

THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

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“Multicultural” Programs Perceived as “Minority Only”



Apparently this Markley resident missed the memo about LGTB Movie night.

While the ‘U’ has grand claims for diversity, the programs serve more to separate than unite

BY LINDSEY DODGE, ‘10

It is common knowledge that the University of Michigan has dedicated itself to the value of “diversity.” The question is how the practice of diversity at U-M compares to what is preached.

Of course, since the passage of Proposal 2, many have fretted over the demise of diversity. By taking a look at the various programs supporting multiculturalism on campus, this worry seems to be unfounded.

Michigan’s dedication to diversity stretches far beyond affirmative action programs. Almost every program at U-M, describes its contribution to diversity at Michigan.

There are countless programs designed to increase cultural awareness. Most well-known are the Center for the Education of Women (CEW) and the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs (LGBTBA). The first is described as a “unit” of the University of Michigan. LGBTBA can be found on the third floor of the Union, and organizes a separate celebratory graduation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, known as Lavender Graduation.

This separate graduation is not uncommon. In “The Graduate’s Guide to Commencement,” the schedule places “La Celebracion Latina” in between the School of Public Health and the Division of Kinesiology. At the end of the evening, there is also a “Black Celebratory” graduation.

These are just four of the approxi-

mately 800 various student organizations and university programs designed to support diversity on campus. Other organizations include the Program on Intergroup Relations, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), MJustice, and the Healthy Asian Americans Project. These are all endorsed by the University.

These programs all reportedly serve diversity, but how they relate to the average non-minority student is a different story.

Dr. John Matlock, Director and Associate Vice Provost of the Office of Academic Multi-cultural Initiatives, is aware that some white or Asian students may feel excluded by these minority graduations. “Usually they [non-minority students] have to have a connection to the ceremony, [but] there are always many biracial students present,” he said.

“There are always many biracial students present.”

-Dr. John Matlock, Director and Associate Vice Provost of the Office of Academic Multi-cultural Initiatives, on the ethnic composition of minority graduation exercises

Students know about Michigan’s commitment to diversity from the moment they arrive on campus. Every residence hall has multicultural councils, and all but one has at least one multi-cultural lounge. Many have themes, such as the Umoja Lounge in Alice Lloyd Hall. “Umoja” is Swahili for “unity.” These lounges are open to everyone, but they are generally frequented by minority students only.

Shannon Wagner, a University fresh-

SEE “DIVERSITY”

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New Voice for Students at College Papers

BY ADAM PAUL, ‘08

THE HARVARD CRIMSON, Harvard University’s daily student newspaper, recently decided to hire an ombudsman. Some professional newspapers have embraced the position, similar to the position of public editor, in recent years. An ombudsman is employed to represent the voice of the public in the paper.

“College newspapers can be monolithic on campus, this helps to break that down. It creates an independent voice within the newspaper itself,” said Michael Kolber, the newly-appointed ombudsman at the Crimson.

Kolber is a first-year law student at Harvard, who did his undergraduate studies at Yale University, where he served as the city editor for the Yale Daily News. Before beginning law school, Kolber worked as a reporter for the Sacramento Bee.

“The extent of my involvement with the college, so far, has been reading the Crimson,” said Kolber. He said that this perspective and the fact that he has no previous connection to the Crimson provide him with the necessary objectivity for his position.

Kolber has written one column for the Crimson to date.

“I haven’t gotten an enormous response yet,” said Kolber, adding that this may change once the position gets more exposure. Kolber stated that his position will help improve abilities of those at the Crimson.

“My column is most well-read by people who work at the Crimson,” said Kolber.

“Just like any newspaper, a college newspaper can make mistakes in judgment, have biases and could need an independent voice looking at what’s in the paper every day,” said Deborah Howell, ombudsman for The Washington Post, in e-mail correspondence. Howell said that having an ombudsman would teach campus journalists responsibility.

Bryon Calame, the Public Editor at The New York Times, expressed more reservation in a telephone interview. He said that good ombudsman require experience.

“Unless you get a top-notch person, that could be more difficult to do at a college paper than at a commercial newspaper,” said Calame. Calame did say that having an ombudsman could add to a college newspaper. “Part of the job is to represent what readers really want.” Calame cited that an ombudsman could bring simple improvements, like letting a publication know that its readers expect more serious analysis from pieces like movie reviews.

“It’s often easy to get feedback but the people at a college newspaper are often part of the power structure” said Calame, who went on to say that an ombudsman could give students another outlet at a campus newspaper. Calame said a campus ombudsman could face pressure from administrators if they criticized a paper for not taking a strong enough stance against the administration. While Howell said that a professor could make a suitable ombudsman, Calame disagreed, saying “you wouldn’t want a faculty member.”

Amy Resnick, the editor-in-chief of The Bond Buyer and a current Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University, saw the benefits to readers of an ombudsman.

“Anything that helps to better communicate directly with the public has benefits. No publication is anything if its not being read,” said Resnick. The Bond Buyer does not employ an ombudsman.

“It will be the job of the editors to define the role,” said Resnick. She stated that while she had not previously considered the possibility of college papers hiring for such a position that she did not see any risks in doing so.

“The editorial staff should stress the independence of that person [an ombudsman]. They have to be a part of the paper but also open to opinions other than those of the person who wrote an article,” said Resnick. **MR**

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■ Senior Farewells



Editor-in-Chief, Nick Cheolas



Content Editor, Amanda Nichols

Baring a disastrous Geosci 205 final exam, Nick Cheolas will graduate this month with a degree in political science. He will also leave school with an award for outstanding collegiate journalism, a Mitch's karaoke night title, and a Senior Bar Golf championship. Nick would like to thank his ancestors and the Y chromosome for allowing him to be born a white male and allowing him to exercise his white male privilege. As such, Nick will be placed a high paying job working for the man. Sarcasm aside, Nick will be attending the University of Michigan School of Law next year, and getting as far away from Ann Arbor as possible. He hasn't quite figured out how to do this yet, but he'll keep you posted. Nick would like to thank his fellow editors for their hard work all year, and wishes the Review staff the best of luck in the future.

Graduating rather unexpectedly this year is Amanda Nichols. After she leaves U-M with her BA in English, she will, in the words of Adam Paul, be taking advantage of all the wonderful opportunities life has to offer. That means, of course, she has no set plans at the present. She is studying in Florence, Italy this summer, and will be working on the Oleander Review, the undergraduate-run literary review she started this year. In coming years, Amanda plans to go to graduate school for something (probably creative writing), and of course, will always be a loyal supporter of the Review. She wishes the new editorial board all the best, and especially hopes the female editors, writers, and of course the publisher, will keep fighting the good fight.

■ From the Editor

IN THIS, MY last issue as Review Editor-in-Chief, we take a look back at the past 25 years of the Review. Pages 6 thru 8 feature our inaugural editorial, comments from past editors, and a brief look at some of our finer moments.

This issue also examines the a word slightly more omnipotent than God himself here at the University of Michigan: Diversity. **Our cover story by Lindsey Dodge takes a look at a few of the "multicultural" programs here at the U.** While these programs are ostensibly designed to serve all students, multicultural events and minority lounges and advisors are often viewed by students as "minority only."

On Page 3, Chris Stieber takes a look at the always-talkative admissions department and their use of the College Board's "Descriptor Plus" software. Interestingly enough, the College Board recently released a virtual how-to manual for universities looking to defeat measures to ban racial preferences. Sound shady? Of course it is. Just about as shady as President Mary Sue Coleman pledging to use the full resources of the University to fight the

implementation of Prop. 2, then completely dropping the fight two months later.

On **Page 11**, we take a look at the controversy at San Francisco State University where the College Republicans were recently put on trial after stomping on the flags of Hezbollah and Hamas.

On the back page, Christine Hwang looks at **Mitt Romney's chances in Michigan in the race for 2008.** Could the native son have a shot in a socially-conservative blue state?

Our editorials this week lament the Order of Angell's continued acquiescence to the inane demands of campus "progressives," (let's hope this puts an end to the weekly front page Daily articles), and the unsettling feeling the University of Michigan admissions department gives us - a department that seems all to happy to speak to favorable media sources, and all to "busy" when this paper requests comment.

-Editor-in-Chief, Nick Cheolas

■ Summer Plans for University Personalities

Mary Sue Coleman will be planning her trip next year to Africa, in hopes of finally finding a place with sufficient amounts of diversity.

Lloyd Carr will go into hibernation, only to awake on August 29, lead the Michigan Wolverines to a winning season, and then promptly be smacked around by a PAC-10 team in the Rose Bowl.

New basketball coach John Beilein will be getting a second job as a busboy at Denny's, in hopes of paying off the \$2.5 million remainder of his contract with West Virginia.

Zack Yost will be preparing for the next year as MSA president by sitting in his parents' basement, smoking pot, and eating Cheetos all summer. He should be well-prepared, come fall.

Former Michigan Daily Editorial Page Editor Chris Zbrozek is going to GRADUATE! FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, YOU ARE LIKE 35 YEARS OLD. GRADUATE ALREADY!

Michigan Daily Columnist Toby Mitchell is going to be killed while giving hugs to lonely members of Al-Qaeda somewhere on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Don Imus will open a hair salon in Ann Arbor dedicated to hair weaves. He will enroll in the University to finally receive a "diverse" education, and will be enthralled when he's announced as next year's MLK Keynote Speaker.

Jim Tressell will sit around and suck. Just sit there and suck.

Duke Lacrosse players will celebrate their newfound freedom by throwing a party, and maybe by hiring a few strippers.

The new Order of Angell inductees will finally get rid of the vestiges of Native American artifacts in their membership ceremonies, opting instead to adopt "Indian" traditions, including wearing sarongs and enforcing a caste system on campus. SAAN could not be reached for comment.

Dance Marathon members, unaware that their event was over, will collapse and die after dancing for weeks on end.

YAF, who didn't meet their media fix this past year, will prepare for this fall by making more elaborate tin foil hats, including sombreros, for events such as "Catch a Naturalized Citizen Day."

features.

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University Uses Descriptor Plus Program to Pursue Diversity

By CHRIS STIEBER, '07

IN THE NOVEMBER 2006 elections, Michigan voters approved Proposal 2, effectively ending "preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin," despite the protests of school administrators and educators, who claimed that "diversity" was essential to education. Some of these same administrators and education officials are now using a program called Descriptor Plus, a geo-demographic tagging service, to filter university applicants in an attempt to preserve the diversity created by pre-Proposal 2 admissions standards.

Since Proposal 2 overcame its final barrier to ballot access this past summer, the admissions department searched for methods to maintain diversity. Ted Spencer, vice provost and executive director of undergraduate admissions told the Detroit Free-Press, "If you show me a company that doesn't plan for possible changes, then I'll show you a company that isn't very effective."

