

Why we identify with Tigers

Tigermania — what is it? At this writing, the Tigers are 43-14, and southeastern Michigan is going crazy over this ball team.

I myself am hardly a baseball fanatic, but the Tigers' West Coast road trip recently deeply spelled my ruin. Despite a 6 a.m. rising time on working days, I found myself each night glued to the radio until 1 a.m., hoping to hear yet another Tiger victory.

In no way do the team's victories demonstrate anything complimentary about any of us as individuals except that we have had the good fortune to be lying in geographic proximity to a winning ball club.

Yet, this group of men playing a game captures our imagination, dominates our conversations, and makes our chests swell with pride.

From our parents we adopted values, beliefs, and patterns of responding to life's challenges.

This process of identification also helped to shape our own sense of self. By identifying with a parent who in our childhood eyes was the strongest, prettiest, smartest person alive, we also began to feel strong, pretty and smart.

Identification does not stop when a person grows up. It continues to be a significant part of our adult lives.

When our spouse or child does something that makes us proud, we are proud because psychologically our loved ones have become a part of us. We therefore feel that their victory is our victory, that their pain is our pain.

Identification with someone more powerful provides a renewed sense of hope and self-worth. This type of identification helps explain how worship during wartime and our national reaction to the U.S. Olympic hockey team during the Iranian hostage crisis.

The Tigers are finally giving us something to cheer about, and it feels nice to identify for a few moments with someone else's greatness.

Dennis Sugrue, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist at Henry Ford Hospital.

County features one-man show

"Transitions," an exhibit of recent painting and sculpture by Kegham Taslan, is the newest presentation of Oakland County Cultural Affairs.

The exhibit continues through July 15 in the County Galleria in the Executive Office Building of the county complex at 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. It is open to the public during business hours Monday through Friday.

An art professor at Orchard Hills campus of Oakland Community College since 1967, he has a master's of fine art degree from Wayne State University.

His figurative works in bronze and has relief have been featured in many one-man exhibits throughout the United States and abroad.

TIGERMANIA is a good example of an important psychological mechanism that has been a part of each of our psyches since early infancy. We call this mechanism "identification."

As infants, we were totally dependent on our parents for nurture and security. We gradually made the transition to increasingly independent, self-sufficient individuals by identifying with or imitating more powerful figures in our lives.

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau has a current file of volunteer opportunities for more than 200 agencies. Non-profit organizations needing assistance may list with the bureau. For more information about these and other volunteer openings, call the bureau, 642-7272.

SUMMER COUNSELOR — Wing Lake School, Bloomfield Hills, needs several patient persons who love kids to assist students with outdoor and indoor activities. School hours are 9 a.m. to 2:34 p.m., Monday through Friday. There are flexible times, but volunteers are needed two to three hours a week.

INTERVIEWER — People who are friendly and empathetic and have had volunteer experience are needed by

OCVB to conduct face-to-face or telephone interviews with prospective volunteers and to solicit volunteer opportunities for Oakland County agencies. Volunteers are needed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday afternoons and Tuesday or Wednesday mornings for three ½ hours.

BLOOD PRESSURE NURSE — A registered or practical nurse, over 21, is needed Tuesday mornings to take the blood pressure of Mature Minglers at the West Bloomfield Center.

TEEN VOLUNTEERS — The Volunteer Bureau has many opportunities for teens this summer to help in hospitals, nursing homes, children's programs, community agencies or with special groups. There will be an interview and orientation at the bureau.

College honors Nikkel

W.H. (Wally) Nikkel, retired vice president of Oakland Community College, received an honorary doctor of science degree in recent ceremonies at the University of Steubenville (Ohio).

Nikkel served as a financial consultant at the University of Steubenville to help evaluate its financial resources.

He was influential in the hiring of John Green, president, vice president and treasurer of the university.

Currently the Roseville resident is director of administration for the Detroit law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone and an adjunct professor of business at OCC.

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