

# Death shocks friends, peers

By Wayne Peal  
staff writer

Leaders at all levels of Michigan government expressed shock and sadness over the death Tuesday of University of Michigan Regent Sarah Goddard Power.

Mrs. Power, 51, fell to her death from the Burton Memorial Tower on the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus.

Witnesses told police they saw Power fall from an eighth-floor window.

Gov. James Blanchard said he was "stunned and saddened" by news of Power's death.

"Her death is a tragic loss to the University of Michigan, to our state and nation, which she served so unselfishly in so many ways," the governor said.

LL Gov. Martha Griffiths called Power's death "a great grief to me."

"She was not only my friend but a friend to all Michigan," Griffiths

**'Her death is a tragic loss to the University of Michigan, to our state and nation, which she served so unselfishly in so many ways.'**

— Gov. James Blanchard

said. "She was a woman of extraordinary talents and energy."

Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara said he was "very saddened" to hear of Power's death.

"I've known her for years and admired her ideals, her involvement and her concern for others," McNamara said.

Power's husband, Philip, is chairman of the board of Suburban Communications Inc., publisher of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

POWER, a Democrat, was elected a University of Michigan trustee in 1974 and re-elected to a second eight-year term in 1982. Blanchard

made no reference to appointing a successor. A governor's office spokeswoman said a successor would be appointed "at an appropriate time."

"He's obviously not thinking about it today," the spokeswoman said.

Authorities and friends were at a loss to explain Power's action.

No note was found, Ann Arbor Police Staff Sgt. John King said. Police believe Power was unaccompanied at the time of her death.

Power had been suffering from back problems and was recently hospitalized for pneumonia.

In her last public act as a U-M regent, Power appeared on a podium with university president Harold Shapiro and civil rights leader Jesse

Jackson in an attempt to quell episodes of racism on the Ann Arbor campus. Power, a life member of the NAACP, was the only regent in the podium.

Though "deeply troubled" by incidents of racism reported on the U-M campus, interim communications director Keith Molin, who spoke with Power at 8:20 a.m. Tuesday, described her as "pleasant and upbeat."

"There is no way to conclude that this was going to happen an hour later," Molin said. "There was no clue, no hint."

Power entered the tower, which contains university offices, shortly before 10 a.m.

Power was pronounced dead at the University of Michigan Hospital. The Washtenaw County Medical Examiner lists the death as suicide.

Washtenaw County Medical Examiner John Atwater said there would be no autopsy.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday in Hill Auditorium on the University of Michigan campus.

Thursday, March 26, 1987 O&E

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## A life fulfilled

Highlights of Sarah Goddard Power's life and career:

- 1935: Born, Detroit.
- 1957: Graduates from Vassar College with bachelor's degree in history. Receives Diplôme de la Langue Française, Alliance Française, Paris, France, 1959. Receives master's in international relations, New York University, 1965. Receives honorary associate of arts degree, Schoolcraft College, 1975.
- 1959-63: Serves as administrative assistant to Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, R-N.Y.
- 1964-69: Serves as executive director, New York commission for the United Nations, through the office of Mayor John Lindsay.
- 1969-72: Executive director, United States United Nations/New York City Host Country Advisory Committee.
- 1970: Coordinates United Nations World Youth Assembly and New York City's commemoration of the UN's 25th anniversary.
- 1971: Marries Philip Power.
- 1973: Begins long affiliation with UNA/USA World Federation of United Nations Associations. Serves at various times as director and national council.
- 1973-74: Assistant chair, University of Michigan commission

for women; associate director, U-M Institute for Advancement of Women.

• 1974: Elected University of Michigan trustee. Re-elected in 1982.

• 1976: Attends UNESCO 19th General conference in Nairobi, Kenya, as a presidentially-appointed delegate. Reappointed in 1980 for 20th general conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

• 1976-78: Chaired U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

• 1978-84: Serves as Michigan Advisory Board member. Project on Equal Education Rights.

• 1980-81: Serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. State Department.

• 1989: Receives Michigan Legislature Joint Resolution of Tribute as "one of our State's most active and important citizens."

• 1980: Begins tenure as director and secretary, National Women's Education Fund.

• 1981: Receives Michigan Education Association Distinguished Service Award for "her considerable talents and eminent position which she has energetically used to serve mankind's never-ending quest for a more equitable and humane society."

## Power remembered

Continued from Page 1

of government recalled Power's advice and encouragement.

"We could always go to her and say, 'Sarah, what should we do about this or that,' and she would always respond with good, sound advice," Pollack said.

Involved as she was in state, national and international issues, she always made time to support friends and colleagues in these local communities.

Former Livonia councilwoman Alice Gundersen called Power a "mentor."

"She was a role model to me," Gundersen said. "She was someone I looked up to."

In addition to championing women's rights, Power advanced the Carter Administration's human rights policy while serving as a deputy assistant secretary of state in 1980 and 1981-82.

INVOLVED WITH United Nations activities from her earliest days as a public servant, Power advocated continuing U.S. involvement in UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. She was chairwoman of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO and served as a presidentially appointed delegate to the 19th

and 20th UNESCO general conferences.

"I am convinced UNESCO could be the last best hope for peace, development and understanding throughout the world," she said in 1978.

Citing UNESCO's alleged bias toward unfriendly Third World countries, the Reagan Administration withdrew U.S. support for the organization.

Power was born in Detroit in 1935. Her father, Wendell Conner Goddard, was a vice president of Detroit Bank and Trust Co. (Comerica).

Power grew up in Grosse Pointe. Former Grosse Pointe Country Day classmate Jeanne Whitaker, Suburban Life editor of the Birmingham Eccentric, recalled Power as "an involved, rather serious girl."

"She was very involved in the community and a very good student," Whitaker said.

Power's personal leadership style manifested itself at Vassar, where classmates dubbed her the "chief justice" for her involvement in student government. She was elected president of the student body.

Staff writer Sue Mason contributed to this report. John Reddy contributed to the preparation of the report.



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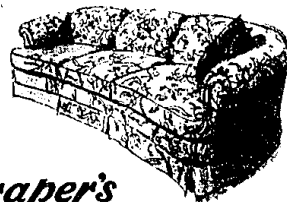
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