Prior to the enactment of Proposal 2 in late December, U-M accepted significantly larger portions of Hispanic, black, and Native American applicants than at the same time last year.

U-M admissions officials hope to use Descriptor Plus to analyze applicants in a more "holistic" fashion. This language is similar to that of University of California – Los Angeles admissions officials, who are suffering an "admissions crisis" several years after Proposition 209 ended racial preferences in the University of California system. In the 2007 incoming class of freshman, only two percent of the class will be black. In light of this situation, UCLA officials committed to a major shift in admissions strategy in an attempt to increase the number of minority students without using race in the decision. Personal characteristics and academic characteristics, formerly considered by separate officials, are now considered by the same reviewer, in hopes of finding students who have a variety of experiences to contribute to the "intellectual and cultural vitality" of campus.

The Descriptor Plus program is provided by the College Board, the testing company who manages the SAT, PSAT, and SAT II exams. Descriptor Plus, at a cost of

\$15,000 per year, will analyze an applicant's geographic location to place the student in a "cluster." According to the College Board, they have segmented the entire U.S. population into 180,000 geographic "neighborhoods," and placed each of these "neighborhoods" into one of 30 clusters, each with unique attributes. Among the included attributes are: mean SAT scores, average parental education levels, percentage of high school graduates entering college, and the percentage of students that are minorities. Using these collected attributes and clusters, U-M hopes preserve current minority enrollment levels while obeying the letters, if not the spirit, of Proposal 2.

The College Board, a non-profit national company well-known for running the SAT test, is strongly opposed to race-blind policies like Proposition 209 and Proposal 2. In a policy paper titled "From Federal Law to State Voter Initiatives: Preserving Higher

The College Board, a non-profit national company well-known for running the SAT test, is strongly opposed to race-blind policies like Proposition 209 and Proposal 2.

Education's Authority to Achieve Educational, Economic, Civic, and Security Benefits Associated with a Diverse Student Body," the College Board states the purpose of the paper is to focus "on key issues that higher education institutions should address in order to deflect (and, ultimately, defeat) similar voter initiatives [to Proposal 2]."

Knowing the College Board's support of affirmative action and frustration with Proposal 2, some question the intentions of the Descriptor Plus program. Roger Clegg, President and General Counsel of the Center for Equal Opportunity, said that the geo-demographic tagging might serve as a proxy for race in an application. "It depends on how the term [demographic], is defined. It sounds like it may be not just a proxy for race or ethnicity in an application, but be race or ethnicity itself."

In *Grutter v. Bollinger*, affirmative action

was deemed acceptable because it was the "only" way that the compelling interest of diversity could be protected. Many conservative commentators, however, have been suggesting a system of socio-economic affirmative action as a system that encouraged diversity without making decisions based on race. Clegg said that the success of such a system would depend on "how objective (i.e. nonracially) 'socioeconomic' is defined, and on the good faith of those applying the standard (especially if the standard is malleable)." If the tone of comments made by admissions office staff and President Mary Sue Coleman in the past few months are any indicator, however, there are questions about just how committed the university is to race-blind and objective standards. Coleman, in her speech on the Diag in November, told the crowd, "We will find ways to overcome the handcuffs that Proposal 2 attempts to place on our reach for greater diversity." Furthermore, the application for admission continues to have a blank to include the applicant's race, despite Proposal 2's emphasis on race not being part of the decision process.

As the university is forced to retool its admissions process, the openness of the admissions department is in question. For this article, the department was asked for comment over two weeks ago, and this writer is yet to hear a response from the department on the use of Descriptor Plus. With the lack of transparency and continuation of the use of race on applications, one is left to draw their own conclusions on the intention of the department when it uses Descriptor Plus. In the same Detroit Free Press article, Spencer said, "We make no bones about the fact that diversity is important to us." The university carried out a now-outlawed affirmative action program under the banner of "diversity" for many years, and is now attempting to reach the same goal with different tools.

The tone of the College Board policy paper, which talks of "defeating" voter initiatives similar to Proposal 2, exhibits much of the same institutionalized opinions that have not changed, no matter which voter initiative passes. "It shows that these advisors are less interested in education," Clegg said, "than in guaranteeing a predetermined and politically correct racial and ethnic mix." **MR**

The University is planning on using "Descriptor Plus," a computer program which targets underprivileged applicants.

-Descriptor Plus is provided by the College Board, the maker of the SAT and ACT.

-Descriptor Plus groups applicants into geographic clusters based on demographic similarities. The University would then use such information to give some applicants special status in admission.

-Some worry the program will become a proxy for race-based admissions

DIVERSITY

FROM PAGE 1

man, similar to many non-minority freshmen, does not think she is allowed in the minority lounges. "I wouldn't think so," she says. "I mean, I'm not a minority."

Trelawny N. Boynton, the associate director of University Housing, asserts that the minority lounges have always been a haven for students of color. "They are a place for students of color to gather, not just allies to certain communities," she says. When asked if she sees non-minority students using these lounges, she responded, "I would hope that they are."

There is also confusion over the purpose of the Minority Peer Advisors. The office was founded to address the concerns of minority students on campus. This is not how MPAs are viewed by the Housing Administration, however. Boynton states that Minority Peer Advisors are available to all students. In fact, when asked how many non-minority students used the MPAs as an advising resource, she noted, "very many [non-minority students] go to the Minority Peer Advisors."

This is not in line with the experience of many Caucasian students at U-M, in particular freshman who may not be aware yet of all the University intricacies. Amanda Vo-

gelsang, a current freshman, says, "I don't talk to any peer advisors, unless it's an academic thing." When told that the Minority Peer Advisor was open to all students for advisement, she asked, "Then why do they call it 'minority'?"

This is the question raised by the University's dedication to an ideal of diversity that serves primarily non-white stu-

Students are made aware of Michigan's commitment to diversity from the moment they enter campus. Every residence hall has multicultural councils, and all but one residence hall has at least one multicultural lounge.

dents, in practice if not in theory.

Furthermore, funding for the minority resources in the residence halls are not paid for by tuition or tax dollars: it comes almost completely from the student's room and board costs. Considering that 94-98 percent of freshman live in

housing each year, students are contributing a significant amount of money to support these rooms. Alan J. Levy, the Director of Communications for University Housing, describes U-M's housing system as a self-sustaining auxiliary of the University. Although there is no residency requirement at Michigan, it has a very small commuter population. "This is a truly residential campus," Levy says.

U-M does not view the focus of minority services as at odds with a sense of multiculturalism. Levy says, "We believe it's very important for our facilities to reflect our values. We also believe that it's very important that all UM students have spaces on campus that positively reflect the contributions of different cultures and ethnicities both for the purpose of broadening all of our horizons as well as for maintaining spaces perceived as safe and comfortable."

This way of thinking implies that a non-minority space will solely reflect the values and contributions of Caucasian students. Beyond the white walls, this might be an exaggeration. **MR**

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Moving Forward, Looking Back

MICHIGAN STUDENTS ARE not known for being an optimistic group, but this year of whining and discontent was especially abrasive.

As the year progressed, the list of grievances continued to pile up: first, the passage of Proposal 2 and subsequent Ann Arbor hysterics, next was the football season, where a weak finish and contested rejection for the national championship. It continued with the frustration of Pfizer announcing the closing of the Ann Arbor facility, and ensuing finger-pointing. Finally, there was the political gripe-fest in Lansing, where both Democrats and Republicans refused to accept blame for woeful performance and legislative progress. Each of these shares a common theme: all talk and no action.

It's easy to see that the current political and social environs are not to Ann Arborites' liking, with the war in Iraq, the Bush administration, a growing pressure for privatization of schooling, and their liberal fiscal and political policies blowing up in their face with the continued depression in southeast Michigan.

It's tiresome, however, to constantly hear the same complaints, the same whining, the same gnashing of teeth, in the student and local discussion. We get it: you're not happy with the status quo. As we move into the next year, let's look for action, for plans, for more than armchair quarterbacking.

In the early 90's when Republican leadership felt that Congress was spiraling out of control and away from pub-

We get it: you're not happy with the status quo. As we move into the next year, let's look for action, for plans, for more than armchair quarterbacking.

lic opinion, Newt Gingrich and the GOP did more than complain about the current leadership. They created the Contract with America, a revolutionary plan to change the way Washington worked, and presented the plan to the voters.

What followed was a resounding success, a new direction. Although we're pretty sure we will disagree with the overall goals and plans of the university administration, it would be much preferred to the current state of grousing and ineffective bellyaching.

A perfect example of this complain-before-action problem is the University's adaptation to Proposal 2. After the referendum passed overwhelmingly in the state elections, President Coleman, rather than accepting the public's mandate and reevaluating the university's policies, set about complaining about the election results and pledging to challenge the will of the voters. Even now, there seems to be no apparent change in admissions policies, as the blank for race continues to remain on the application, and the admissions department stonewalls any effort for transparency in the process.

Next year, there doesn't appear to be any large issues on the horizon. Whatever we as a student body encounter, whether it be SOLE and sweatshops or a renewed debate for divestment from Israel, it would benefit all of us if the focus was rather on proposed policies than on the dissatisfaction of the students.

As Lord Jeffrey, Scottish Judge and literary critic, said "The tendency to whining and complaining may be taken as the surest sign symptom of little souls and inferior intellects."

We couldn't agree more. **MR**

THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

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More Transparency in Admissions Needed

IT IS IRONIC, really.

The University was extremely vocal in its position on affirmative action, "diversity," and its racially-involved admissions policies before Election Day. They were clear about the importance of race and gender in its admissions policy. Though disarmed of its point system by the Supreme Court, they still were free to run amuck, and they made it clear to every underrepresented minority applicant, with a wink and a nudge, that their skin color would be important in the admissions process.

November 8, however, was the day when the administration retreated into its self-insulating cocoon. Since the state's voters banned the University's affirmative action policy, the admissions office has been anything but open in its process of admitting applicants. Indeed, the only real information that has emerged came after a Freedom of Information Act request by the Detroit News. The information showed that the University pushed through as many racial minorities as possible through admissions before the December 23 certification and enforcement of the MCRI.

Since then, the University administration has been secretive about its internal operations and policies in a way that would even make the Bush administration blush.

The adoption of the MCRI made clear that now, more than ever, the University of Michigan is expected to be accountable to the voters of the state of Michigan. Part of that accountability is now the incumbent responsibility of the University to level with the voters of Michigan. The University needs to be completely transparent in its operations within the context of admissions and promotions in order to ensure that it is in full compliance with the MCRI.

Right now, the University operates in secret, refusing to divulge information about its actions to press inquiries—including those of this publication. The only bit of information they have given us concerns the paltry two hours of retraining they gave admissions officers after they resumed consideration of applications. The admissions officers who spent a career learning how to give consideration to race in their decisions were essentially told, "Don't do that anymore," and then sent on their way.

