

# Opinion

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## Allen Zieger deserves to be remembered

I'VE MET only one explorer — and he died a few weeks back. I know I'll never meet another.

He'll be missed, this adventurer. He'll be missed by his friends and his associates, for sure. But even more, he'll be missed by persons who didn't even know he existed. And that's the way he wanted it — to make his contribution and pass on the torch with barely a notice. He was just that kind of person.

But I'm going to use the editor's prerogative and tell about this very incredible person who helped thousands of people in his three-quarters of a century and asked for little in return — except for those to whom he left his legacy to carry on the work that needs to be done.

His record leaves us with a heavy burden. In both human and technical terms he accomplished much. It will take many of us to match a small portion of his accomplishments. He deserves to be remembered.

ALLEN Zieger wasn't the traditional explorer — a seafarer or mountain climber. Neither was he a great sportsman or athlete. Rather, he was of a nobler and gentler breed.

He was a physician — a healer and an innovator. He was the kind of physician we wish they all would be. He cared — probably cared more than any person I've ever met.

He cared enough to be an osteopath when the big money was on the medical doctors. Then he worked like the devil to

fight for medical innovations that the more-established medical doctors were slow to embrace.

He cared enough to dedicate himself to hospital administration when all the other young physicians were establishing lucrative private practices.

Through the years he founded two hospitals, Zieger Osteopathic in Detroit and Botsford General in Farmington Hills.

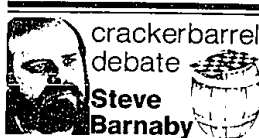
That's not to say that he was unsuccessful. He was extremely successful. But through the years, he sacrificed. He never made as much money as he could have. And he probably didn't live as long as he might have. He worked too hard — most of the time for the benefit of others.

In typical Zieger fashion, Allen went quietly about his business as physician, surgeon and administrator, showing the rest of the medical world how it was done — always with the patient and the young doctor in mind. He always had the young in mind.

HIS hospitals have acted as launching pads for hundreds of interns and residents through the decades. Many young doctors have competed to train at his hospitals rather than to go somewhere else. And he loved to move among them, listening to their hopes and dreams.

I came to know Allen in 1975 when he donated a statue to Farmington Hills. I was 29 years old. He was 65.

The statue, which stands today in front of the 12 Mile library, raised a stir among some of the more prim and proper. The statue, a female, is nude.



It is a beautiful piece of art and Allen, in what I was to learn was his incomparable first-class style, wanted to share it with the community.

"I have owned and enjoyed it, and I now feel it is time to share its beauty," he said at the time.

He gave it away, just like that. He was shocked to learn that anyone would object to a piece of art. We talked about that a lot. He was genuinely upset. He loved art.

Our conversations grew more frequent. And although I was talking with a man who was 36 years my senior, I felt very much at ease.

I can see him now, small cigar firmly in hand, quietly talking about his dreams. Allen didn't have to smoke big cigars. If you know what I mean, and he always talked quietly — not meekly, mind you, just a firm type of quiet.

He was at an age when most people are calling it quits on their career dreams and heading for some faraway hideaway in the sun. But after talking with Allen, it was obvious that retirement was the last thing



Allen Zieger

on his mind.

HERE WAS a man who was a pioneer in osteopathic medicine, built two hospitals and actively served on several boards and associations. And he was planning for more.

One of his ambitions was to see a hospice built in Michigan. Hospice, popular in Europe for centuries, embraces the philosophy of caring for the terminally ill so they and their families can spend their final days in happiness and comfort.

For years, the philosophy has been the center of controversy in the American medical community.

But like everything else, he saw the controversy through, coolly and quietly, always in gentlemanly fashion.

When I met Allen, hospice was a dream. Today, it is a reality. Hundreds of patients and their families have benefited from hospice — seen a bad situation, the death of a loved one, transformed into a positive finale to life. Probably none of them realize that it was Allen Zieger who was in large part responsible.

In recent years, I contemplated thanking Allen for all that he had done for me — not just for asking me to serve on the hospital board and paving the way for me to serve on the hospice board.

But more importantly, I wanted to thank him for teaching this roughneck street kid how to remain cool in the face of adversity and a gentleman in both success and the occasional setbacks we all have in our lives.

One day, just a little while back, as we returned from a meeting, I saw the opportunity. For a moment he stood up and looked and said nothing. Obviously embarrassed from the gratitude just heaped on him, he didn't know what to say.

Others in his position of power might have given me a condescending verbal tap on the head. With great pity he simply said, "That's all right."

At the time, I felt embarrassed for putting him on the spot. But today — well, today I'm just so glad I said thanks to the pioneer and explorer who showed the courage to be kind and to help so many people during his lifetime.

## Flight to Frisco



## Mondale forces are flying high

MICHIGAN Democrats completed the process Saturday of picking the 155-member delegation to the Democratic national convention in San Francisco in July.

The state contingent will be dominated by labor-types pledged to nominate Walter Mondale as the Democratic presidential candidate. Mondale, who won 49 percent of the votes in the presidential caucus balloting in Michigan, should have more than 90 delegates committed to his candidacy, while Colorado Sen. Gary Hart will have perhaps 50.

The Hart backers are mostly younger and "newer to Democratic politics. The Mondale backers have the edge in experience and organization.

