

## Governor Engler recommends 2.5% hike for Michigan Tech

Michigan Tech would receive \$46,968,299, or a 2.5 percent increase, as a part of Governor **John Engler's** proposed budget for the 1998 fiscal year. The budget, presented to the legislature Thursday, would provide a \$1.1 million increase for Michigan Tech and a total of \$34.5 million in additional revenue for the state's 15 public universities. The proposed budget for all 15 public universities totals more than \$1.6 billion.

The Governor's proposal will be reviewed by the legislature in hearings over the next few months, with a final budget determination expected in June. "We are hopeful that the legislature will be willing to consider additional support for Michigan Tech and all state universities, so that the progress begun last year can continue," President **Curt Tompkins** said.

In 1996-97, Michigan Tech received a 6.1 percent increase in state appropriations, which accounted for \$45.8 million of the University's \$82.6 million general fund budget. Last year's funding hike provided an overall revenue increase of about 3 percent, permitting the University to hold the in-state student tuition increase to 2.8 percent. By comparison, a hike of 2.5 percent in the state appropriation will amount to an overall revenue

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increase of only about 1.4 percent in the University's overall revenues.

Tompkins indicated that he and Vice President for Government Relations **Dale Tahtinen** will be working closely with State Senator **Don Koivisto** and State Representative **Paul Tesanovich**, both of whom serve on appropriations committees, to achieve a 5 percent increase (\$70 million) for all of Michigan's public universities. In his role as chair of the Presidents Council of State Universities, Tompkins

will be meeting with legislative leaders to encourage adequate appropriations, given an estimate of an additional \$500 million in incremental state revenues being available next fiscal year.

Tompkins stressed that no immediate action is planned regarding the Michigan Tech budget. "It's premature to speculate about budget decisions such as tuition, compensation, or other items," he said.

The state Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education is expected to visit MTU in May, and the campus community will be invited.

Tompkins did reiterate his thanks to the Governor for supporting Michigan Tech building projects. Engler has proposed a \$5 million capital outlay for the MTU Performing Arts Center and \$7.5 million for an addition to the forestry complex.

## Senate defeats MTU Research Foundation proposal, hears possible TIAA-CREF option

The University Senate narrowly voted down the formation of the MTU Research Foundation February 6 and heard from Provost **Fred Dobney** on the issue of TIAA-CREF retirement health care benefits.

Dobney reviewed the proposal he made January 24 before the Board of Control, which would give current TIAA-CREF employees two options: (1) At retirement with 80 points, they would be reimbursed by MTU for 100 percent of the cost of their health insurance, up to the cost of the MTU health benefits premium; or (2) MTU would match their contributions to their retirement program, up to 2 percent of their salary. Both groups would be guaranteed the right to purchase health coverage from MTU upon retirement with 80 points.

All employees hired after June 30, 1997, would receive the 2-plus-2 option.

The Board is considering other options for TIAA-CREF participants, including having retirees pay 20 percent of their health care premium when they qualify for Medicare, and 60 percent when they retire with 80 points but aren't yet eligible for Medicare.

The Board might impose a "bifurcation" program, with employees age 55 and older receiving the retiree health benefit and all others getting the 2-plus-2 program. The existing program could be continued pay-as-you-go, or it could receive level prefunding. Or the program could be discontinued all together.

Dobney defended his proposal. "This makes the most sense because it gives employees a choice," he said, noting that his recent survey of MTU employees showed support for both a 2-plus-2 program and prefunding of the existing TIAA-CREF retiree health benefit.

Board of Control members were not sold on the 100 percent reimbursement of the health care premium, criticizing it as "too rich," Dobney said. And some Board members didn't like the fact that the IRS would be an indirect beneficiary, since the health-insurance reimbursement would be taxable. They also questioned the cost of the 2 percent match.

"Two-plus-two is something we've wanted to do anyway," Dobney said, noting that the matching program would help attract top faculty and staff by

*Continued on page 6*

## Mascot Blizzard takes Huskies by storm

*Submitted by Dave Fischer, director of athletic communications and promotions*

Blizzard T. Husky is the new name of the Huskies mascot.

The announcement was made Friday, January 31, at MTU's home hockey game against Minnesota-Duluth.

The six-week process to name the new mascot included solicitation of names, which totaled more than 80; narrowing the list to five finalists; and an election to determine the new name.

Of the 556 total votes, 196 selected Blizzard. Heikki finished second with 133 votes, followed by Yoopie (112), Harley (60), and Howie (55).

"We certainly appreciate all the input we received," Director of Athletics **Rick Yeo** said. "We look forward to Blizzard being a very visible part of MTU athletics."