We hear all sorts of ruminations about how the University will be using geographical software and all sorts of nifty contraptions in order to maintain the "diversity" on campus. But the University should not only comply with the letter of the law, but the spirit of it, as well. The University should not use tactics that have the secondary effect of affirmative action policies under a racially-neutral primary tactic.

Unfortunately, we don't have access to these policies, which inhibits our ability to ensure that this is the case. The University is all cloak-and-daggers in regards to how it has conducted itself during the remainder of the year, and there has scarcely been a peep as to how admissions will be conducted this fall. Frankly, we are not at all optimistic that the University will be forthcoming when this fall comes.

Nonetheless, it is the duty of the press—including the Review—to pursue the truth and serve as a check on the unabated power and authority of the almighty University of Michigan. Although the MCRI has passed, it is important that the law is actually applied. Throughout the summer and into the fall, we will be here to make sure that what happens is just that. **MR**

The Review welcomes letters to the editor. Send letters to:

mrev@umich.edu

The Review reserves the right to edit letters to the editor for length and clarity.

Order of Angell's Latest Class Only Forwards Irrelevance

RECENTLY, THE ORDER of Angell, formerly Michigamua, released the names of the students who will make up its Pride of 2008. Yet unlike most campus organizations whose annual membership turnover catches little attention, this announcement warranted a front page story in the Michigan Daily. Despite the controversy and the linguistic and membership changes, there has been no proof that the Order of Angell is actually relevant.

According to the Order's constitution, the group hopes "To create a dynamic, non-partisan forum in which leaders of significant, yet disparate, activities can forge deep-rooted connections through ongoing dialogue." The upcoming Pride may do little to bring together leaders who have not already interacted. Ten of the 23 new members are varsity athletes likely to interact through social networks and at University-sponsored athlete exclusive events and services, such as the Ross Academic Center. The group also brings together two leaders from Dance Marathon—obviously the Order will give them an opportunity to interact much more productively than before.

In managing to unite students of different colleges, the Order seems to do somewhat better. Thirteen of the new members are students in the College of LSA with a few students from the Business, Engineering, and Kinesiology schools. Yet this still leaves schools such as Music, Art and Design, and Nursing unrepresented. No problem though, there must just be no campus leaders in those units.

The Order claims to be an organization that will increase its members' commitment to the University and will do so "without the need for recognition." Essentially, this means that despite the new openness about its membership, the group's activities will likely receive little attention. As long as the Order remains closed-lipped about its activities it will be difficult to know what, if any positive, impact the organization is actually having on campus.

The Order of Angell became a source of media attention when, in 2000, the members of Students of Color Coalition took over their (then Michigamua) office and found Native American artifacts. The charges of racism levied against the organization clearly do not reflect the composition of the organization today. The inclusion of members like the Multicultural Greek Councils president or the Co-Chair of the MSA's LGBT commission place the Order in line with most other campus groups who seek to recruit diverse memberships.

Yet despite the changes, campus organizations and campus media wish to continue to use the organization's past to describe its future. Sadly, this controversy makes a campus group that appears to do very little look very important.

Sure, being picked as one of the most important senior leaders on campus is a great honor. Membership in the Order likely puts members in contact with a network of successful, and likely well-placed, alumni. The Order of Angell is designed like many other honor societies on campus. All of these organizations benefit their members. They may contribute to community service or work with other campus groups, but their primary function is to generate benefits for its members. The Order is only different in that it is more exclusive.

So, congratulations to the new members of the revised Order of Angell. However, their ascension will likely have little impact on the lives of most members of the campus community. The Order seems to want to exist without massive media attention. Until the organization does something worthy of further press coverage, that's a request that we are more than willing to grant. **MR**

The Deep End**Journalism an Important Buttress of Freedoms**

SIXTY-THREE IN 2005, and eighty-one in 2006.

2007 is likely to only yield even more murdered journalists.

Worldwide, journalists risk life and limb to get “the story.” The increasingly authoritarian tenure of Vladimir Putin in Russia has seen the murders of twenty-one journalists in the past seven years. The Communist government in China has imprisoned scores of journalists after allowing them trials in kangaroo courts. And in Iraq, where the autocracy of armed militias increases, sixty-five journalists have been killed in the line of duty, all but two of them Iraqis.

In the face of some of the grimmest circumstances, and some of the most repressive regimes, journalists around the world march on, trying to uncover and bear witness to the truth, where it might not otherwise emerge.



**MICHAEL
O'BRIEN**

Journalists and journalism have an important role to play in the spread of democracy and liberal values throughout the world. It's no mistake that many of our founding fathers dabbled in journalism, and made sure to give the press special protections in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Over the years, the tenacity of journalists has only increased, in the never-ending pursuit of the scoop, the truth, the story. The profession has had its ups and downs—everything from William Randolph Hearst's promise to ‘supply the war,’ given the photos to the fabrication of Jayson Blair at the New York Times. There have also been heroic figures in the press, like the famed Woodward & Bernstein.

Now, citizen-journalists are everywhere. Snapped photos or videos on cell phones can be posted to blogs or YouTube within mere minutes, and be seen worldwide in record time. But while the industry may be changing, and the definition of “journalism” is becoming increasingly deluded, it only affirms the importance of the proliferation of information and the truth. The fact is, only organized institutions of journalists can deliver this consistently, accurately, and effectively.

And that is why journalism is more important than ever. Misinformation and

rumors travel more quickly than ever, and hard news is on the decline. There aren't many people or organizations interested in expending the time and effort necessary to bear witness to the truth, and hold corporations, the government, or other institutions to account.

It is important that in places like Russia, China, or Iraq, there are people who are working hard every day to ensure that the truth about the maladies of those societies be known and exposed, no matter how ugly they are. In a way, journalists are the best way of bearing witness to the evils of totalitarianism. Nothing is a bigger enemy to a totalitarian government than a free press. Journalists, in their profession, have the unique opportunity to stoke movements and change for the better; they can help call despots to account with a little ingenuity and the stroke of a pen (or keyboard).

There is an important role for journalism in calling people to account, from Central Asia to Central Campus. One of the things we have stressed in our newsroom here at The Michigan Review during the past year is that our writing needs to have its “lie detector” built in. (We used a cruder term, of course.) Nonetheless, when the University of Michigan administration gives us a line of its typical talk about “diversity,” we have tried to investigate what that really

means, when it seems no one else on campus has been prepared to do so. We have pursued other stories with the same zeal, and the simple belief that our work, done rigorously, can help transform the dialogue in earnest.

Good journalism has a role to play in ensuring the freedom of all cultures—Iraqi culture, American culture, and campus culture. Freedom may not always depend on the vigor with which journalists practice their trade, and there's no need for journalists to feel arrogant with a sense of privilege; the New York Times' insistence to expose national security secrets last summer was an example of this. But the principle exists: a free and independent press is something critically important in the maintenance of a free society.

Next year, I'll be taking over as editor-in-chief of the Review. Needless to say, my impending responsibilities, compounded by the Review's 25th Anniversary, may be a large cause of my sense of journalistic importance. Either way, tradition more-or-less dictates that I relinquish this column space, and move onto bigger and better things.

It has been unbelievably fun to write here, and I hope you've all learned as much in reading it as I have in writing it. I'll see you in the fall. **MR**

Big Talk**Observance of major holidays displays secularism's grasp on Christians**

THE POSITION OF prominence that Christmas has relative to Easter is the ultimate indicator of how society has corrupted the meanings of religious holidays.

Easter lacks

a fixed date and cannot easily be turned into a time for parties and shopping, as much as corporate America would like to happen. Christmas comes at a time when schools are not in session, and, being at the end of the year, many are free

from work. Christmas, in other words, is convenient, and easily exploitable for profit-seekers.

Easter, fittingly, requires more sacrifice. Christians who wish to celebrate it must fit religious services into a schedule that normally includes school and work. The University of Michigan holds classes on



**BRIAN
BIGLIN**

Good Friday, for example, just as they do on the highest holidays on the Muslim and Jewish calendars.

The result of this “inconvenience” is that Easter must be electively observed, whereas Christmas is forced upon society at large. Because of this fact, Easter is untainted by consumerism, save for candy makers employing Easter Bunny imagery. Better yet, it requires those who wish to observe it and the important days leading up to it to step up and do so, showing a commitment to their faith.

And Christians should step up, since the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter on the Catholic calendar—is comprised of the most important days on the Christian calendar. Unfortunately, this is not usually the case, as too many so-called religious people are not willing to make even the slightest imitation of Christ by sacrificing the time to attend services, because they have come to the same conclusion as corporate America: Easter is indeed inconvenient.

Only the most observant Christians treat the Triduum with the solemnity due. Despite many churches being full, probably at least half of American Catholics did not

make it to the entire Triduum liturgy.

It is worth it to consider why many of those lax Catholics, and other Christians for that matter, who do not regularly attend Mass or services, are more likely to bring themselves to Christmas Mass than the Triduum services. This shows how secular influences have affected the faith lives of Americans.

Easter lacks the consumerism and the other symbols that remind lax Christians that Christmas is a big deal. That consumerism and those symbols by themselves create a completely false holiday—one of presents, parties, and football—which even non-Christians can get into, and which those lax Christians register with in place of the real Christmas. The alternate Christmas season is thought to be the time when you're supposed to go shopping, while listening to “Christmas” songs which have nothing to do with Christmas, starting at Thanksgiving; the real Christmas season, with its staid old songs about the nativity and singing angels, begins on Christmas morning.

Americans who consider themselves Christians are still compelled to do something Christian during the season. Perhaps

people are more likely to volunteer at a soup kitchen or go to church to prevent themselves from feeling guilty or feeling as if they have received and given gifts for no reason. In other words, they are trying to ascribe meaning to something that would be just hype, otherwise. Christmas is so pervasive it forces even the most apathetic Christians to act Christian for at least a short spell. Easter does not penetrate our everyday lives, nor does society completely wrap itself around the holiday as it does for Christmas. On the contrary, to observe Easter requires detaching from society.

But by now a deeper problem—the way that lax and even supposedly religious Christians are influenced by the rest of society—is clear. They start by not going to church on the most holy of occasions. But in the course of daily affairs, the effects are seen in the way that Christians pick and choose when it comes to the teachings of their faith and church, feeling free to side with secular society's judgment on abortion, the death penalty, and issues of war and peace instead of their faith's. In other words, I guess we shouldn't be surprised when people don't make it to church. **MR**

Business School Remains Exclusive, Even to its own Sophomores

BY BLAKE EMERSON, '09

AS A STUDENT arriving back for class this winter, I felt special. I had completed my first semester at the prestigious

Ross School of Business, a top five undergraduate business program. Moreover, I completed my first semester as part of the first class in the new three-year BBA program.

The school is everything I thought it would be: a top-notch faculty and a tight-knit environment. Unfortunately, the faculty forgot to inform the new three-year class

**Staff
Opinion**

that perhaps the most coveted aspects of the school would be inaccessible.

