

# Pulitzer winner tackles textbooks

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author Frances Fitzgerald will deliver the keynote address to a two-day conference on the evaluation and selection of social studies textbooks for elementary and secondary school students.

Sponsored by the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Division of Education, the conference is open to teachers, administrators and parents. It will be held on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 7-8 in the Fair Lane Conference Center (former Henry Ford mansion) on the UM-D campus.

Ms. Fitzgerald, whose book "Fire in the Lake" is a comprehensive history of the Vietnam war, has recently turned her attention toward a study of social science textbooks used in elementary and secondary education.

In her most recent book, "America Revised," Fitzgerald notes that on an average of every five years textbook accountings of history change to accommodate the thinking of the times and whims of the marketplace.

"What sells best goes into the text," she says, adding that this has been a trend in American textbooks for the past 50 years.

The keynote address will open the conference on Thursday evening. It will

be followed by a discussion on the Michigan Textbook Study by John M. Chapman, social studies specialist of the Michigan Department of Education.

Friday's program includes a panel discussion on "The Role of Publishers in Improving Social Studies Instruction." Representatives from four major publishing houses, Allyn and Bacon, Inc., Scott, Foresman and Company, McGraw-Hill, and Houghton Mifflin Company will be on hand for discussions.

Margaret Carter, social studies coordinator of the Ann Arbor Public Schools, will act as panel moderator. "Summary and Evaluation" will close the Friday program, with Donald J. Proctor, professor of history of UM-D, acting as presenter.

Conference participants may receive one hour of academic credit by attending a special Saturday workshop session. The workshop will be under the direction of Grace Kachaturoff, professor of education at UM-D, and conference coordinator.

Further information on conference registration, credit and fees may be obtained by contacting Prof. Kachaturoff at (313) 593-5094.



## Houseplants don't need Canadian visa anymore

If you are traveling between Michigan and Canada, you are no longer required to have plant insect pest and disease-free certification of house plants, issued by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, according to Dean M. Pridgen, director.

This new exemption is based on a recently approved agreement between the United States and Canadian Departments of Agriculture.

Exempted plants are defined as those commonly known and recognized as house plants grown or intended to be grown indoors, and traveling as part of household effects or in passengers' baggage.

Previously, movement of all plants between the two countries was restricted, to prevent spread of plant pests, unless inspected and certified free of such pests.

"FOR INSTANCE, prior to this agreement, household goods containing house plants being transported from Michigan through Canada to New York, had to have all plants inspected and certified pest-free by MDA before entering Canada," Pridgen said.

This exemption agreement does not apply to nursery stock or commercial shipments of any kind or size, nor to plants from any origin other than the continental United States and Canada.

"It has been apparent for several years that international house plants were in a low risk category, and I'm pleased this arrangement has been reached. This eliminates red tape, and simplifies travel between the two countries," Pridgen said.

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