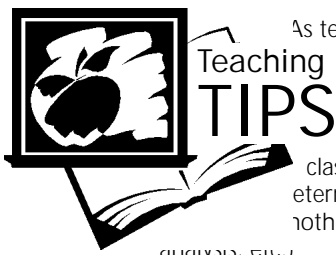
Incidentally, Blizzard's middle initial of T. stands for "The."

February 7, 1997

*The truth will  
make you free  
but first it will make  
you miserable.*

—Unknown

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## Classroom Assessment Techniques

by William Kennedy, director

As teachers, we routinely use quizzes, mid-terms, and finals to measure the progress students have made in mastering course materials. Information derived from these assessment tools can provide a comparative evaluation of the performance of the students in our classes (summative evaluation, grades, etc.) and also help us determine areas that might require more attention in class or another approach in our teaching (formative evaluation, item

Frequent quizzes not only let the students know where they stand in terms of their grade, but also give the instructor the opportunity to make mid-course corrections in lectures, assignments, and areas of emphasis. Unfortunately, frequent quizzes take time from class; and generating and grading quizzes is time consuming.

Many professors have adopted the "one-minute paper" technique to gain feedback from students, which allows for "real time" course corrections. These brief writing assignments usually consist of two questions assigned at the end of the class hour. Typical questions are "What is the most important thing that you learned in class today?" and "What questions do you have about the subject matter covered in today's class?" There are many variations. We can, for example, ask students to solve a problem, respond to a teaching technique, or even suggest how the session might be improved. We can ask anything that will give us insights about how to deliver what students need to maximize their learning.

This technique works best if we follow some basic guidelines. Give students two or three minutes to answer the questions. Some professors actually pass out "half-sheets" to the students containing the questions. Actively collect the responses from students as they leave the room so they know that you really value their responses. Finally, at the beginning of the next class, announce what was discovered from the last one-minute papers and how you will use that information to adjust your teaching in this and future class sessions.

As time goes on, some instructors encourage students who have specific questions to out their e-mail addresses on these papers. Some teachers have developed Web pages listing these frequently asked questions and their answers to allow more reticent students to follow up on items of concern. If you're interested in this variation, let me know and I'll send you some examples.

In future "Teaching Tips," we'll explore other ways to use the Web to improve teaching. Always feel free to call the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Faculty Development at 487-2046 if you have questions about these ideas or anything else related to your teaching.

## In print

Residential Services  
Operations Coordinator **Bonnie Gorman** published an article, "Unmask the Magic," in the January edition of *The Bulletin*, produced by the Association of College Unions International.

## TECH TOPICS

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By e-mail to [ttopics@mtu.edu](mailto:ttopics@mtu.edu)  
By campus mail, send typed copies to *Tech Topics*, University Relations.

Each week, the deadline for submitting information is **Friday at 5:00 p.m.** or publication the following Friday.

Our URL is <http://www.sas.it.mtu.edu/jcs/ttopics/index.html>

## Glenn Parker '24 dies

**Glenn Parker**, 96, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, the husband of **Helen McNair Parker**, died quietly and peacefully on January 21.

Members of the MTU community may remember the Parkers from the dedication of McNair Hall, in July 1993, and from other visits they made to Michigan Tech over the years. Mrs. Parker is the daughter of the late **Fred McNair**, former president of the then-Michigan College of Mines, for whom the former Coed Hall was named. The couple have three children.

Born March 20, 1900, Mr. Parker graduated from the Michigan College of Mines in 1924 with a BS in mining engineering, and, in 1929, received a master's degree from Purdue, where he was also an instructor. Mr. Parker had a long professional career in engineering before the couple retired to the Ozark Mountains, and the Parkers joined the MTU Presidents Club in 1989.

Mr. Parker donated his body to the University of Arkansas School of Medicine in Little Rock. In lieu of a memorial service, family and friends gathered for dinner to remember and reminisce.

"Kathy, Becky, and I were saddened to learn of Glenn's death," President **Curt Tompkins** said. "We are grateful, both for the chance to know Glenn and Helen and for their contributions to the University."

## Sikarskie to give ethics lecture

Professor **David Sikarski**, director of special projects in the ME-EM department, will be the guest Ethics in Engineering lecturer on Tuesday, February 11, at 7:00-9:00 p.m. in M&M U115.

All members of the MTU community are invited. For further information, contact Jon Henkel at 487-3057.

## First MTU skier competes in World University Games

Submitted by *Dave Fischer*, sports information director

Undergraduate **Sara Zimmer** (biological sciences) represented Michigan Tech in the World University Games in Muju, Korea. Zimmer was one of three women selected to make up the United States cross-country ski team and is the first skier from Michigan Tech to ever participate in the World University Games. Her trip was funded in part by a \$700 Presidents Club grant.