The three-year program evolved in response to the perennial complaints from near-suicidal juniors who were juggling a rigorous schedule of introductory classes with a competitive internship process. The new program allows sophomore students to spread out the rigorous load. I rejoiced for the move to the three-year program and still do. Everything has been so much more laid back in comparison to the horror stories I had heard before.

But I started to realize that it wasn't the relatively lighter academic load that was re-

lieving my stresses—it was the fact that all of the extracurricular activities the school offers were unavailable to sophomores. The Career Center is off-limits, and there is little emphasis on the few, but certainly obtainable, sophomore internship opportunities.

If this were the only issue, I could write it off as the fact that I am only a sophomore. But Ross students pay more to attend. In fact, out-of-state sophomores registered in the business school pay almost \$2,000 per year more than if they were of sophomore standing in LS&A. Now I know that the Ross School is a great program, but to make students pay \$2,000 more, without access to

a most precious aspect of the school, is disheartening.

In all fairness to the B-School, administrators admit their mistakes, and are working on expanding the career center for next year; the competence and ability of the faculty and administration is not in question. I'm also realistic that at this point there is no real remedy for the situation. But although the three-year program provides students with a distinct advantage over other two-year programs, the wallets of current sophomores deserve something better. **MR**



MR

Fighting the good fight for 25 Years...

A Cornucopia of Conservative Commentary: Michigan Review Highlights

OVER THE PAST 25 years, The Michigan Review has been here on campus representing a conservative, libertarian, and contrarian opinion at the University of Michigan. Here is a look back at some of our prouder moments from the past 25 years.

October 1989 Vol. 8, Number 2

"The Michigan Mandate's False Promise"

The University of Michigan administration has tried to fulfill the very noble goal of increasing minority student representation on campus. As part of the "Michigan Mandate," the administration has dedicated a large amount of its financial resources to boosting minority student recruitment and retention. But recently released student enrollment figures reveal the administration's affirmative action efforts have not paid off... If minority representation at the U-M, as well as other colleges and universities, is to increase significantly, then society must look beyond the admissions office for a solution.

December 1989 Vol. 8 Number 4

"Students Lose with Credit Change"

The LSA Executive Committee passed a resolution last month changing all upper-level four-credit courses to three-credit courses for the fall of 1991. This seemingly innocuous action was taken to create a balance between those departments whose upper-level classes count for three credits and those whose classes do not. But because the decision, which was made without student input, will have important, and possibly negative, implications for undergraduate education, student opinions should be considered before the change takes effect.

December 1988

"Code' Violates Free Speech"

Open and intelligent discussion is the sole means

of dealing with and eliminating discrimination; infringing upon an individual's fundamental right to speak and express his views has proven to be ineffective as well as unconstitutional.

March 4, 1992 Vol. 10 No. 11

"An Elastic Clause for U-M Health Services"

Were UHS to abandon its latex mission, however, it would not be stretching the truth to assert that the U-M had assumed an unreasonable position. Once the aforementioned initiatives are put in place, few students would be able to afford condoms, but few would find it necessary—especially ticket holders. It is a well-known fact, moreover, that raising tuition, creating more university bureaucracy, and forcing all students, sexually active or not, to pay for politically motivated services is much more efficient and fair than relying on the free condom market.

March 4, 1992 Vol. 10 No. 11

"Self-Destructive Affirmative Action Rhetoric"

There can be no doubt that different people will interpret and understand various matters differently. But insofar as such divisions exist, it is both naïve and dangerous to pretend that they are uniquely consequences of race and gender: naïve because cross-racial and cross-cultural empathy are evidently quite possible, in both principle and practice, and dangerous because they degrade the value of merit by supplanting it with a standard based on "unique" racial perspectives which, in reality, are accessible to people of all races. And such divisive thinking is hardly conducive to equality and

progress.

Vol. 11 No. 10

"Are there Really Women's Issues?"

Partly due to the media and partly as a result of feminist usage, the phrase "Women's Issues" has gained currency in many circles. Typically used to denote topics such as abortion rights, the glass ceiling phenomenon, and gender equality in the workplace, this phrase is but one symptom of an increasingly prevalent mindset, a world view which not only condones, but actually encourages, the interpretation of social issues as consisting of conflicts between or among groups with divergent political interests. Aside from the air of separation and distinction that phrases such as "gay rights," "black issues" and women's issues" imply, they share at least two features: each views "groups" as monolithic, and each presupposes that different groups within society have competing, irreconcilable interests.

Vol. 8 Number 7 March 1990

"John Doe Tells All"

"At our law school we've got some of the most renowned First Amendment scholars in the country. And not once, in the entire policy making process, were any of those lawyers consulted about the First Amendment implications of this policy. In the exact words of Judge Avern Cohn, who rule don the case, ' I have a hunch they didn't want to ask the questions because they didn't want to hear the answers.'" **MR**

In Response to Needs and Demands

CHANGE DOES NOT occur in a vacuum. All political and cultural shifts produce a ripple pattern, which penetrate the surrounding social fabric.

The most dramatic cultural shift in recent history took place in the 1960s and the repercussions of this turbulent era continue to be felt in the American political arena.

The “anti-establishment” attitudes of the 60s released a series of backlashes unprecedented in U.S. history. In the fires of rebellion, a new social science was forged. The healthy distrust of authority which emerged brought with it a flood of self-proclaimed crusaders for justice. Political activism became the goal of every educated man and woman, and for every social ill, real and imagined, federal legislation was offered as a cure.

College students of the 60s were overwhelmed by the battle cries of the “War on Poverty,” and at the same time plagued by a guilty conscience resulting from our questionable involvement in Vietnam. They leaped feet-first into the whirlpool of activism—lashing out against what they mistakenly understood to be the cause of society’s problems—the capitalist system.

But the quest for Utopia by college students during this era proved to be a doomed one. The “War on Poverty” soon ended without a victory, leaving taxpayers and minorities as its casualties. Activism became the hobby of a few aging actors and sheltered college students, and it became apparent that raw emotion is no substitute for a persuasive and rational argument. The deafening scream of the radical left for a “workers’ revolution” drove away the very workers they were supposed to attract. The decidedly anti-establishment attitude which prevailed among members of all radical groups had the same effect. And so, in search of a cause, the 1960s student radicals proclaimed a takeover of the liberal banner. To fight the establishment, they created their own liberal establishment.

The decade that followed the left’s shift in position proved to be the demise not only of the worker’s voice, but also of the American Dream. To satisfy the demands made by the liberal establishment, the government began to implement cast “social welfare” programs which ballooned the national debt to over a trillion dollars. A more damaging effect, however, was the gradual erosion of the work ethic, with its promise of success as the result of individual effort.

The social misconduct of students during the 1960s brought to the surface a new breed of activists demanding change. They demanded change because the political power had become too centralized, and the abuses of power too common. The unsatisfied contingent entering college in the late 70s and early 80s began to challenge the bromides of liberalism with a unique style; unique because they had relinquished the irrational principles of their predecessors and had set a new course for a more prudent order. This new brand of radical, repelled by the blindly altruistic intentions of their 1960s counterparts, sought to purge the college activist movement of its guilt-ridden and emotional tendencies.

Thus, the 1980s brought with them a tide of change in college students, with its roots in a profound respect for the free-market and individual liberty. A radical dissenter of conservative origin was born—a dissenter who was not concerned so much with maintenance of the status quo as with the creation of a better future.

The results of the 1980 elections proved that the unsuccessful liberal blueprint for

The radical conservative ... has arrived on the college campus. Their desires and concerns are now articulated in The Michigan Review.

change had been abandoned by the American people. The time was ripe for action—and what better setting than Ann Arbor, Michigan, a city transformed by the chaos of the “era of upheaval”, to serve as the backdrop for a revival of rational political commitment?

A group of adherents to this new political commitment conceived of a forum in which to present their concerns and desires to the rest of the college population. The forum would take the form of a review, a scholarly piece devoted to essays, commentary and issues salient to college life.

The idea was to confront the existing liberal media on Michigan’s college campuses. The dream had been born, and only a spark was needed to ignite the powder-keg of dissatisfaction among the radical activists.

It happened on a Tuesday in October of 1981. An editorial appeared in The Michigan Daily, the University’s student newspaper, condemning the College Republicans and its chairman, Thomas Fous. Fous, a former employee of The Michigan Daily, sought an appropriate tactical rebuttal. A scheme was devised after a conversation with Alan Miller, a Detroit News writer and National Review contributor, who had written an article pertaining to the Dartmouth Review’s contemptuous attitude toward the university in Hanover. The scheme involved taking the liberal establishment head-on by battling philosophy versus philosophy.

The drama started to unfold as Fous began contacting sources on the plan to bring a conservatively-based review to the University of Michigan. Paul W. McCracken, distinguished economist and presidential advisor, encouraged the idea and pledged his support. The enterprise would eventually manifest itself as The Michigan Review. For Fous, a former writer for The Flint Journal, the formation of a student publication came easily. He set about the task of securing bona fide writers and staff personnel. Ronald J. Stefanski was appointed Editor-in-Chief. Stefanski, an English major, proved to be the perfect addition to the Review’s mixture of satire and commentary.

Along with the tasks required to establish such a publication, certain less tangible assets are also necessary to insure the longevity of The Michigan Review. A host of reputable individuals have given their acknowledgement and support to the enterprise. Among them are: Gerald R. Ford; Russell Kirk, famed conservative intellectual; Peter Fletcher, former Republican National Committeeman; Irving Kristol, renowned neoconservative; R. Emmett Tyrrell, editor of The American Spectator; and Stephen Tonsor, history professor and conservative intellectual.

The radical conservative seeks to mesh the essentials of the conservative philosophy with the 1960s flair for instigating reform. The hope is to concretize the “best of the tried and true” with the hope of arriving at a rational order, based not on the whims of self-proclaimed social reformers, but on a deep understanding of human nature. The quintessential purpose of The Michigan Review is to confront the existing liberal establishment on Michigan’s campuses by presenting this new perspective in a clear and precise manner.

The radical conservative nurtured by a generation of idealists, politicized by the 60s need for social rearrangement but not overwhelmed by the emotional and guilt-ridden excesses has arrived on the college campus. Their desires and concerns are now articulated in The Michigan Review. **MR**

This editorial was originally published in the inaugural issue of the Michigan Review.

Twenty-Five Years Later: Still Meeting Needs and Demands

AT TWENTY-FIVE years old, one would think that, by now, The Michigan Review would have been content to have graduated from college and left the University of Michigan forever. But, at the risk of sounding cliché, it’s safe to say: We’re just getting warmed up.

The history of the Review is storied. It is something important to every writer and editor who passes through the doors of Suite One. If nothing else, we have learned over time to be appreciative of our history, as well as to learn from it.

