

Hail to Lisa and the yellow and blue



Jackie Klein

"Sing to the colors that float in the light — hurrah for the yellow and blue."

I've heard this University of Michigan theme song at many a football game. It's not a tune you're likely to sing in the shower. But on commencement day, it has a special, sentimental meaning — especially if your offspring is in the graduating class.

My older daughter graduated from Eastern University but never participated in the ceremonies. I can understand why. The graduation class is so large, individual names aren't read, the kids look like a sea of faceless, black-clad creatures and diplomas aren't sent out until July.

Despite the relative anonymity, my younger daughter, Lisa, wanted to be one of the black-robed mob of U. of M. May graduates, admitting that, however, wouldn't be "cool." So my daughter said she was only doing it for me. That proud and happy day turned into a disaster.

After sitting through endless, lengthy speeches, I started to look for Lisa who arranged for us to meet at the bottom of some stairs. It was apparent after two hours that I was on the wrong stairs, so I went to Lisa's apartment. She wasn't there, and we kept missing each other all day.

I DIDN'T GET to give Lisa a congratulatory kiss after

not seeing her during the ceremonies. Other parents were proudly hugging their kids and taking pictures of them in their caps and gowns. The worst part was that I knew my daughter was disappointed and, to this day, doesn't realize how proud of her I really am. I don't want to brag, but she graduated with honors.

This column is dedicated to Lisa and the maize and blue.

Her four years of college were turbulent times for Lisa. She lost her father and her young brother and her heart wasn't in her studies. But being a determined, resilient fighter, she bounced back and her marks were proof of her efforts.

I have tried to teach my daughters that they don't have

to be shown a mark on the wall to measure up to the size of the women they want to be.

They are the thoughts they think, the dreams they dream, and the goals they seek. They strive to be mature, understanding, tolerant and principled. They want to be minute builders of more abundant living for themselves and others whose lives they share.

Lisa is warm, caring and loving. But she willingly takes the risk of enriching adventures — tinged with my disappointment — knowing that the sheltered, protected, directed life I may want to foist on her misses much. After four years of sheltered, academic living, Lisa is ready to try her wings. She's scared of going out in the real world. But she claims she isn't afraid of failing.

Lisa glories in her selfhood but is still to learn to accept herself. We may not always understand, but we remind ourselves that saints are sinners who keep trying.

WE WANT our children to know themselves, their strengths, their weaknesses, their potential, and their relation to the universe. We want them to throw their influence on the side of good and truth and be better than they ever dared to be.

Our children can't reform the world, but at least they

can create the kind of selves they'll be happy to live with. Their success is perpetual growth. They also learn to take their failures and their lumps.

Lisa and I don't want to be each other's ages. Yet, here we are in the same age of atoms, electric hair rollers and Xerox. Our lives aren't split, rolled or duplicated, because we need each other and we must communicate.

Lisa plans to move away and look for a job in television, film or radio. Selfishly, I wish she would stay but I know she will come back as often as she can. She will use my phone for long distance calls. She will keep the washing machine and drier humming and she will open and close the refrigerator which is stocked with her favorite food.

But she will never use up the special pride and warmth I feel for her. The lives we spin aren't all of radiant colors but of cordillates at breakfast, intermittent headaches, heartaches, worry and bubble gum in the carpet.

With young voices harmonizing "Sing to the colors that float in the light, hurrah for the yellow and blue," Lisa reached another milestone in her life. She has known joy and pain and still has a zest for living and succeeding.

Hail to the yellow and blue and what it means to Lisa's future. I didn't get to really see her up close in her cap and gown. But she must know this deep, unaccountable thing I have for her. It goes deeper than love.

Michigan Week is in need of new emphasis

One of the popular trends sweeping the country is the rejuvenation of old buildings.

Some of them have stood for years and were allowed to deteriorate almost to the point where they were candidates for the wrecking ball.

Others were spared only because individuals or groups, with a touch of sentiment, had them spared. Why can't the same thing be done with celebrations and observances which seem to have been pushed aside in the every day whirl or our present generation?

THE STROLLER got to thinking about this when he realized that we now are officially into Michigan Week — a time which once was an occasion for great celebrations from Lake Michigan to Lake Erie and from Indiana and the Ohio borders into the winding roads along Copper Harbor in the Upper Peninsula.

For some reason, old age possibly, the original program for Michigan Week has been lost for the

most part and almost placed in the limbo of forgotten things.

