

50th reunion bash sparks memories

SOMETIMES it's hard to recognize the obvious, for instance whether the words "reunion" and "bourbon" are synonymous.

Only by dint of arduous research have I come across the symbolic act that an island named Reunion, some 400 miles east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, first was called Bourbon Island by the French when they took possession in 1642.

I am tempted to suggest that such impulsiveness had its carryover when later French wanderers entrenched themselves in what we know as New Orleans and had the foresight to realize that the phrase "Bourbon Street" would appeal to yet unborn generations of tourists in the New World.

The maddening curiosity which drove me on this quest for encyclopedic knowledge stems from the fact that four weeks from tomorrow evening, the University of Michigan's 1937 Lit School class will have its 50th anniversary dinner.

Some of us haven't seen each other since the final embraces at our favorite watering hole, the Pretzel Bell; perhaps not even since the spring night famed Leopold Stokowski stood atop the Bell's center table and led '37 graduates in "The Victors."

IN THOSE DAYS we couldn't get bourbon or any other hard booze there, but beer by the pitcher poured by then-owner Ralph Neeland was more mandatory than attendance in class.

It will shock long-absent classmates to find that the Bell rings no more, silenced by an IRS auctioneer's hammer on April 17, 1985.

Probably I am overplaying the importance of "bourbon" as a word when, as we approach the peak period of reunions of families, fraternal and veteran organizations, and school classes at every educational level, I really mean conviviality in seeing dear friends from long ago. With it, at 50 years, is the realization that this may be the last time.

WHETHER IT'S your campus or mine, your hideout or mine, to which you return to smell the roses and remember a kiss, you're bound to be awed by the change which time has wrought. But what the hell; 'twas ever thus.

Yet there will be a magnetism in a particular haunt. Yes, the Pretzel Bell



through bifocals
Fred DeLano

is only a memory, and the walls of Michigan's Haven Hall can't repeat secrets because those walls burned to the ground.

But in Ann Arbor there still stands a Maynard Street structure called the Student Publications Building which a peculiar brand of students came to consider their home away from home.

They were peculiar because as staffers of the Michigan Daily student newspaper they considered themselves professional newsmen, at least in the making. And they were.

Without total addiction to '37, let me throw a few names at you.

ELSIE PIERCE (Beagle), now of Palo Alto, had the patience and brilliance that led the Board in Control of Students Publications to name her as managing editor for my senior year.

This admission of having served that long ago under female reign may bring gasps from the likes of Sue Rosiek, Judy Berne, Sandy Armbruster, Marie McGee and their ilk of the O&E. But it just shows how long I have been unprejudiced. Right, Women? Ladies? Girls?

Marshall Shulman, whom you've seen occasionally as a Columbia University expert on Russian affairs during "Meet the Press" telecasts, was our editorial director, a role interestingly held 23 years later by Philip H. Power, chairman of the board and owner of the newspaper chain in which this column is appearing.

The inspirationally vital Jewel Wuertel Davock was our women's editor. The late William R. (Bill) Reed, who was to become Big Ten commissioner, preceded Dr. George Andros, now a retired Philadelphia obstetrician, as sport editor. The latter's associates were Fred Buesser, now a past president of the State Bar of Michigan, and yours truly.

On a warm spring afternoon of my final semester, when a professor in a 1 p.m. lecture asked, "Mr. DeLano, to what is coming to class secondary with you?" I should have answered, "My typewriter at the Daily."

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Center indeed is valuable service

To the editor:

The Farmington Community Center reflects the heritage of Farmington and Farmington Hills while it serves a vital community need. Residents and employees of the Farmington area must decide if this gracious and historic facility shall continue to operate.

If this unique center is to continue valuable service it must be adequately maintained and updated. Increased financial support is essential.

If present financial supporters increase donations and if a significant number of new donors pledge financial support, our community center will continue to operate and people of the Farmington community will benefit today and in the future.

Lincoln Avery,
Farmington Hills

Park conditions look deplorable

To the editor:

My family recently spent some time at Shiawassee Park and we were quite disturbed by the condition at the park.

We are glad the new lights were installed along with the health course and the new baseball diamonds. It seems that it would have been a better idea, though, to first take care of some of the conditions that are in very bad shape.

Anyone who has been in the bathroom there would have to agree that it's filthy, outdated and a disgrace to the city.

Most of the playground equipment is also in terrible shape. Some of the swings are falling apart with cracks in the plastic seats.

The design of the slides near the bathrooms invites accidents as there is no platform on which a child can steady herself after climbing up the steps before proceeding down the slide.

Much of the other equipment is out-

dated or wearing out and dangerous. In this age of excessive litigation, if the moral duty isn't enough to persuade the city to make the park safer, they should consider the expense of lawsuits arising out of the injuries.

As a resident of the city, I would like to be able to use the park, which is supported by our tax dollars. Because of the condition of it now, I am not able to and I resent it.