Twenty-five years ago, some disaffected rascalions founded The Michigan Review. They envisioned a conservative alternative to the more obvious liberal hegemony on campus, particularly at the University of Michigan. At our founding, it was not necessarily clear that the Review would be able to thrive in such an adverse climate, but our editors wore on.

As time progressed, the Review and its staff helped stare down the U-M administration numerous times—from the speech code to affirmative action and the MCRI. The Review has been a consistent interlocutor against the zaniness of the campus Left, and all their foibles. Who knows what sort of success they might have had if not for the efforts of The Michigan Review.

The fact is that—much to the chagrin of those who we have consistently opposed—the Review is here to stay on campus, for twenty-five more years, and maybe even longer. We are no longer a ragtag group of activists banging at the gates of the University, begging to be let into the dialogue. Rather, both the current editors and staff, as well as those who have

As the climate on campus has changed, so has the Review. A publication that tried to reclaim the attitudes and style of its founding would be akin to the mom or dad who, on parents' weekend, hangs out at a frat party with his or her son or daughter before a football game. So, inevitably, we have adapted. But our editorial perspective is proudly conservative, libertarian, and contrarian—nothing will ever be done to undermine that.

come before us, can take satisfaction in the fact that now, the Review is a vital part of the campus dialogue; an actor which cannot be ignored. The Review, over the course of the past twenty-five years has become an institution at the University of Michigan. But unlike most institutions, we have managed to be dynamic and on the cutting-edge of campus affairs.

Our proud institution has produced our fair share of “the leaders and the best,” as well. Our alumni have served in the White House, become successful journalists, written books, become professors, and joined the highest echelons of professionals in law, business, and other career fields. We like to think, of course, that the skills that have made them successful were forged in part during their time with The Michigan Review.

For that, we have a number of people to thank. The generosity of our parent organization, the Collegiate Network, cannot be understated. Without their willingness to put up with our antics over the years, the Review would not be the same that it is today. Our alumni are always a source of inspiration for us. We are as proud of them as we hope they are of us. Because of their successes after leaving the University, they have gone on to be ambassadors for our publication, and have made the Review the nationally recognized publication that it is today. As well, all those others who have been generous to us through both time and money—from staff members to donors—have done a mighty service to our publication.

Moving towards the future, it is impossible to look towards the future of the Review, without casting an eye towards our past, as well. It is hard to argue that things have not changed much since the time of our founding. Take, for instance, the story of The Dartmouth Review. When our sister publication was founded just over a quarter-century ago in Hanover, its presence caused such a fuss that one professor actually attacked an editor, and bit him!

Of course, this is one extreme example. But in The Michigan Review’s heyday, we have seen our fair share of vandalism, hateful words, and newspapers burned in effigy. But things have, in fact, changed over time. Part of this is a testament to the success of this newspaper. But, more importantly, the climate on campus has changed. There are no longer incidents where conservative students are shouted down because of their beliefs by overtly biased professors.

Today, liberalism on college campuses is much more insidious. It infects the disposition of nearly every academic discipline and is ensconced within the policies advanced by the administration of the University. It takes a certain sophistication, now, on the part of conservative students to cut through the thick fog of liberalism on campus. Leftist ideology may be more tempered when individuals speak or act out, but it is still present. The Review, however, still stands stalwart against the assumptions of a campus like ours.

As the climate on campus has changed, however, so has the Review. A publication that tried to reclaim the attitudes and style of its founding would be akin to the mom or dad who, on parents' weekend, hangs out at a frat party with his or her son or daughter before a football game. So, inevitably, we have adapted. But our editorial perspective is proudly conservative, libertarian, and contrarian—nothing will ever be done to undermine that.

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So, as The Michigan Review looks ahead to another quarter-century on campus, we find ourselves celebrating the past, while looking towards the future. We are proud of our past, but believe there is much more history to be made. The Review can only ascend higher, and the work of all those who have come before us is to thank for that. Our editors today are focusing on not only sharpening our journalism and reporting, but our commentary and incisive views on campus events and current affairs. And our future editors—who knows how many are on the way—will one day take up the mantle, as well, advancing generations more of conservative thought here at the University of Michigan. **MR**

The Review's Editors-in-Chief Look Back:

AS ONE OF the founders and first editor-in-chief of the Michigan Review, the first thing I would share with you is: What a difference 25 years can make!

I don't think any of us involved in the enterprise of establishing an alternative voice on the campus of the University of Michigan with the Michigan Review necessarily assumed that a) this great cause would continue unabated or b) that students far and wide would have assembled the resolve, tenacity and craftiness required to keep The Michigan Review afloat over a quarter of a century. Clearly, the student spirit at the University of Michigan cannot be underestimated!

Political tastes, causes and conditions change. What remains the same (and essential) is that the university provides for every faculty, stakeholder and student a forum for a diverse, eclectic and wide range of views. Strangely, the academy tends toward atrophy in this regard. So it is incumbent upon the rebel voices to strike out, not only carrying a big stick -- as Teddy Roosevelt suggested-- but preparing to stick it in the administration's eye on occasion as warranted, legal and appropriate.

Congratulations to all for this celebration of the student voice and clamor and spirit that brought us to this day! As Emmett Tyrell implored me, Tom Fous and others back in 1982, "Please continue to blend ribaldry in with the sermonics."

Press on!

—Ron Stefanski
Editor-in-Chief, 1982-84

Lots of fond Michigan Review memories: reading my first byline, watching a federal judge call the university's speech code unconstitutional, painting the Rock blue on the Review's tenth anniversary. But best of all may have been the time when a group of left-wing students, incensed by our outrageous little publication, burned one of our issues in front of the Student Union (and a photographer). Couldn't they have just written a letter to the editor? Of course not: In their view, politically incorrect ideas must submit to the cleansing power of the flame. It brought a big smile to my face because we had smoked out Ann Arbor's real book burners.

—John J. Miller
Editor-in-Chief, 1990-91

My years at Michigan were among the best years of my life and my time at the Michigan Review was among the best of my time at Michigan. I was E-I-C for the Review's 10th Anniversary. In those days, we never took our existence on campus for granted. We worked on computers at campus computing centers because we couldn't afford our own. We held donut sales to help spread the word of our existence and to raise money to print the next issue. We took our mission seriously because we were afraid that if we didn't, we

wouldn't be around next year or even next issue.

We also had a lot of fun. With no Internet, limited e-mail, and no real call phones, campus was different, but the important things were the same. Like those 10 years before us and 15 years after us, we fought for a different kind of diversity on campus: diversity of thought and ideas. We gave the campus the other side of the story, regardless of what the story was, helping students make more thoughtful, better informed opinions. We benefited as well -- though few of us would go on to become politicians or journalists or public policy wonks, our time at the Review helped us become the people we are today, a group that I think your readers would find to be surprisingly diverse in occupation and political beliefs.

In the 15 years since I was editor, I have been consistently impressed -- and extremely proud -- of the thoughtful, professional, and entertaining presence the Review has maintained. Key to this success has been a continued passion to provide the other side of the story while never taking its own existence for granted. Here's to 25 more years!

—Brian Jendryka
Editor-in-Chief, 1991-92

When I was an editor of the Michigan Review, I liked to think of myself as a political iconoclast, battling the left-leaning orthodoxy on campus. But some of my best memories come from the time I spent talking with friends and colleagues in Suite One. From lampooning the U-M administration to discussing Rothbard and Mises, we covered it all. The Review has left an indelible mark not only on campus, but on me personally. I congratulate the paper on its 25th anniversary and wish it success for many years to come!

—James Roberts, II
Editor-in-Chief, 1995-96

Every college student has a great memory from his time spent in the halls of academia. From spring break in Acapulco to that one time at Scorekeepers where you almost got the hottie's phone number, everyone has one.

Mine might be the nerdiest geekfest imaginable: our road trip to the Supreme Court. Three of my fellow Review editors (and closest friends) and I drove through the night to the nation's capital, and sat outside the steps of the highest court in the land for 24 hours. Through sleet, rain, cold and 12 straight hours of listening to Justin Wilson articulate the finer points of Bakke with law students from Howard, we sat. And sat. And sat some more. Until, after a bum-shower in the Union Station washroom at 7am, we were ushered into the Supreme Court building to hear the oral arguments in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. Looking back, some might think it was really, really lame. Well, in hindsight, maybe it was. But at the time it was a blast, and I couldn't have

been happier; the Review gave me that. Here's to 25 more years of the times of your lives.

—Ruben Duran
Editor-in-Chief, 2003-04

While I can only speak to four years of work with the Review and two years since then, I can state very definitively that this publication has an impact at the campus level, the state level and nationally. As an involved staff member during the University's multi-million dollar Supreme Court battle for Affirmative Action who now can see that the taxpayers of the State of Michigan (read: shareholders of the University) had no interest in the policy, it is a huge reinforcement that the Review's mission remains relevant and even crucial.

Furthermore, it is important to congratulate those who carry the torch today for their dedication and thick skin on a campus known for its bias. Twenty-five years ago few could have expected to influence the actions of those to come a generation later, but the current staff is true to that influence and make us as alumni proud supporters.

—Michael J. Phillips
Editor-in-Chief, 2004-05

We all owe a debt of gratitude to The Michigan Review, for giving us the chance to lead, to develop as journalists, and to stand strong for our beliefs.

Who among us would be the same without The Michigan Review? The men we are today were molded by our office banter and our ability to challenge one another.

Who among us would've had the opportunity to call something ours on campus, to own our college experience, if not for The Michigan Review? The contrarian voice deserves an eloquent and thoughtful spokesman, and our Journal of Campus Affairs has always been that.

Who among us would've had the chance (and the courage) to speak up and speak out against the groupthink which floats about campus, without The Michigan Review? Speech codes, Asian urination, and race preferences all fell to the power of our pens.

And who among us would've had a place to call home, or have had the "safe space" with which to be un-P.C. and carve out independent thoughts, without The Michigan Review?

From that little office on 911 N. University began the careers of some of America's greatest journalists and businessmen. And as long as the lights in that little office on 911 N. University stay on, the future looks bright for conservative thought -- at least in Ann Arbor.

Thanks for the chance to grow. But thanks, mostly, for the memories. College wouldn't have been the same without them.

—James Dickson
Editor-in-Chief, 2005-06

**Editors-in-Chief of
The Michigan Review**

Ron Stefanski
1982-84

Theodore Barnett
1984-85

John W. Jacobs
1985-86

Seth B. Klukoff
1986-89

Marc J. Selinger
1989-90

John J. Miller
1990-91

Brian Jendryka
1991-92

Adam DeVore
1992-93

Tracy Robinson
1993-94

Nate Jamison
1994-95

James A. Roberts II
1995-96

Geoff Brown
1996-97

Benjamin Kepple
1997-98

Lee Bockhorn
1998-99

Matthew S. Schwartz
1999-2000

James Yeh
2000-01

Dustin C. Lee
2001-02

James Justin Wilson
2002-03

Ruben Duran
2003-04

Michael J. Phillips
2004-05

James David Dickson
2005-06

Nick Cheolas
2006-07

goodbyes.

the michigan review

■ The Angry Greek

There Is More to Life Than Race and Gender

By NICK CHEOLAS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ON THE DAY three Duke Lacrosse players were finally exonerated after a year of misguided accusations, North Carolina attorney general Roy Cooper announced, "I think a lot of people owe a lot of apologies to other people."