She finished 45th among 54 competitors in her first race, the 10-kilometer classic event, on January 27. Zimmer's time was 35:37.3 and was third of the three U.S. women.

On January 30, in the 3x5-kilometer relay, the U.S. women missed a top-eight finish by eight-tenths of a second as the U.S. trio of Jayne Schricker, Zimmer, and Kelly McCann claimed ninth place in the 13-team field with a 46:01.9 clocking. Zimmer skied the middle leg of the race and finished in 15:27.4.

In her final race of the competition on February 1, Zimmer placed 33rd of 50 skiers in the 15-kilometer freestyle race. Her time of 47:12.4 was the second-fastest U.S. time.

In the combined, which is an elapsed time for the 10-kilometer classic and 15-kilometer freestyle, Zimmer was second of the three U.S. women and 36th overall with a time of 1:22:49.7.

"It was absolutely the most incredible experience of my life," said Zimmer. "I was a little sick for the first race, but progressively improved throughout the competition."

"I remember when I was a senior in high school and participated in the Junior Olympics. The gentleman in charge told us that some day we could possibly qualify for the Olympics or World University Games. I thought it would be absolutely impossible as I was not that caliber. Now, however, I'm amazed that after improving my skills at Michigan Tech, I was able to actually get to that elite level."

Zimmer qualified for the World University Games as a result of her efforts in the U.S. Nationals in Bend, Oregon, held January 6-12. As for the future, Zimmer hopes one day to possibly make the Olympic Team.

"I'll continue to train and maybe someday I can make the Olympic Team," said Zimmer. "In cross-country skiing, most of the time the older you get, the faster you get."

Zimmer will be getting married this July and plans to live in Duluth until then.

## winter carnival highlights on the Web

### Compressions



Want to relive Winter Carnival? Video clips are now available via the MTU Home Page. Click on the Winter Carnival picture in the right hand corner, then click on Carnival Video Highlights. You can download either QuickTime or avi movies, depending on whether you have a Mac or PC. If you're using Netscape 3.0, QuickTime is already available as a plug-in on the Netscape Home Page.

You can see more Winter Carnival Highlights on Video Reporter **Kraig Ehm's** page—click on "Winter Carnival 1997 Continued."

The Winter Carnival video highlights page was developed by **Gail Sweeting** (university relations).

## Klein award ceremony Feb. 10

The winner of the Klein Creative Writing Contest will be announced at the award ceremony, set for Monday, February 10, at 1:00 p.m. in Walker Theatre. All members of the University community are invited.

The Department of Humanities will recognize the five finalists and present the winner with the \$1,000 prize.

Entertainment includes poet Marilyn Urion, Echoes from Heaven Gospel Choir, violinist Tacy Keen Richardson, and classical guitarist Patrick Valencia. A reception will follow in the Walker foyer outside the theater.

The finalists are junior **Anitra Lynne Bennett** (biological sciences); junior/senior **Joyce Farr** (humanities); junior **Greg Wanttaja** (humanities); senior **Robert Young** (biological sciences); and junior **Taylor Klipp** (mining engineering).

## Family Night tickets on sale

*Submitted by Dave Fischer, director of athletic communications and promotions*

Michigan Tech will sponsor its second Family Night of the season Friday, February 14, when the MTU hockey team hosts Alaska Anchorage in a WCHA game at the MacInnes Student Ice Arena.

Fans may purchase a Family Night package for \$24, which includes four reserved seat tickets, one game program, four boxes of popcorn, and four soft drinks.

Family Night packages are now on sale at the SDC Ticket Office. To charge by phone, call 487-2073.

"We appreciate the fact that it is not cheap to bring a family to a game," said **Rick Yeo**, director of athletics. "We are pleased to be able to offer a couple of Family Nights each year, and for \$24, you really can't go wrong."

## Companies coming

Representatives from the following employers will be recruiting on campus next week. If you'd like to meet with any of them, call the Career Center, 487-2313.

- Monday, February 10: ABB Paint Finishing (co-op), Dateplli, MTS Systems (summer), Short, Elliott & Hendrickson
- Tuesday, February 11: Configured Energy Systems, Inc., GenRad, Marquip, Michigan DOT (co-op), SRI
- Wednesday, February 12: Carl Zeiss, Hutchinson Technology (F-T & co-op), Honeywell, Marquip, Menasha, Michigan DOT (co-op)
- Thursday, February 13: Babcock & Wilcox, ComEd
- Friday, February 14: H & D

## Lots more computing dollars allotted for staff, faculty

University funding for both administrative and faculty computing has seen a big increase over last fiscal year.

The Administrative Computing Fund Committee recently awarded \$100,000 in matching grants to support staff computing, up from \$70,000 in 1995-97; and Provost **Fred Dobney** has more than doubled the budget for faculty computing.

