## Motherhood and college? This dean knows the ropes

Story by TIM RICHARD Photos by JANE HALE

Photos by JANE HALE

Chris- Grain 'remembers coming home from school as a little girl and talking about being a nurse.
Daddy – attorney Elmer Groefsema – had bigger ideas for his three girls. Nurses do all the work, and doctors get all the credit, 'he said.
After that pet Jalk, little Chris decided there was nothing she couldn't do. "It never occurred to me that women were in any way inferior to men," she says today. "Her big sisters followed in Daddy's footstege; the law. Cornelia Kennedy is a ludge on the Strich U.S. Circuit Court bench in Farmington.
And after rasings is children in the traditional matter, Christine Gram, at 9, last year beame cademic dean of the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College.

BUT THERE WERE a lot of twists

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and turns first.
"We green up in Detroit, and I went
to Redford High School. The property
on which I live now as property Dadplace of the property Dadlit's on Drake between 11 and 12 Mile,
It's on Drake between 11 and 12 Mile,
and we used: tog other Sundays." Dr.
Gram said.
Their mother died when Chris was 7.
Daddy raised the three girls.
"We always took trips together. Once
he said, "We have enough money to
paint the house or take a trip to
Idaho." she said, recalling their trip to
Idaho."

Elmer Groefsema wasn't political,



'When I got married, I was quite young — 19. As a condition of marriage, Daddy wanted me to

al injury cases and liked to look out for the underdog.

The west to Waynes State and then the University of Michigan.

"When I got married, I was quite young. 18. As a condition of mariage, Daddy wanted me to continue in college," she said.

Two children were born by the time she completed her bachelor's work. Her inclination had been toward chemistry and medicine, but those courses required many afternoon lab classes. So she switched to economics in order to take all her classes in the morning.

somewhat suddenly," she said. She taught there in 1984 and that fall was a research assistant at the University of Michigan while getting a teaching certificate.

In 1985 she started with the fleedging Oakland Community College, eventually becoming chairman of the economise department at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. It was quite a different world from Ann Arbor.
"If you view students as being on a

or. "If you view students as being on a

"Because OCC has an open-door ad-missions policy, people think the stu-dents are here because they can't get in somewhere else.
"But there are so many women, for example, who can't get an education unless it's at a community college at their back door.

"Our age range is 16 to 65, and the median is about 29. Often, older people who come back as students are the most motivated."



"After I got my doctorate," she said,
"I was asked to become a consultant
evaluator for North Central," the asso-ciation which accredits high schools
and colleges. Eventually she became a
member of its policy group.
"It has given me an opportunity to
meet people from other community

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colleges across the United States," she said. "These trips are working assignments, and you learn something just seeing how other people do it."
AS ACADEMIC dean at the Highland Lakes Campus in Union Lake, she sione of four top administrators, the others being the provost, the dean of sutent services and the director of administrative services.

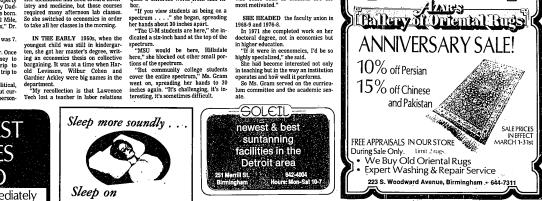
Ms. Gran is the immediate supervi-

ministrative services.
Ms. Gram is the immediate supervisor of all faculty and has charge of scheduling classes.
It's a different world from teaching, she said, one in which she has less direct control because much work is done through committees.
Her office has wrine recognitivities.

through committees.
Her office has prime responsibility
— shared with committees, of course
— for develoging new programs.
Among those either new or on the
drawing boards at Highhad Lakes are
real estate, aviation, child development
(for people in child care agencies, dental lab technician and physical therapy
technology.

technology.

And it started when Daddy talked her out of becoming a nurse.



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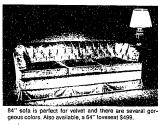






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