But those apologies won't be forthcoming—not from Al Sharpton or Jesse Jackson; not from the 88 Duke Professors who advocated a harsher stance against the accused players; not from those students who held campus-wide protests, rushing to convict the three men in the court of public opinion.

In fact, I would be willing to hedge my bets that these individuals subscribe to the views of ABC News' Terry Moran, a (presumably) well-off white male who recently wrote that we shouldn't pity the exonerated players because...well, they're well-off white males.

Indeed, Moran wasn't alone in his opinion.

"They are privileged [sic] rich men who finally had a year of adversity in their lives as a side effect of their reckless partying...boo hoo," one reader commented.

"These guys are going to be alright. They had a rough year. But they come from rich and connected families... They may have been exonerated of all charges. But I think it is naive to think that no improper behavior occurred that evening," chimed in another.

Let's try it this way: A twenty-year old girl from a wealthy family goes to a party, has a few drinks, and ends up getting raped. Following the incident, I write that this rich girl "finally had a little adversity" in her life, and that while getting raped was awful, it was naive to think she hadn't engaged in some "improper" behavior. How do you think that would go over?

Not well, I'm guessing. So what's the difference?

The answer lies closer than you think—in the moral relativism and "race and gender above all" propaganda emanating from the ivory towers of college campuses. Here, the past, present, and future are reduced to a struggle between the oppressors and the victims. This struggle becomes the lens through which all events are viewed. Each issue in today's society—Proposal 2, the war in Iraq, Social Security, health

white and powerful. They'll be fine.

I know from experience. You're never "fine" after something like that, and you never completely recover.

It seemed that ESPN.com's Jemele Hill, a black woman, was one of the few public figures to utter the words "I'm sorry," aptly noting that "your race, gender and class have everything to do with how you were treated then and how you are treated now." Ironic, isn't it?

The difference between the two viewpoints is simple. Hill saw the Duke Lacrosse scandal as it was—a horrible injustice. Moran saw the ordeal as it fit into his worldview forged by liberal academia. The oppressors were simply getting a taste of their own medicine.

Such moral relativism isn't just wrong, it's dangerous. The incident and its aftermath exposed the ugly reality that the modern university too often eschews the search for truth and knowledge in favor of propaganda. The feigned fights for "equality" and "social justice" (whatever that phrase means this week) were revealed to be the tit-for-tat, stick-it-to-the-man crusades that they are.

The sad fact is that far too many students graduate from America's universities unable to view the world beyond race and gender. We can graduate from Michigan without knowing a lick about the Constitution or personal finance, but we certainly won't graduate without fulfilling our "Race and Ethnicity" requirement.

The sad fact is that far too many students are graduating from America's universities unable to view the world beyond race and gender. We can graduate from Michigan without knowing a lick about the Constitution or personal finance, but we certainly won't graduate without fulfilling our "Race and Ethnicity" requirement.

care, you name it—may have its own story, but there are only these two characters.

Thus, when three men are falsely charged with despicable crimes, endure a year of hell, get dragged through the mud by students, professors, and media members alike, and are forced to pick up the tab for such a ridiculous miscarriage of justice, it's "not that bad." Hey, they are rich and

In the end, individuals like Terry Moran are unable to see the world as it is - a world where the forces of good and evil transcend racial and gender lines. Such a simplistic worldview leaves us unable to confront complex social issues, and four years ostensibly designed to open our minds has left many of us as closed-minded as ever. **MR**

■ The Feminine Mystique

In Defense of the Three-Year Plan

WAIT, WHAT? NOW? I'm graduating now?

Crap.

In August of 2006, when I first casually mentioned to my parents that I could graduate a year early by taking 14 credits each semester, I really had no intention of actually doing it. But when my mother looked at me across the table and said, "You know, you could save us a lot of money if you did," I quickly realized this was, at least in their eyes, a very distinct—and appealing—possibility.

So I thought about it. And then I thought about it some more. And then, after I had decided to actually do it, I thought about it even more. Had I made the right choice? Would graduate schools or employers give me that wow-you-must-be-really-socially-awkward look I seem to get (and, well, have pretty much always gotten) around the Review office when I told them I graduated in three years instead of four, or even five or

six? Would I look back on my life and forever regret that last year of college I skipped out on, as a fifty-something Honors advisor warned me I would? Would I feel like I'd missed out on something?

Well, I certainly can't tell you that now—because right now, I'm reservedly gleeful (if that makes any sense). Gleeful because I'm nearly done with this university—I'm already itching to get out, and I probably would've gone insane if I stuck around with Mary Sue and company for another year. But I am reserved because, truthfully, I have no solid plans for the future.

Sure, graduate school is down the road in a year or two, but for the 2007-2008 school year—can I still count the passage of time in school years after I'm no longer in it?—I literally

have no idea what I'm doing. Sure, I've applied to several jobs that actually pertain to my degree and skill set; maybe one will pan out. Maybe I'll be waiting tables with my B.A. in English. Maybe I'll just be on my

parents' couch.

But honestly, either way, I can't say I'm concerned. It's a risk, I know—maybe the least-calculated risk I've ever taken. But I've been in school for so long, and, once upon a time, I was one of those students who loved going; that hasn't been the case for a while. So many of my parents' friends—and my own parents, too—have told me they wish they could be back in school, and right now, I just can't fathom that. But I think that taking this risk and getting out into the harsh world of reality—a world without new school

clothes every

fall—will help me to appreciate the education I'll return to someday soon.

I am also not convinced there's anything to keep me in undergrad. If I were to be, say, the next

even different, happening if I hadn't applied for an early discharge. By now, I know how this all plays out. The football team will have a decent regular-season record only to disappoint in a bowl game, and then half of the student body will call for Lloyd Carr's resignation (but, after his last column, certainly not Adam Paul). There will be drama in MSA, the Greek system, or some other large-but-generally-irrelevant campus organization. President Coleman will continue to piss off the masses while pleasing a fraction of the population. The guy by the UGLI will play his harmonica. It will snow in April.

So while my esteemed colleague Michael O'Brien has said to me several times that he would never want to graduate early, I think I can now say that, without a doubt, I can't imagine doing it any other way. And no, it really isn't that I can't imagine a world without Nick Cheolas at the helm of the Review (I'm not actually convinced he'll leave, anyway), or I'm shaking in my boots at the thought of O'Brien as Editor-in-Chief. Instead, I just don't know how I could ever top falling out of a newsstand and giving myself a concussion at 11:30 on a Sunday night—and really, I don't want to try. **MR**



AMANDA
NICHOLS

Had I made the right choice? Would graduate schools or employers give me that wow-you-must-be-really-socially-awkward look I seem to get (and, well, have pretty much always gotten) around the Review office when I told them I graduated in three years instead of four, or even five or six?

editor-in-chief of The Michigan Review, then perhaps I would've stuck around. Really, though, part of why I'm leaving early is because I just can't imagine anything revolutionary and groundbreaking in my life, or

Loophole Fosters Friendship Between Universities and Lobbyists

By JONNY SLEMROD, '10

CALL IT THE March Madness of money. Each year lobbyists descend on Washington to influence legislators and politicians, who play a large part in deciding where money will be allocated for the fiscal year in appropriations bills. Lobbying, often called "the fourth branch of government," is an enormously powerful sector in American politics.

Major companies such as AT&T, Goldman Sachs and FedEx have spent tens of millions each in donations to political action committees (PAC's) and politicians in hopes of swaying legislation, according to The Center for Responsive Politics.

The Republican Party took a huge blow when lobbyist Jack Abramoff was accused of giving gifts to legislators in return for favorable legislation for his clients. A backlash against "dirty" politics occurred, and many view the Abramoff scandal as an important step in the Democratic Party taking control

of Congress in the mid-term elections of 2006. Private gifts from lobbyists to legislators

and politicians are now heavily restricted, following a 2006 piece of legislation passed in the Senate which requires the disclosure of all gifts. House and Senate ethics rules currently allow individual gifts of up to 50 dollars per elected official, as long as the annual contributions do not exceed 100 dollars.

However, the legislation contains what many view as an enormous glitch: the ban on gifts does not apply to public-sector lobbyists. Therefore, taxpayer-funded government lobbyists, including lobbyists that represent public universities such as U-M, are not subject to the same ban on gifts that a lobbyist representing a company such as AT&T is.

This glitch has several taxpayer advocate groups in a frenzy. One such group, Americans for Prosperity (AFP), which identifies itself as "an organization of grassroots leaders who engage citizens in the name of limited government and free markets on the local, state and federal levels," has launched a campaign called the "Real March Madness," aimed at exposing the gift ban loophole.

Company Formerly Belonging to Large University Donors Hit With Discrimination Suit

By MARIE COUR, '08

THE WALGREENS CORPORATION has recently come under fire from the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which filed charges against Walgreens chain for violating anti-discrimination laws on March 7.

Nineteen former employees filed a complaint against the Walgreens Corporation, which led to charges filed by EEOC St. Louis District Director James R. Neely Jr., who alleged that "widespread racial bias against thousands of African-American workers" prevented these employees from earning promotions or raises from the company.

The EEOC claims that the company assigned minority employees to under-performing stores, particularly those located in neighborhoods with large African-American communities, because of their race. In doing this, Neely argues, Walgreens prevented many qualified minorities from rising in the corporation while allowing executives to justify keeping these employees away from more lucrative jobs even if they had performed well in these communities.

If the accusations are true, the company would be violating the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and would face severe penalties. This lawsuit, undoubtedly troublesome to the corporation, is the second one to hit the company in recent years. In 2005, for example, a group of fourteen employees from the Midwest filed a class action suit against the company alleging that the same type of bias had occurred in their respective branches. This lawsuit has not yet been decided, but because it alleges similar types of biases, it is almost certainly a cause for concern for Walgreens.

In a press release released after the lawsuit was filed, Walgreens chief spokesman Michael Polzin expressed his

Using data from The Center for Responsive Politics, AFP drafted a mock bracket which ranks the 2007 NCAA basketball selections by the amount of money spent for lobbying purposes between 1998 and 2006. The University of Albany (SUNY) came in first, having spent a whopping 9,924,992 dollars lobbying Congress. Bringing the larger issue of irresponsible spending of taxpayer money to light, AFP sent letters to all sixty-five universities in its bracket requesting that they do not give away free sports tickets to legislators, a gift which is sometimes utilized by universities with high-profile athletic departments. In turn, these lucrative gifts are a lobbying tool used to secure more federal funding. Unfortunately, the gift ban loophole means that no monetary limits are placed on these gifts, and that they often go undocumented.