### Administrative computing awards

The Administrative Computing Fund Committee received 32 proposals totaling \$157,000, and it recommended funding 30 of the requests, some in full and some in part. Departments will provide a minimum of 50 percent matching funds to implement the projects. All the awards support the administrative computing needs of academic and administrative units.

"I'm really pleased that we were able to fund two-thirds of the total requested and say yes to nearly all of the proposals," Dobney said. "The committee did an excellent job, and **Mary Zanoni** deserves a lot of credit for her work coordinating the award program."

Committee members and the areas they represent are Zanoni (IT), **Mike Axford** (athletics advancement), **Tony Farrell** (technology), **Marilyn Haapappuro** (finance/human resources), **Jim Hoel** (sciences and arts), **Neil Hutzler** (engineering), **Cindee Molnar** (SFWP), **Terry Monson** (SBE), **Pat Muller** (facilities management), **Sharron Paris** (enrollment management), **Shalini Rudak** (student services/educational opportunity), and **Nancy Szofran** (library).

### Academic computing \$ way up

Dobney has provided schools and colleges an additional \$435 per tenured/tenure-track faculty member, over and above the \$365 allocated earlier this fiscal year.

And, the funding hike probably won't go away any time soon. Dobney plans to maintain computing support for faculty at the rate of \$800 per tenured/tenure-track person during the 1996-97 fiscal year.

"This provides an opportunity to keep our faculty on the leading edge of computing technology," he said.

## Retirement planning videocast February 18

A satellite broadcast, "Retirement Ahead: Save Now!" will be held on Tuesday, February 18, at 2:00-3:30 p.m. in EERC B11.

A panel of retirement benefits experts will discuss Social Security and pension systems, possible reforms, why it's important to plan now for retirement, and tips to help you save for an easy retirement.

The broadcast is sponsored by the College and University Personnel Association, the American Savings Education Council, and the Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company.

Seating is limited, so call the Benefits Office at 487-2517 to reserve your seat.



## Midnight pancake volunteer: needed

Dining Services is asking interested MTU faculty and staff to volunteer at the Pancake Study Break, set for Sunday, February 23, from 10:00 p.m. to midnight.

"Last year was a huge success," said **Robert Hiltunen**, associate director of dining services. "The students appreciated the break, and the volunteers had fun serving them."

Pancake breakfasts will be served in all the residence halls—Douglass Houghton, Wadsworth, and McNair. Volunteers are needed to serve the students, cook pancakes, wash dishes, bus tables, and "truck" the pancakes from the grill to the serving line.

If you'd like to help, contact Dining Services at 487-2664 or [rwhiltun@mtu.edu](mailto:rwhiltun@mtu.edu) and indicate the hall you'd like to work in and what job you'd prefer.

## University Images opens new store

University Images (formerly the SDC Pro-Shop) opened January 30. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marking its grand opening will be held Wednesday, February 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Board of Control Chair **Ken Rowe**, **Howard Greenley**, director of auxiliary retail services, other MTU officials, and local dignitaries will attend.

Daily drawings will be held throughout Grand Opening Week. Everyone is invited to visit the new store and register to win. A grand prize winner will be drawn February 21. No purchase is necessary to sign up for any of the drawings.



and more:

## Seeing every word with the National Theatre of the Deaf

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

A movie, a special Tech Tea Time, and a video are scheduled for the week of Monday, February 10, in conjunction with the visit of the National Theatre of the Deaf on February 14.

This company combines spoken words with American Sign Language to produce a unique acting style in which you see and hear every word. The company includes hearing and deaf actors. The show, *Curiouser and Curiouser*, a lively adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, will appeal to all ages. Each of the events has been chosen to broaden our knowledge of a world that only few of us experience or understand.

### Children of a Lesser God

On Tuesday, February 11, the critically acclaimed movie *Children of a Lesser God* will be shown free of charge in Fisher 135 at 8:00 p.m. William Hurt stars as a teacher assigned to a remote school for the deaf. Marlee Matlin, who started her professional career with the National Theatre of the Deaf, plays the part of Sarah, a beautiful, isolated, and angry woman content to live in her own silent world. The film eloquently explores the barriers the two face in communicating their deepest emotions. Hurt, as James, at first sees Sarah as a teaching challenge, and then falls passionately in love with her. He desperately wants to pull her out of her isolation; she resists. The movie is open to members of the MTU community and their guests only and is rated R.

### Curiouser and Curiouser Feb. 14

The National Theatre of the Deaf presents *Curiouser and Curiouser* at the Calumet Theatre on Friday, February 14, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200, Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) and the SDC Central Ticket Office (487-2073, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Sat., 1:00-4:00 p.m.).