THE MONDALE slate includes Livonia attorney Alan Hankamp, at 32 a long-time party stalwart in local politics. But the Mondale slate also includes most of the leaders of the AFL-CIO-UMWA labor bloc, which dominates Michigan politics.

OF COURSE, the odds are that political muscle won't be needed at the convention. Unless Hart does surprisingly well in the next few primaries, Mondale's forces will go into the convention the same way that almost all the Democratic presidential candidates have gone into their conventions, with the delegation under control and the nomination all but locked up.



Bob Wisler

And there appears to be less and less chance of Hart gaining ground as he goes off on a tangent of attacking Mondale for the possible faults of the Carter administration, a course that promises only to lose Hart the sympathy and votes of Democratic voters.

The pundits who said early that Mondale's organization and backing made him unbeatable were almost right.

The mixed bag of voters — Democrats, Republicans and Independents — who once were willing to choose Hart because of his newness and his "new generation of leadership" platform — have apparently decided that he was as new as new was first appeared, just another long-time politician who changed his name and, on occasion, his age to suit his need to succeed and to be liked.

AS BOKING as Mondale appeared, especially before Hart, Hart couldn't capitalize on an easily bored public's need for diversion. Under scrutiny, Hart, with his sing-song voice, no-hum, no-leave politi-

cal stances, changing political style, and carping about the tenuous Mondale-Carter connection, really doesn't seem to have the kind of stuff necessary to have us envisioning another soap-opera Camelot.

Mondale even gained by the Hart surge. Whereas Fritz had only the grand old fellow Ron Reagan to play against previously, and consequently looked like a bigger, rounder version of a stumbling, numbing Jimmy Carter, the juxtaposition of Hart turned Mondale's image into that of a political fighter who shed his uneasy demeanor to jump on Hart's case.

AND, AS PREDICTED, union backing and organization have pushed Mondale to the forefront of the Democratic nomination race. That Mondale is clearly in the lead once again was underscored at the Michigan caucus Saturday. The Mondale and Hart factions decided early that they would agree on unity slates of delegates.

The Democrats know it would be foolish to "wear themselves out" in internecine fighting, and the Hart strategists may be wisely counting ahead.

If Hart somehow springs back, all the better. If Mondale captures the nomination, he will need a running mate, and, in a Mondale ticket somehow misses the golden ring, the Democratic party may need a new standard bearer for the race in 1988.



Tim Richard

## Creative use of traffic stats can mislead

LET'S HAVE fun with numbers. True or false: Half the married people are women, but women are involved in 100 percent of the divorces.

Perfectly true, of course. But if you are a woman, your hackles probably rose a little, and you read it as a put-down of women. That's because there was a little trick involved.

Let's try this one: There are four drivers in the hamlet of Communityville, and last year all four were involved in collisions. The 18-year-old driver collided with a 28-year-old driver, and the 38-year-old driver collided with the 48-year-old driver.

True or false: One-fourth of the drivers are 18-year-olds, but 18-year-olds are involved in half the accidents.

PERFECTLY TRUE, again. And again there are the same little tricks.

It takes two cars to make a two-car collision, but the question concentrates on only one of the drivers. And if you drop that statement in casual conversation, many listeners will jump to the conclusion that "involved" is the same as "to blame."

Despite the neutral wording, they will understand you to say that women are to blame for the divorces, and 18-year-olds are to blame for the collisions.

Let's try another fun game: In Communityville last night, a drunk driver was stopped at a red light when his car was rear-ended by a sober driver. Therefore, alcohol was involved in 100 percent of the accidents last night.

BY NOW YOU are getting pretty alert and beginning to catch the tricks.

The casual listener will hear only the second sentence in that game and will leap to the conclusion that alcohol was to blame in 100 percent of the accidents.

In the last example, alcohol was clearly involved, but it clearly was not to blame inasmuch as the first driver, although drunk, performed properly, and the second driver caused the collision.

Now suppose the investigating Communityville police officer gives the second driver a ticket for failure to stop and causing an accident. While investigating, he kills a woman in the first driver's dental supply field who had invented a

when his damaged car is towed away.

Making out his report, the police officer checks a little box near the name of the first driver which says "had been drinking."

A Michigan State Police computer gets the report and records a little blip at the "had been drinking" box. In the statistical scorecard for the year, that accident will be recorded as one where "alcohol was involved."

ON WITH OUR little numbers game: The Community County Sheriff's Department announces it will patrol intensively certain roads where many drunk driving arrests have been recorded, and patrols will be deployed at the hours when most arrests have been made in the past.

The following year, the Community County Sheriff's Department announces arrests for drunk driving have doubled. We all are supposed to jump to the conclusion that drunk driving is on the increase.

The evidence supports no such conclusion, of course. There is no evidence drunk driving is up. Indeed, we don't even know whether the number of convictions is up. All we know is that more enforcement, has led to more arrests.

But that is how our traffic statistics are recorded, reported and misinterpreted. The casual listener equates "involved" with "to blame" and associates "arrests" with "incidents" and "convictions."

## discover Michigan

by Bill Stockwell

DID YOU know that a new art material was created here in Michigan back in 1903? Mary Chase Perry discovered a way to impart an iridescent glaze to her pottery. She named it "Pewabic pottery," which, in the Chippewa Indian language, meant "clay in copper color." She later became Mary Chase Perry Stratton and went into partnership with Horace M. Caulkins, a Detroit businessman in the dental supply field who had invented a