Calls to eliminate the gift ban loophole have been echoed by eleven other taxpayer advocate groups, including prominent conservative-activist Grover Norquist's group Americans for Tax Reform, The American Conservative Union, and the government-watchdog group Citizens Against Government Waste.

Since U-M did not make the NCAA Tournament this year, it was not included in the list. Of the Big 10 schools in this year's tournament, Purdue, who spent 2,947,000 dollars on lobbying over the eight-year period, was the biggest spender. U-M is certainly not absent from the Hill, however. The Michigan Daily reported that in total, the University and the University Health System spent 420,000 dollars in 2006 on lobbying. Threatened with funding cuts for the 2008 fiscal year, that number may in fact rise substantially.

While the "Real March Madness" campaign initiated by Americans for Prosperity may seem like a weak attempt at discrediting lobbying on the part of public universities, it is intended to bring to light the larger issue of pork-barrel spending. Wasteful earmarks like 2 million dollars for "facilities and equipment for an animal facility" at the University of Florida and 1 million dollars for a "Renewable Energy Animal Waste Project" at Texas A&M often exist, AFP contends, since lobbyists who fight for these projects have no gift restrictions.

Says AFP President Tim Phillips, "That's a ridiculous insult to taxpayers, and Congress should close this loophole as soon as possible." **MR**

The Cost of Contraception

How Medicaid reform has increased prescription prices on college campuses

By REBECCA CHRISTY, '08

TODAY'S COLLEGE STUDENTS are constantly confronted with rising costs of tuition, textbooks and rent. Beginning this month, birth control drugs will be added to the list.

University of Michigan women may be in for an unpleasant surprise the next time they try to fill their birth control prescription at University Health Services. As a result of the passage of the Deficit Reduction Bill in 2005, college students across the nation are already being charged double and even triple the previous amounts for their monthly birth control pills.

Most colleges were not fully aware of how the bill would affect their prices, but did manage to purchase contraceptive drugs in larger quantities than usual in order to offset the price increase for a few months. The University of Michigan Health Services received approval to follow this procedure and believes it will result in keeping prices down until the end of the school year.

As the surplus begins to diminish at some universities, students are realizing the consequences of the bill. "It's a tremendous problem for our students because not every student has a platinum card," said Hugh Jessop, Executive Director of the Health Center at Indiana University, in an interview with the Associated Press.

Jessop went on to describe how students who once paid about ten dollars for a month's worth of contraception are now forced to pay twenty-two dollars a month. The Deficit Reduction Bill focuses heavily on Medicaid, and is aimed at curtailing the incentives for drug manufacturers to give colleges a discounted price on birth control pills. Congress has

Universities consist of a high demographic of young people who are in a position to establish brand loyalty for many years. As a result of the bill, drug manufacturers have now lost a majority of the incentives to provide discounts to university students.

been concerned that drug manufacturers are providing low cost drugs to commercial customers and private hospitals in exchange for market share and other special arrangements.

The rebates have been an important marketing tool used by manufacturers on college campuses. Universities consist of a high demographic of young people who are in a position to establish brand loyalty for many years. As a result of the bill, drug manufacturers have now lost a majority of the incentives to provide discounts to university students. Manufacturers must now pay to provide drugs at a discounted price, and in addition must also pay fees to participate in the Medicaid program.

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) has established some safety net providers to the Nominal Price Exemption, such as certain non-profit institutions; however, university health providers are not included. The American College Health Association (ACHA) has urged the CMS to include university health services within the exemptions, stating: "An entity at an institution of higher education the primary purpose of which is to provide health services to students attending the institution."

The ACHA argues that there are serious consequences if higher education institutions are not allowed exemptions. Not only will university services have to increase the cost of contraceptives, student health plans which cover the costs of contraceptives will increase their premiums to cover the price increase. In the long term, the ACHA also believes that many students will have to resort to less effective methods of birth control because the financial burden will be too high. In a survey conducted by the ACHA, 39 percent of American college-aged women use birth control drugs.

According to the ACHA's website, the organization is currently trying to coordinate a face to face meeting sometime this spring with CMS in order to reiterate their proposal. **MR**

Free Speech Debate over “Desecrated” Terrorist Flags

By CHRISTINA ZAJICEK, '10

AT AN OCTOBER 17th, 2006 anti-terrorism rally, the College Republicans at San Francisco State University (SFSU) stomped on the flags of extremist groups Hezbollah and Hamas. When school officials realized the makeshift flags contained the word “Allah,” this ignited a debate over the issue of free speech.

A little over a week later, on October 26th, a student at the university filed a formal complaint against the Republican

“This is not even a close call, legally speaking.”

—Robert Shibley, Vice President-FIRE

student organization. The student cited “attempts to incite violence and create a hostile environment” and “actions of incivility” as reasons for the suit. SFSU began hearings on March 9th, 2007 to determine whether the students who stepped on the flag should be sanctioned.

SFSU spokeswoman Ellen Griffin ex-

plained to the San Francisco Chronicle, “I don’t believe the complaint is about the desecration of the flag. I believe that the complaint is the desecration of Allah.” In terms of punishing the students involved with the flag incident, she told the Chronicle she “stands behind this [investigative] process.”

College Republicans at the university explain that when they copied the Hamas and Hezbollah flags from the internet onto sheets of butcher paper, they did not know “Allah” appeared on either flag because it appeared in Arabic script. They contacted the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) for guidance during the hearings. FIRE describes itself as a “non-profit educational foundation that unites civil rights and journalists from across the political and ideological spectrum on behalf of individual rights, due process, freedom of expression, academic freedom, and rights of conscience” at college campuses.

FIRE President Greg Lukianoff believes that the university should not sanction the students. “The College Republicans engaged in unequivocally protected political expression, and it strains all credibility to think the SFSU administration does not know this. There is nothing to try or investigate here other than protected expression,” he said.

Another controversy lies in whether SFSU’s Office of Student Programs and

Leadership Development (OSPLD) could have resolved the manner without formally charging the students. FIRE maintains that the University chose not to.

“This is not even a close call, legally speaking,” says FIRE’s Vice President, Robert Shibley. “First Amendment protects using or destroying flags in political protest, and even SFSU administrators must realize that they cannot prosecute students for failing to respect a religious symbol.”

SFSU’s persistence in pursuing a disciplinary hearing in this case is a show of contempt for its students’ constitutional rights.”

SFSU and FIRE have corresponded with each other in the months before the hearing, and in a final letter to the University, FIRE urged “if you continue to ignore your constitutional obligations, you risk personal liability for depriving your students of their rights.”

An underlying concern is that the university is promoting an unfair agenda against the student organization. The charge brought against the College Republicans is that they desecrated Allah’s name when stepping on



The Hezbollah flag is at the center of the SFSU controversy.

the flag, but what would happen if they did the same to an American flag?

According to the landmark 1989 Supreme Court case, *Texas v. Johnson*, punishment for desecrating the American flag constitutes an infringement of First Amendment rights of symbolic and protected speech.

The university maintains that the hearings will continue. A spokesperson from SFSU explained that they wanted to “give all parties the confidence that they will be heard and fairly treated by a panel that includes representatives of all the university’s key constituencies.” **MR**

Davidson College Unveils New Plan to Ease Burden on Low-Income Students

By ZACK ZUCKER, '10

MILLIONS OF AMERICAN children, of different races, regions, and backgrounds wish to get a higher education. However, they often share one trait in common: being unable to afford the skyrocketing costs of a college education.

Higher education in America is a product, and, like all other products, better quality schools carry higher price tags. For those who cannot attain scholarships, student loans are often the only way of absorbing the costs. These loans, however, mean living in a world of debt that can take years, if not decades, to pay off.

Davidson College, a private liberal arts school in North Carolina, aims to provide low-income students with a better alternative with their new financial aid program. After a recent decision by the school’s top brass, Davidson will scrap its current student loan program in favor of grants and a work-study program.

The work-study program is at Davidson differs from other programs. For instance, students at other universities are required to pick a job in the field of their desired major but this is not required at Davidson. While the work-study program has certain drawbacks, such as a loss of funds earned from work that previously went towards living costs, the program may help keep students out of debt when they graduate from college.

According to Davidson’s Vice President and Dean of Admissions Charles Gruber, the decision came after over fifteen years of study by the school’s trustees. The school has received over \$130 million over the last two years in private donations, which they say is necessary to fund the changed financial aid program.

“That money, earmarked specifically for need-based and merit scholarship, has clearly helped in both reducing the loan amounts given within financial aid packages and in the offering of true merit scholarships,” said Gruber.

But can this revolutionary change occur here at the University of Michigan? Of course, Michigan has a Davidson of its own (not to mention a Taubman, a Ross, etc.) to donate funds for grants, along with what the University proudly hails as the largest alumni network in the nation. While U-M currently gives out student loans, it eliminated them from the aid packages of low income students for this school year, Pam Fowler said, U-M’s Director of the Office of Financial Aid.

Fowler likes Davidson’s idea. She said that “recent studies have shown that students from low income families have an aversion to loans that may negatively influence their decision to attend college. If institutions are in a position [financially] to do so, they will adopt this [Davidson’s] program or programs similar to it.”

Fowler did not specify whether the University of Michigan was considering implementing similar measures. While Michigan’s UROP program was originally designed as a program to assist low income students, UROP has been expanded to include research opportunities for students who do not qualify for work-study, Fowler said.

A program similar to UROP was started which paid wages to low-income students—wages which would be directly deposited into helping take care of the students’ tuition balance. Jobs working for the university, such as at residence hall front desks and cafeterias, could also be included.

Gruber, for one, thinks that many more schools would implement the plan if they could afford it. **MR**

Kilpatrick Champions Charter Schools

By ANNA MALECKE, '10

HOW TO FIX Detroit’s Public Schools remains one of the most debated issues in the Michigan today. Perhaps the most pressing quandry to this question is the failing Detroit Public School System. Last month, Democratic Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick advocated a controversial solution which normally finds support among conservatives: the opening of new charter and private schools.

As reported by the Detroit Free Press, the Mayor recently claimed he has engaged in private talks over the past few months about the introduction of additional charter schools in Detroit. Charter schools last made headlines in Detroit in 2005 when businessman Bob Thompson’s 200 million dollar donation for charter schools was eventually rescinded when the city did not immediately accept it.

Two years later, Kilpatrick seems to have designated charter schools as a means of providing an alternate educational opportunity for Detroit families and for slowing the amount of students that leave the Detroit school district annually.

Tyrone E. Winfrey, a Detroit Public School Board member and the Director of the University’s Detroit Admissions Office, does not believe charter schools are the best solution to the education problem in Detroit.