The visit of The National Theatre of the Deaf and other related activities are made possible by funding from the MTU/Suomi Student Entertainment Board and Arts Midwest members and friends in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts; the Copper Country Intermediate School District; the Committee for Campus Enrichment; and the Michigan Tech Fund. For more information, call the University Cultural Enrichment, 487-2844.

### Tech Tea Time

Tech Tea Time, on Wednesday, February 12, at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge, brings the dialog closer to home with a panel discussion, "A Look into the World of Silence." Emilie Kryznarich, special education coordinator at the Copper Country Intermediate School District (CCISD), will introduce the panel, which includes Jean Guzek, CCISD teacher/consultant for the hearing impaired; Joan Pavlowich, parent of a child who is hearing impaired; and Carol Marttila, a deaf adult and a teacher consultant from Iron Mountain. They will offer their own experiences of deafness and hearing impairment, and will take questions. A sign language interpreter will be available. Tech Tea Time is free and open to the public.

### The Key

*The Key*, a short film on video in American Sign Language with English subtitles, will be shown on Thursday, February 13, at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. Based on the short story by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eudora Welty, *The Key* stars Susan Jackson, an eight-year veteran of the National Theatre of the Deaf. She plays Ellie Morgan, who has been saving and hoping for a long-awaited honeymoon at Niagra Falls. After many years, Ellie and husband Albert, played by popular Louisiana storyteller, Edward Marquez, finally set off on their dream journey. Far from home they meet a drifter, played by hearing actor Patrick Horrigan, who will either con them or help them reach their dreams. The film was created by a groundbreaking collaborative team of talented and dedicated deaf and hearing artists. *The Key* is followed by a twenty-five minute documentary, *The Making of The Key*, which tells the story of this collaboration. The showing of *The Key* is open to the public at no charge.

## Preservation Hall Jazz Band at the Calumet

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

Nothing beats the winter blues better than some good old foot-tapping, head-bobbing New Orleans jazz, and it's coming our way on Saturday February 8. It's the world-famous Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the next show in Michigan Tech's Great Events Series, at 8:00 p.m. at the Calumet Theatre

Tickets are on sale at the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200, Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) and the SDC Central Ticket Office (487-2073, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.).

Preservation Hall seems to keep going on forever carrying with it the exuberant spirit of New Orleans. Founded by jazz buff and gallery owner Allan Jaffe and his wife, Sandra, who runs the operation, the band has been touring and playing at Preservation Hall, their home base in the French Quarter of New Orleans, since 1961. Three bands alternate at the hall and tour about one-third of their time.

Trumpeter Wendell Brunious, a superb musician who can hear a choice note coming a mile away, is the leader of the band coming to Calumet. Banjo player and vocalist Narvin Kimball, at 86 the senior of the group, provides a link to the past. His voice is described as a cross between early Bing Crosby and Billy Eckstine, and has prompted Brunious to joke that Narvin is "the Julio Iglesias" of the group. Bass player Benjamin Jaffe is the son of founder Allan Jaffe, who died in 1987. At 26, he's the baby of the group. Playing with the band, he says, is one of life's finer activities. "It's like putting on a good pair of shoes. You say, 'Aaaaahhh!' It just feels right when the music swings, and you're making people happy with it. It's not just for yourself, and that's the greatest thing of all." Frank Demond is the trombonist extraordinaire who can be heard on all the band's recordings, and Joe Lastie is the electric dynamo behind the drumset. Pianist Ricky Monie plays an expert, spare, to-the-beat one expects from the New Orleans style, while David Grillier provides sometime warm, sometimes reedy tones on the clarinet.

Preservation Hall musicians don't have a program, beyond the opening and closing numbers. Their selections include the jazz classics such as "Tiger Rag," which has been played since the 1890s Mardi Gras tunes, and New Orleans blues. Spirituals and gospels are a regular part of the concert. They play "When the Saints Go Marchin' In," in a finale, leading the audience up and down the aisles.

The next party is at the Calumet Theatre and you're advised to hurry and get your tickets, as the show sold out in 1987.

The presentation of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band at the Calumet Theatre is made possible by the Committee for Campus Enrichment and the Michigan Tech Fund, with production assistance from the MTU/Suomi Student Entertainment Board. For more information, call the University Cultural Enrichment Department at 487-2844.

## Auditions February 11-13 for Sylvia

Auditions for MTU's spring play, the comedy *Sylvia*, by A. R. Gurney, will be held Tuesday-Thursday, February 11-13, at 7:00 p.m. in Walker Theatre.

Auditions are open to the community as well as MTU students, faculty, and staff. The director is Associate Professor **Richard Goldstein**. *Sylvia* was a hit on Broadway in 1995, called "howlingly funny, touching, beautiful" by critics.