Kim Bergstrom,
Farmington

Do not forget about elderly

To the editor:

Aging well is a lifelong process; one which, like the coming of spring, is a constant process of self-discovery and renewal. As we take time this May to commemorate Older Americans Month, it's a chance for us, as older adults, to take pride in some of our many accomplishments.

One such annual activity that fits this description is Senior Power Day on May 12, when more than 6,000 older adults will gather at the Civic Center in Lansing to demonstrate the philosophical and political power of aging. This year's Senior Power Day platform, focusing on health, recognizes that lifelong attention to good health better enables creativity and activity of all kinds in our older years.

This year's Senior Power Day theme, "Aging America: It's Everyone's Future," reinforces the importance of understanding that aging is not something which occurs at a predetermined chronological age, it is a process which we practice every day from the moment we are born. It is essential that this understanding be foremost in our everyday life, for only by making those of you who are members of younger generations aware and more sensitive to aging well as a learned skill will we ensure that aging in Michigan is a fulfilling, secure and creative process for everyone.

The Vintage Artists Exhibit opening on May 12 is another activity recogniz-

ing the tremendous artistic ability and achievement of Michigan seniors. This exhibit showcases 69 award-winning pieces selected from almost 700 entries from various mediums, including paintings, sculptures, needlework and photographs. This traveling exhibit will open in the Michigan Bell Lobby on Washington Mall North in Lansing and will move to various Michigan cities through the summer of 1988.

These are just a few of the ways in which we will be celebrating aging in May. On behalf of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging and staff of the Michigan Offices of Services to the Aging, I cordially invite you to celebrate with us by attending local and statewide aging activities. However, more importantly, I invite you to begin thinking more seriously about the future of aging — your future.

For more information about Older Americans Month, contact your local Area Agency on Aging or the State Office of Services to the Aging at (517) 373-8230.

Joseph Rightley, chairman,
Michigan Commission on
Services to the Aging

Underpass in need of work

To the editor:

Late last year, our city of Farmington did a beautiful job on the underpass at Farmington Road and Freedom Road.

New sod was installed, protective fence, sidewalk repair — and it was greatly appreciated by all of us in this area.

In the meantime, sod is displaced, sidewalk is covered with broken glass; actually, for anyone with a vision problem, it could be very dangerous.

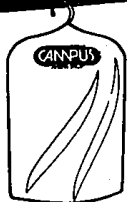
Does our city have a maintenance crew who could restore the underpass to last year's improved condition?

Viva Hargreaves,
Farmington

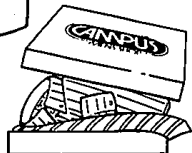
Last 3 days— thru Saturday, May 9

Don't throw anything out!
Each and every item in your closet will be worth **25% off** the price of a new one during our

Annual Trade-In Sale



Replace everything in your wardrobe at terrific, just once-a-year savings. We'll give you **25% off** the price of replacement items at either store.



Bring an old suit, **save 25%** on a new suit
Bring an old shirt, **save 25%** on a new shirt
Bring old trousers, **save 25%** on new trousers

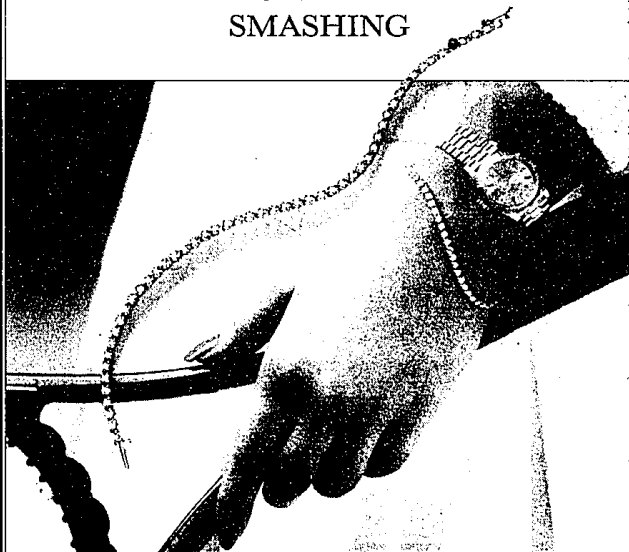
Got the idea? Good! Please, no socks, underwear, swimwear or other personal items. There is no limit to the number of items you can exchange.

Each year at our Trade-In Sale, we collect hundreds of pounds of used clothing which is donated to charities.



116 N. Woodward, Birmingham 642-1965
17045 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe 884-0701
Shop Mon-Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thurs. and Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SIMPLY SMASHING



OUR TENNIS BRACELET

This year's most desirable fashion accessory, and a truly brilliant way to make your point. On the court, or off. Shown here with over fifty diamonds, each one perfectly matched to the next, all set in 14k gold.

Remarkably priced at \$3,500.

Available with interest-free financing.



CHARLES W. WARREN

JEWELERS SINCE 1903

SHOWERS HALL (313) 640-3411
BIRMINGHAM - LANSING - FARMINGTON
TWIN FALLS

Let our new Silver Card or we welcome American Express, Visa or MasterCard.