-year scholarship to study clinical child psychology.

**Paul S. Zarins** is an assistant engineer for Detroit Edison.

## IN MEMORIAM

1971

**George C. Landenberger**, November 1, 1986.

1975

**Ernest J. Mathews** died August 16, 1987, in the crash of Northwest Airlines Flight 255. Mathews, a resident of Sterling Heights, Michigan, was a systems engineering manager for General Motors' CPC Group in Warren. He was a graduate of Oakland's School of Engineering and Computer Science.

## FACULTY/STAFF

**Robert J. Goldstein**, professor of political science, has been asked to author a book for MacMillan Press of London, to be entitled *Political Censorship of the Arts and the Press in Nineteenth-century Europe*. Goldstein's most recent book, *Political Repression in Nineteenth-century Europe* (1983) has been hailed as "required reading for anyone interested in human rights."

**Kevin J. Murphy**, associate professor of economics, will research regional unemployment and lecture at the University of Cork in Ireland on a Fulbright grant during the 1987-88 academic year.

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Members who have joined the President's Club of the Oakland University Foundation since the last printing of OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE:

Abigail M. Adams and Jordan R. Miller  
Huntington Woods

David Bassett and Elyse Sutherland  
Huntington Woods

Mr. Angelo L. Baiardi  
Auburn Hills

Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Burns  
Rochester

Dr. and Mrs. Jung-Hoon Chang  
Bloomfield Hills

Mr. and Mrs. Mario De Filippo  
Bloomfield Hills

Mr. and Mrs. David R. de Steiger  
Rochester Hills

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Eckhout  
Troy

Andrea L. Fischer and Ronald A. Schy  
Birmingham

Mr. and Mrs. William N. George  
Troy

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Head  
Rochester

Mr. and Mrs. Deno D. Hloros  
Rochester

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest M. Kosch  
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Mr. Dale C. Laidlaw ('70)  
Imlay City

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Rochester Hills

Ms. Melisa J. Lawfield ('78, '81)  
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Mr. and Mrs. William E. Lynas  
Rochester

Dr. and Mrs. Victor Maldonado  
Bloomfield Hills

Mr. and Mrs. Terry J. McDougall  
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Mr. and Mrs. Terry H. McLeod  
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Royal Oak

Mr. and Mrs. George M. Thomas Jr.  
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Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Yeaw  
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Easterday  
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Mr. and Mrs. William Latimer  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. McMinn  
Mr. and Mrs. Chester P. Shelly

## IN MEMORIAM

Dale F. Carney

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

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Parents — we know that you also enjoy reading the OAKLAND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE, your source of university and alumni news. Feel free to use the space provided to pass along pertinent information about your children.

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News and information (be sure to include your year of graduation and maiden name, if applicable):



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## November

- 1** Open House and Scholarship Competition, prospective Oakland students and their parents are invited, 12:30-5 p.m. Call the Office of Admissions, 370-3360.
- Soccer: Central Region Classic, begins October 31. Teams: Northern Kentucky, Shippensburg, Lewis University, Oakland University.
- 5** *Dear Liar*, through November 29, Meadow Brook Theatre.
- 6** School of Engineering and Computer Science Alumni Affiliate Annual Dinner. Call Alumni Relations.
- Center for the Arts: *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, through November 22, Varner Studio Theatre.
- 10** *Teen Suicide*, for therapists and counselors, featuring William Steele, 7-10 p.m., Oakland Center. Call the Continuum Center, 370-2020.
- 14** Women's swimming home opener: Oakland vs. University of Western Ontario, 2 p.m., Lepley Sports Center (with men's team).
- 15** Center for the Arts: Lafayette String Quartet with Flavio Varani, pianist, 3 p.m., Varner Recital Hall.

- 19** Cross-Cultural Communication Effectiveness in Japan, through November 20, Meadow Brook Hall. Advance registration required: call Professor William Schwab, 370-2154.
- 20** Women's basketball: Oakland Tip-Off Tournament, through November 21, Lepley Sports Center. Teams: Indiana-Purdue, Tri-State, Siena Heights, Oakland University.
- Men's basketball home opener: Oakland vs. St. Mary's College, 8 p.m., Lepley Sports Center.

## December

- 2** An Auto Baron's Christmas (annual Christmas walk), through December 13, Meadow Brook Hall.
- 3** *A Christmas Carol*, through December 27, Meadow Brook Theatre.
- Center for the Arts: Meadow Brook Estate Holiday Concert, through December 6, Varner Recital Hall.
- 6** *Special Alumni Performance* Meadow Brook Estate Holiday Concert, 8 p.m., Varner Recital Hall. 25% discount this performance only. Call the Center for the Arts box office.
- 11** Fall classes end.

- 17** Center for the Arts: *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, Dylan Thomas' classic as performed by Oakland's Mime Ensemble, through December 19, Varner Recital Hall.
- 22** *Magic in the Mind's Eye*, Part II, through December 27, Meadow Brook Art Gallery.
- 31** *Educating Rita*, through January 24, Meadow Brook Theatre.

## January

- 5** Winter classes begin.
- 15** Winter Carnival, through January 24.
- 28** *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, through February 21, Meadow Brook Theatre.
- 31** Center for the Arts: Lafayette String Quartet, with David Shiffrin, clarinetist, 3 p.m., Varner Recital Hall.

**Complete schedules and ticket information are available from:**  
 Athletic Department, 370-3190  
 Center for the Arts box office, 370-3013  
 Campus Information, Programs and Organizations (CIPO), 370-2020  
 Meadow Brook Theatre box office, 377-3300  
 Office of Alumni Relations, 370-2158



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