Examination copies of the script are available in the fine arts office, Walker 209. Persons interested in working on the crew for *Sylvia* can sign up either at auditions or by calling Paul Aneshansel, technical director, at 487-1883. For more information, call 487-2067.

Submitted by the Department of Fine Arts



## Jazz film series marks Black History Month

Semeion Film Society offers four jazz films this February, marking Black History Month. Each are held at 6:30 p.m. in Walker 134, and discussions follow each showing. All films are free and everyone's invited.

*Sweet Love, Bitter* will be shown February 7; *A Man Called Adam*, February 14; *Mo' Better Blues*, February 21; and *Kansas City*, February 28.

The following commentary and information is submitted by PhD student **Ed Hancock** (humanities), who serves as host for the jazz film series.

Jazz as a film subject has a long and intriguing history. Indeed, the first talking picture was *The Jazz Singer*. But the fact that the film starred white actor Al Jolson, his face blackened with charcoal, underscored the racist context of jazz in cinema. White control produced white visions, resulting in white jazz heroes such as *The Glenn Miller Story*, *The Benny Goodman Story*, Robert Wagner opposite Pearl Bailey in *All The Fine Young Cannibals* (1960) and even Kirk Douglas as Bix Beiderbecke in *Young Man with a Horn* (1950).

In the modern age we have black faces on the silver screen, as Dexter Gordon starred in *Round Midnight*, and Forest Whittaker as Bird. Still, white control is evident, as both these films focus on the white supporting characters more than the drug-sodden black stars. In the case of *Round Midnight*, the focus is on Francis, the French friend. In *Bird*, cowboy director Clint Eastwood focuses on Bird's white wife and white trumpet sideman for human interest. In describing the films *Bird* and *Round Midnight*, Spike Lee said, "Both were narrow depictions of the lives of Black musicians as seen through the eyes of white screenwriters and white directors. Two of the three main characters were white." Lee continues, "Every jazz musician I know hated the film *Bird*. There was not a moment of humor in the film, and *Bird* was the funniest person you ever met."

Worth mentioning in the history of the jazz film, though utterly flawed still, were W. C. Handy's biography *St. Louis Blues* with Nat King Cole (1958), *Paris Blues* with Sidney Poitier, Diahann Carroll, and Paul Newman (1961), and *Lady Sings the Blues* with Diana Ross as Billie Holiday. In each film we see the protagonist as suffering artist, victim of drug and booze, and, ultimately, premature burn out. The films selected for this year's Black History Month presentation of the Semeion Film Society both adhere to and depart from American representation conventions. Jazz is a medium conceived in freedom and in search of truth. Therefore, despite the subtle and blatant controls evident in these films about jazz, moments of resistance shine through.

### **Sweet Love, Bitter** (1967), February 7

*Sweet Love, Bitter* has been virtually lost for nearly thirty years, but resurfaces fresh and aware in comparison with other films of that era. Comedian, activist, and health-food maven Dick Gregory stars as jazz musician Eagle Coles (loosely based on Charlie "Bird" Parker), a saxophonist with a genius for love and self-destruction. It takes us on a ride through the ups and downs of creative life, including that gorilla heroin. Eagle soars in his solos and his power and charisma are undeniable, but so is the downward trajectory of his flight. Friends try to save him, but are encumbered with baggage of their own. New Wave hand-held camera and black-and-white photography capture the cold, bleak, nervous glamor of the New York streets. Diane Varsi displays the bohemian kookiness that earned her an Oscar nomination in her first role, *Peyton Place* (1958), and led to her banishment from Hollywood and subsequent death. Who rescues whom is but one of the ironies in this remarkable film.

### **A Man Called Adam** (1966), February 14

Excellent film about the struggles of a drug-abusing trumpet player who is nurtured by Cicely Tyson. (Hmm, life would imitate art as model/actress Tyson weds Miles Davis in real life.) Despite signs of hope, Davis literally blows himself to death. Rat-pack attitude and jazz groove helped to define mid-sixties cool.

## Jazz concert celebrates Valentine's Day, Black History

Submitted by the Department of Fine Arts

Michigan Tech's jazz program celebrates Valentine's Day and Black History Month with special concerts, "In the Key of Love: A Tribute to the Jazz Singer," on Friday-Saturday, February 14-15 at 8:00 p.m. in Walker Theatre.

Under the direction of **Mike Irish**, director of jazz studies, five vocalists and three bands will evoke the spirits of jazz greats Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Joe Williams, and all-time favorites.

Tickets for this Department of Fine Arts event are available at the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200, Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.), the SDC Central Ticket Office (487-2073, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.), and the Calumet Theatre (337-2610); at \$3 for students, \$5 for seniors, and \$7 general public.

