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Editor's Comments

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The president's spring address to the faculty, which opens our issue, informs us of the directions the university has taken and will be taking in the next few years in the way of new facilities, programs, and projects. The GVSU Women's Commission was instituted in October, 1996 as one of those projects. Bernice Sandler, Senior Scholar in Residence at the National Association of Women in Education was the guest speaker at that event. Her talk, adapted for publication here, suggests strategies for that commission as it begins to do its work. Co-chairs Gabriela Pozzi and Cindy Mader reply with an outline of the duties they see before them and ask the readers for help in making the university community a place of equity for both men and women.

The president also suggests, from a cue by another president: "Ask what you can do for your university." Among other ways of answering that question, he notes, is "when you publish a good article or book." A way of serving the university more directly is to share those good articles with the university community. The *Grand Valley Review* exists especially for that purpose.

This issue presents a miscellany of good articles. Toni Perrine's analysis of the fear of the nuclear bomb as presented in the movies is one chapter of her book, *Film and the Nuclear Age: Representing Cultural Anxiety*, which will be published by Garland Press next fall. Joe Zimmer, a reading specialist in the English Department, has studied a hundred years' worth of popular magazine "allegations . . . against an educational system that has fostered universal literacy in the United States." This essay is particularly relevant in the light of President Clinton's call for literacy by the end of third grade for all American children. Cliff Welch, who will direct the Latin American Studies Program at Grand Valley next year, points out the danger to be avoided if that four-year-old program is to retain its integrity.

There follow the poems of a well-loved Chinese poet, translated into English for the first time by Sufen Lai, and a poem by Patricia Clark. An essay on the joy of a good sabbatical by Dale Schriemer, essays on teachers and teaching by Jim Persoon, Janet Heller, and Shirley Fleischmann, and a view on the state of higher education today complete our issue.

This is the tenth and last issue of the *Grand Valley Review* which I will edit. After teaching at Grand Valley for thirty-two years, I will be retiring at the end of this semester. David Huisman of the editorial staff will also be retiring from Grand Valley, and Walter Foote, although not yet retiring from the University, will no longer be on the editorial staff. All three of us extend to the new editor, Patricia Clark, and her staff best wishes for the continuance of this journal, and to our colleagues—contributors and readers—our thanks for your support in the past, as well as our fond farewells.

—R.S.