“I’m concerned about charter schools coming into the district at a much higher rate,” he said. “We do not need a quick fix in the city of Detroit.”

Kilpatrick has recently urged policy makers in Detroit to concentrate on the education of the children in general outside of the framework of the public school system. However, the teachers union, the Detroit Federation of Teachers, would rather see all

energies be put toward the DPS, and does not support a policy that would drain even more students from the public schools and thus reduce the number of union teachers.

Winfrey feels the mayor should focus on Detroit’s public schools and their future.

“I see the Mayor strengthening the public schools and taking the district to another level,” he said. For Winfrey, a successful future for the DPS hinges on a partnership with the state of Michigan’s three research universities, Michigan State, Wayne State, and Michigan.

“I believe we should bring these three dynamic universities in, not to charter the schools, but to work with a partnership in these schools for academics, facilities, and social aspects to help revolutionize the schools,” said Winfrey. “[The schools would succeed] if these three universities were to take a third of the Detroit Public schools and hone in on bringing in resources, faculty, and research to revolutionize.”

Kilpatrick’s support for the charter schools puts him at odds with the traditional Democratic stance on the attempts to rejuvenate the Detroit Public Schools. The fact that the Mayor of the city is now advocating an alternative to Detroit’s publicly sponsored, union-bound schools is not only an unorthodox Democratic position, but an indication of the extent to which the school system is suffering serious problems.

Winfrey has an optimistic view of the DPS woes, and expects to see an improvement in the next five years if the university partnership is created. He also expressed his dedication to the rejuvenation of Detroit’s schools.

“As a member of the school board, I’m going to be the person who will help to make this thing happen,” said Winfrey. **MR**

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Presidential Hopeful and Native Son: What are His Chances in Michigan?

By CHRISTINE HWANG, '10

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MITT Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, is battling to win his home state of Michigan, a state that, according to Mark Hemingway of the National Review, "may very well be the keystone state as far as the 2008 G.O.P. primary is concerned."

A traditionally swayable blue state that represents a fair share of electoral votes, Michigan is a vital part of every presidential campaign. Romney announced his candidacy in Dearborn, Michigan in February of this year with a more political motive than merely commencing his candidacy in his conveniently up-for-grabs home state. In June of 2005, Romney made a twelve-hour stop making speeches in Oakland County, Michigan, the wealthiest county in the state and presently, the base of his grassroots campaign in Michigan.

Romney is no stranger to leading traditionally blue states. Governor of Massachusetts, what is considered the bluest state, Romney has fared amazingly well in working with an overwhelmingly liberal state legislature.

Michigan leaders are hesitant about throwing their support behind their hometown boy. Michigan's Republican National Committeeman Chuck Yob and Attorney General Mike Cox had already given McCain their support before Romney officially announced his candidacy.

Many University of Michigan students asked on the street do not yet recognize the name Mitt Romney, much less know that he is from Michigan. However, it is only the early stages of the election and he may become more of a household name when the presidential race becomes more serious. In 2004, Joe Lieberman was the clear first choice due to name recognition from being Al Gore's running mate in the 2000 election, but soon faded into the background when there was more at stake.

Skeptics ponder whether Romney, running as the more conservative option to Giuliani and McCain, can really capture the votes of Michiganders.

When asked whether he thought Michigan could go to a social conservative, LSA sophomore Mike Filicchia said, "Absolutely not...not in this year's election. I mean, in theory, if all the liberals were lame, boring faces like John Kerry and [the Republicans] had someone fiery and appealing, then yes. But that's not happening, so no."

However, the votes of liberal Michiganders are not the

only ones that Romney risks losing due to social issues. Romney's positions on social issues have evolved throughout his political career, causing Gary Glenn, the chairman of Campaign for Michigan Families and the president of the American Family Association in Michigan, to question Romney's political integrity.

"According to several Republicans with experience running statewide campaigns in the state, if Glenn is for you, he doesn't help much. If he's dead set against you, he can hurt you...Glenn is dead set against Romney," said Marc Ambinder of the National Journal.

Neither Romney, Giuliani, nor McCain fit perfectly in the image of a social conservative, but all must try to gain the support of the Christian right to ensure a national victory.

Romney's emergence as a pro-life and anti-gay candidate, in contrast with his pro-gay past and his declaration that abortion should be "safe and legal" in his campaign for senator against Ted Kennedy in 1994, leave many unconvinced of his pro-life conversion, which he claims occurred after dealing with cloning and stem cell research issues as governor of Massachusetts in 2006.

As a Mormon, Romney may have different issues with the Christian Right than McCain and Giuliani would, which brings concerns to some about whether he can actually make it as a presidential candidate.

Some in Michigan do not yet doubt his chances.

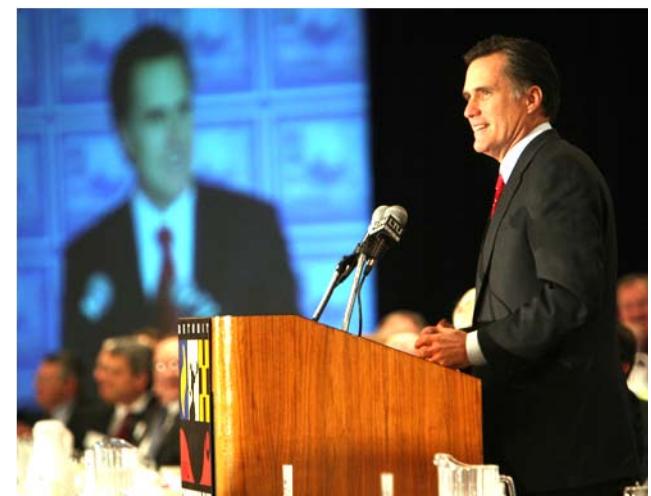
"I don't think people really care what religious standpoints a person has," said Filicchia, "Barack Obama's an evangelical Christian and he's probably rockin' the atheist vote right now."

Social and moral values are not necessarily what will tip the election one way or another in Michigan. With the movement of Michigan-based companies like Comerica and Pfizer to other areas of the country and Michigan's continuously degenerating car industry, economics seem to take an upper hand at both the very top and bottom of the Michigan economic scale.

"I definitely think [Republicans would] have a much better shot than usual with the current economic situation our state is facing," said LSA sophomore Kevin Dilks, looking past social and moral issues.

With more failure than accomplishment due to Michigan's Democratic state politics, perhaps voters will sway Republican.

"Without raising taxes or increasing debt, Governor



Mitt Romney addressing the Detroit Economic Club in February.

Romney closed a \$3 billion budget deficit his first year in office with a heavily Democrat legislature. Each year, Governor Romney filed a balanced budget without raising taxes. By eliminating waste, streamlining government, and enacting comprehensive economic reforms to help spur growth, Governor Romney helped the state achieve a surplus totaling nearly \$1 billion in 2005," claims Romney's presidential campaign website.

Romney has had a successful history in financial situations, making a fortune by helping companies like Staples and Domino's Pizza as a venture capitalist and, perhaps as he is best known, rescuing the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics from scandal and financial mismanagement.

Recently, Romney became the lead GOP presidential candidate in funding with \$23 million, followed by Giuliani with \$15 million and McCain with \$12.5 million.

However, as said by McCain campaign manager Terry Nelson, "Fundraising in the first quarter is no more important than fundraising throughout the entire primary election campaign." The Howard Dean scenario that occurred during the 2004 primaries could still occur: the faster something goes up, the faster it comes down.

But perhaps, with this sudden financial surge, both the political leaders and citizens of Michigan will finally see Romney as a candidate worth supporting. **MR**

Study Finds Legacy-Admitted Students Underperform on Campus

By KATE O'CONNOR, '09

THE DEBATE OVER preferences of certain groups in university admissions continues. While some have long opposed the use of legacy, a new study by Douglas S. Massey and Margarita Mooney, Princeton University sociologists, have caused some universities to reexamine their use of legacy status in their college admission process.

Massey and Mooney's study examined the effects of affirmative action programs on three groups: minorities, athletes, and students with legacies. The study used data from the National Longitudinal Study of Freshman (NLSF), a sample of 4000 freshman at 28 elite American universities, to understand the effects of admissions preferences among certain groups.

"In schools with a stronger commitment to legacy admissions, the children of alumni were more likely to drop out," the study stated. "Ironically, the only evidence we find of a skills mismatch is for the children of alumni. The greater the gap between a legacy student's SAT and the institutional average SAT, the lower the grades he or she earned, though the effect size was modest."

Massey and Mooney compared the number of hours studied per week, the "psychological performance burden" reported

by students, grades earned by students through the end of their sophomore year, and the likelihood of students dropping out of school by spring of their junior year. The study concluded that legacies who were given a greater admissions bonus earned lower grades once admitted, a fact which surprised many, including some admissions officials.

Traditionally, critics have argued that legacy preferences diminish the importance of personal and academic merit in the admissions process,

while also heavily favoring wealthy applicants whom they believe do not deserve additional advantages. Private

universities such as Princeton however, rely heavily on alumni relations as their continued support through business, publicity, donations and funds are instrumental in funding many university endeavors.

Donations from alumni contribute to building renovations and technological upgrades, as well as supporting financial aid programs for many financially disadvantaged students. Legacy students are also thought to better understand the sense of tradition

of the university and embody the values that the university has traditionally supported.

According to admission data published by Princeton, 39 percent of legacy applicants were admitted last year compared to 10.2 percent of applicants as a whole. Legacies represent a very important part of Princeton's student body, but Massey and Mooney's recent study may force the university to reconsider the place of legacies. Following the publication of the study, Princeton President

Shirley Tilghman asked the Dean of Admissions, Janet Rapelye, to examine data regarding the performance of the uni-

versity's legacy students.

Although this might prove to be a big problem for schools across the country, Michigan will be spared from this debate. The University of Michigan's admissions point system, which was discontinued in 2003, awarded legacy applicants four points for having a parent or step-parent, and one point for a grandparent, spouse, or sibling who attended the university, compared to 20 points for being a member of an underrep-

resented minority.

According to a university official in the admissions office, current applicants are evaluated using eight criteria, which include GPA, standardized test scores, essays and recommendations. They do not consider legacy status. The U-M admissions website tells prospective applicants, "Alumni serve as a vital part of that community both as lifelong ambassadors for the University, and as lifelong learners who are encouraged to continue to be involved in the life and programs of the institution after they graduate. Accordingly, we will continue to consider as one of many factors, but not as a determinative factor a direct relationship, or step-family relationship, with someone who has attended the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor as a degree-seeking student." Although legacy status could give a small boost to a student on the edge, it seems to play a very small part in the current admission decision process.

While the U-M admission policy toward legacies has changed since the elimination of the point-based admission system, the future for legacies at private schools like Princeton is uncertain. Although it seems unlikely that legacy preferences would be completely eliminated at these schools, Massey and Mooney's have raised important questions about legacy students on campus. **MR**