The R&D Big Band will open the show with the reggae rhythm of "Night of the Living Chili Pepper" and a pair of Sammy Nestico compositions, "Orange Sherbert" and "All My Life." Jaztec will back singers **Trish Mazurek** on "My Funny Valentine," **Victoria Crenshaw** on "Stormy Weather," and **Jennifer Paterson** on "Makin' Whoopee." The Jazz Lab Band will accompany **Charles White** on "Moonlight in Vermont" and **Jason Hoard** on "Everyday I Have the Blues," as well as pieces from Paterson and Mazurek, for a total of nine romantic vocals.

For more information, call 487-2067.

## On the road

*(Editor's note: After considerable and often [on her part] crabby consultation with those who know a good deal more about such matters than she, Tech Topics Editor Marcia Goodrich is relaxing her pretty darn narrow restrictions on "On the Road" content and will henceforth note when papers are invited. If you were invited to present a paper, please include that information with your releases to Tech Topics.)*

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## "Living with Radon" talk February 11

Associate Professor **Paul Nelson** (SBE) will give a talk on Tuesday, February 11, on the very high radon levels he has measured in his home over the past several years. Nelson will present "Living with a Radon Problem" at noon in Memorial Union B2-3, at the Sigma Xi brown-bag lunch. Everyone's invited.

Nelson will describe his four-year battle with cancer-causing radon gas in his west Hancock home. In May 1993, he participated in an EPA radon survey conducted by **James Wood** (geological engineering and sciences) and found that his basement levels were twenty times higher than the EPA action level of 4 picroCuries per liter. Acting on the best advice he could find, he sealed his basement floor with two expensive coats of a radon gas blocking system and had a contractor install a sophisticated heat exchange ventilator system which blew a constant stream of fresh air into all areas of his home. Although the remediation system worked much better than later studies would have predicted, it only removed two-thirds of the radon gas, and the peak radon levels turned out to be much higher than those measured in 1993.

Nelson will also discuss how he informed his neighbors and local health officials of the situation, how he acquired professional radiation measuring equipment to maintain a continuous record of radon levels under different environmental conditions, and how he tried to make the best of a bad situation by inviting scholars from other states to use his home as a test site, and invited **Richard Honrath's** CE402 Environmental Engineering Design Project class to use his home for their class project last spring. He also will discuss current debates on the adverse health effects of radon.

For more information, contact Allan Johnson, president of the MTU Chapter of Sigma Xi, at 487-2814 or amj@mtu.edu

## Senate *Continued from page 1*

setting MTU apart from other universities. "It's not a benefit—it's a compensation enhancement, an improvement in the total package."

Senate President **Ted Bornhorst**, who attended the January Board of Control meeting, said he thought the Board was leaning toward either the bifurcation option or Dobney's proposal.

"If you want, it would be helpful to have a senate resolution supporting this," Dobney said. "If not, fine. The Board will make a decision at its March meeting, and my goal is to provide employees a choice as to how they want to enhance their benefits and compensation."

He explained that the 2 percent match was proposed because, according to conventional wisdom, you should save 15 percent of your salary to maintain your lifestyle at retirement. The University now contributes 10.55 percent to TIAA-CREF employees' retirement accounts; employees taking full advantage of the matching program would be saving 14.55 percent.

The MTU Research Foundation proposal was defeated following a presentation by **Robert Baillood**, chair of the civil and environmental engineering department, who said the foundation would separate teaching and research and take research responsibilities away from academic departments. "Department's aren't even recognized" in the proposal, he said.

Professor **Kurt Pregitzer** (SFWP), who helped develop the proposal, said the foundation would not get involved in micromanaging research within departments. "Instead, it would bring more people together involved in various aspects of research," he said. "The Research Foundation would be a way to bring together all the folks who are important in administering research."

"I'd share Bob's concern if I thought this proposal diluted teaching and research integration, or took anything away from the department level," said Vice

Provost and Dean of the Graduate School **Sung Lee**. Describing himself as "the guy who's been administering research for a number of years," Lee said, "Many things need to be improved. . . . Now, there is no systematic way of measuring what's important," other than considerations posed by "whoever comes before my desk and won't leave."

A major reason for forming the foundation is to attract more-substantial research funding, since the foundation would provide a clear structure for handling large grants, Lee said. "This is a cost-effective way to enhance our research endeavor."

Under a foundation, research administration could be better coordinated to eliminate "wasted motion," he added. And Dobney noted that the primary complaint from researchers is that Research Accounting isn't responsive in a timely fashion, perhaps because it's not part of Research Services. The MTU Research Foundation could provide oversight and respond to researchers' concerns in these and other areas, he said.