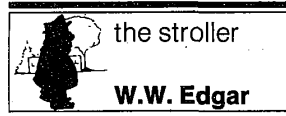
Sure, there are Michigan Week celebrations going on in one form or another. In Plymouth Mayor Exchange Day is being observed by entertaining the mayor of Warren today with Plymouth Mayor Mary Childs being the guest at the east side city.

But beyond that there is little evidence of any celebration that was inaugurated by the late Don Weeks several decades ago.

It so happens that The Stroller was a friend of the little blond-haired chap who started the Michigan Week idea. During a visit with him Don outlined the features of Michigan — its long shoreline, its many lakes and the countless other things of which all residents should be proud.

So timely did this seem that he got the plan under way through the Michigan Tourist Council, then in its infancy. And the idea took hold.

During the week there were all sorts of special



days. There was Mayor's Exchange Day, Law Day, Heritage Day and something for the other days of the week.

But somewhere along the line they have lost their appeal.

NOW, LIKE the old buildings, the Michigan Week program should be revitalized. The old programs, with one or two exceptions, should be replaced.

With what? The Stroller has given this some thought and here are a few of the things which could be made part of an outstanding week.

Why not use Michigan Week to honor some of the founders of our cities. Surely these men should never be forgotten.

Then why not establish a city hall of fame and pay tribute each year to those who have had a part in the making of the area a popular place to work and live.

The hall of fame has spread across the country in the world of athletics. Baseball, football, bowling and a host of others have their heroes so honored. Why not have the city do the same?

In the rejuvenation it might be well to focus attention on the work of the schools by displaying their work in the store windows. And there would be nothing wrong with a high school marching band contest down Main Street.

There are so many things which could fit into a modern program for Michigan Week.

And it would be a fine tribute to the late Don Weeks, who gave birth to Michigan Week many years ago.

at your leisure

SHOWTIME

Whose Life Is It Anyway? award-winning hit play starring Michael Moriarty opens Tuesday at the Birmingham Theatre. Performances continue through June 15. Ticket information at box office, 644-3533.

You Can't Take It With You all-time comedy favorite by Kaufman and Hart through May 25 at Meadow Brook Theatre on Oakland University campus near Rochester. For ticket information, call box office at 377-3300.

Stop the World, I Want to Get Off! Will-O-Way Repertory Company presents comic mime musical by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, directed by Celia M. Turner, through May 24 at Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre in Bloomfield Township. Performances at 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. Reservations at 644-4418.

Harvey comedy presented by Avon Players at 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday Rochester. Ticket information at 375-1895.

Godspell musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew presented by Southfield Civic Theatre at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, at 2 p.m. Sunday at Parks and Recreation Building in Southfield Civic Center. Ticket information at 354-9603.

LUNCH, DINNER THEATER

Good Evening revue of off-the-wall British humor written by Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, starring John Powers and Fred Buchhalter presented at "Lunch 'n Theatre" sponsored by Saks Fifth Avenue, Alfred's Restaurant and Jimmy Lounce Productions on Wednesdays through May 21 at Somerset Mall in Troy. Valet parking, coat check room facilities, buffet, fashion show and theatrical performance, beginning at noon. Reservations at Saks by phoning 643-9000, ext. 274.

Butterflies Are Free drama presented by Jimmy Lounce Productions on Fridays-Saturdays at Somerset Mall Theatre, Somerset Mall, Troy. Buffet dinner prepared and served by Alfred's Restaurant at 7:30 p.m.; show at 8:45 p.m. Reservations at 643-8765.

CONCERTS

Royal Oak Music Theatre presents Tuto, special guest The Pools, at 8 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday. Ticket information at box office, 947-1155.

Nightcap with Mozart midnight chamber music party presents Detroit Woodwind Chamber Players: Shaul Ben-Meir, flute; Douglas Corveth, clarinet, and Phillip Austin, bassoon, at 11:30 p.m. until 12:15 a.m. Friday at Birmingham Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills. Complimentary wine, cider and coffee served starting at 11 p.m.; stay for afterglow and meet the artists. Call 851-8934 for information.

Chamber Concert presented at 4 p.m. Sunday at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. Caroline Rogers, soprano; Carmen Cavallaro, tenor, and Alden Schell, pianist, perform in intimate salon-like setting of Guild Hall. Open to the public without charge.

Oak Park Symphony Orchestra presents final concert of the season at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at Oak Park High School. Guest violinist Bernard Zaslav, Morris Hochberg directs orchestra. Tickets at 542-4666.