Senator **John Williams** (chemistry) asked why problems couldn't be fixed by instituting "an accounting maneuver" instead of having administrators overseeing the research process. Lee agreed that membership on the foundation board needed to be reworked—consultants advised that the board as conceived was overloaded with members of the MTU community who have "too much turf to protect." Membership should also include representatives from business and other universities. And Dean of Sciences and Arts **Max Seel** noted that the MTU president and provost were viewed as serving as ex officio members, who provide input at meetings but do not vote.

Senator **Christa Walck** (SBE) asked why a committee couldn't serve the same function as a foundation, and Senator **Jim Gale** (SBE) said he preferred decentralized structures.

On a roll-call vote, the senate turned down the MTU Foundation proposal 10–12.

## On the road *Continued from page 5*

Professor Emeritus **Richard Heckel** (MME) presented an invited paper, "Benefits of Capstone Design Courses in Materials Education," coauthored by Assistant Professor **Claudia Nassaralla**, Associate Professor **John Pilling**, and Professor **Mark Plichta** (MME), at the Symposium on Educational Needs and Trends, at the Fourth International Conference on Frontiers of Polymers and Advanced Materials: A Conference on Advanced Materials, Emerging New Technologies, and Business Opportunities, held January 4–9 in Cairo, Egypt. In addition, Heckel gave the keynote address, also on the capstone design course, at the meeting New Trends in Advanced Materials: Teaching at the University Level, which was sponsored by The American University in Cairo and held as a satellite meeting to the main conference. "The national and international interest in this course has been very encouraging and Michigan Tech's efforts have been highly regarded," Heckel reports.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT MTU

The following positions will be posted Friday, February 7, 1997, at 1:00 p.m. through noon, Friday, February 14, 1997, in the Human Resources Office.

Custodian—Residential Services/Facilities (REGULAR, PART-TIME, TEN-MONTH AFSCME INTERNAL ANDEXTERNAL POSTING)  
Residence Hall Coordinator—Residence Life (Regular, full-time, ten-month, live-in position)  
Electronics/Computer Technician—School of Forestry and Wood Products  
Research Scientist I—School of Forestry and Wood Products  
Director—Career Center

University employees are reminded to apply in writing prior to noon, Friday, February 14, 1997, to be considered as internal candidates. Applicants from the recall pool will be given first consideration for non-bargaining-unit positions. Vacancy announcements are normally posted every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Human Resources Office. Complete job descriptions are available in the Human Resources Office or by calling 487-2280. More information regarding employment opportunities is available by calling the Job Line at 487-2895. Michigan Technological University is an equal opportunity educational institution/equal opportunity employer.

## Calendar



## February BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- 7 Friday**  
**all day**—TimeQuest™: Increasing Productivity through Value-Based Time Management—Super 8 Motel  
**6:30 p.m.**—*Sweet Love, Bitter*—Walker 134
- 8 Saturday**  
**noon**—Guest artist Rob O'Neill creative movement workshop—Walker Theatre  
**6:30 p.m.**—Chinese Spring Festival Dinner Party—Houghton High School  
**8:00 p.m.**—Preservation Hall Jazz Band—Calumet Theatre  
**8:00 p.m.**—Rob O'Neill and the Troupe—Walker Theatre
- 10 Monday**  
**4:00 p.m.**—V. J. Rao, seminar on SnO<sub>2</sub>-based gas sensors—M&M 610
- 11 Tuesday**  
**noon**—Sigma Xi brown-bag lunch: Paul Nelson, "Living with a Radon Problem"—Memorial Union B2-3  
**7:00 p.m.**—Auditions for *Sylvia*—Walker Theatre  
**8:00 p.m.**—*Children of a Lesser God*—Fisher 135  
**8:00 p.m.**—David Sikarski, Ethics in Engineering lecture—M&M U115
- 12 Wednesday**  
**4:00 p.m.**—Tech Tea: A Look into the World of Silence—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge  
**7:00 p.m.**—Auditions for *Sylvia*—Walker Theatre
- 13 Thursday**  
**4:00 p.m.**—*The Key*—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge  
**6:00 p.m.**—Women's basketball, Saginaw Valley State at MTU—SDC  
**7:00 p.m.**—Auditions for *Sylvia*—Walker Theatre  
**8:00 p.m.**—Men's basketball, Saginaw Valley State at MTU—SDC
- 14 Friday**  
**6:30 p.m.**—*A Man Called Adam*—Walker 134  
**7:35 p.m.**—Hockey, Alaska-Anchorage at MTU—MacInnes Student Ice Arena  
**8:00 p.m.**—National Theatre of the Deaf, *Curiouser and Curiouser*—Calumet Theatre  
**8:00 p.m.**—In the Key of Love: Jazz Bands Black History Month Concert—Walker Theatre