Angle's big band sound of the Dick Murphy band 9 p.m. to midnight Sundays in Farmington Hills. Cover charge.

Cafe Pter presents "Jam" with Gary Shunk, piano; Danny Jordan, bass; Larry Bell, drums; and George "Sax" Benson, saxophone, at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at Franklin Plaza in Farmington Hills. "Blue Monday" with the Progressive Blues Band from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Comedy Castle presents comedians Wednesday-Saturday at Friday's in Pine Lake Mall, West Bloomfield. Los Angeles' Bob Sage, from "Make Me Laugh," on Thursday-Saturday. More information at 852-3252.

Dewey's lounge presents Jaye Carter, pop singer with guitar, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday and May 30 at TGIF parties at the Michigan Inn in Southfield.

Eden Glen Joe Grande Trio plays for listening and dancing 7:30-11:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday and 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday at restaurant in Troy. Doug Jacobs and the Red Garter, Band



Dennis O'Hare, a senior at Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Township, appears in the Southfield Civic Theatre production of "Godspell" continuing Thursday-Sunday.

plays for Dixieland Brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sundays.

Ha'Penny Lounge presents Dean Rutledge in return engagement, ofuring vocals and guitar, banjo, through May, at Win Schuler's Restaurant in West Bloomfield.

J. Ross Browne's Whaling Station presents the Ron Coden show, Wednesday-Saturday, in Bloomfield Hills. Showtime at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

ON FILM

Saturdays, in West Bloomfield. Tweep's Cafe presents Roger Jamison, classical piano, 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, Ken Cox duo with area musicians, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Fridays; Ken Cox, et al, trio, up-town, in-town jazz, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturdays, in Birmingham.

Wagon Wheel Saloon presents Cliff Gracey on Monday-Tuesday and Desserts on Wednesday-Sunday in Troy.

Merrie Melodie Theatre presents "The Creature from the Black Lagoon," in 3D, through Sunday at Meadowbrook Village Mall in Avon Township. For showtimes call 375-0011.

Encore Cinema Club and Cranbrook P.M. present "Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner," 1953 film starring Tom Courtenay and Michael Redgrave, at 7:30 p.m. program at Cranbrook Institute of Science auditorium, Bloomfield Hills. Discussion moderator is Cranbrook School English department chairman K. Don Jacobusse, who also teaches film. Tickets, available at the door, include film, discussion, and gourmet dessert with coffee served at 7:30 p.m.

Allstair Cooke's America film series presents "The Arsenal" and "The

First Impact" at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Bloomfield Township Public Library. Free.

Filmed for Lunch series presents prize-winning documentary "Castles of Clay" on habitat and life of rare African termites at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Troy Public Library. Bring lunch; coffee and tea provided. No admission charge.

Cranbrook Institute of Science presents "White Waters," on how to travel through rapids in a canoe or kayak, at 2:45 and 3:45 p.m. Saturday at the museum in Bloomfield Hills. Free with museum admission.

CHILDREN'S CHOICE

Yellow Bus 'N Stuff directed by Birmingham resident Carol Halsted, presented at Rochester Heritage Festival, at 3 p.m. May 26 in front of Rochester Community House in Rochester's City Park. Show tells the story of a day in the life of a child through song and dance. Performance provided by Young Audiences of Metropolitan Detroit, sponsored by Rochester Arts Commission. Free.

For area events in Oakland County to be considered for listing, send information to: Ethel Simmons, entertainment editor, The Observer & Eccentric, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012.

Artist-in-residence will teach at center

Gail Yurasek, who was awarded the Farmington Artist-in-Residence award for 1989 by Farmington Area Arts Commission, will teach a woodcutting and printing class during Farmington Community Center's summer term. Four sessions will run from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning June 25. The fee is \$24 plus materials.

Through demonstration and practise, students will learn woodcutting and printing, which is the original form of relief printing.

Summer registration in the center begins Tuesday, May 27. Registrations will be taken by calling the center, 477-8404.

Ms. Cohen active in service club

Marilyn Cohen, daughter of Mrs. Patricia Prappas, of Farmington Hills is a member of the Lake Forest College Social Services Club, a volunteer organization committed to helping the elderly and the handicapped. Most recently the club has been in-

voled in several projects including tutoring handicapped students at Lake Forest's Grove School and putting on a show for the residents of Villa St. Cyril, a home for seniors.

Ms. Cohen is a freshman at Lake Forest.