

1-1-1994

Editor's Comments

Roberta Simone
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr>

Recommended Citation

Simone, Roberta (1994) "Editor's Comments," *Grand Valley Review*: Vol. 11: Iss. 1, Article 2.
Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr/vol11/iss1/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Grand Valley Review by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Who could not help being moved by the abundance of wildflowers—blue, purple, pink, yellow—suddenly appearing in campus meadows last spring and summer. Thanks to Randy Drewry of Plant Services for that. As he explains, many people did indeed comment on them: not only comment, but exclaim. What a lovely addition to our campus that was (and will be, in future springs and summers, according to Randy), and what a lovely cover we are happy to offer our readers—a reproduction of that meadow, as photographed by David Huisman. To David also goes thanks for the color photographs, a first for the *Review*, of the Shakespeare Garden and the Arboretum.

This issue of the *Review* presents, describes, illustrates our university outdoors. Our special topic is "Grand Valley Grounds and Gardens." Our contributors write about places where nature alone or nature assisted or changed by Grand Valley employees and students provide us with wonders to look at, while we go about our businesses of teaching and learning, reading and writing and commenting, counting and measuring, talking and listening, filling out forms and filing them away—most of this indoors.

We begin David Huisman's essay on how some of those grounds have changed since he was a boy who roamed and played on his grandparents' farm, a homestead and acreage once existing where now the football stadium and other other university structures stand. Then John Shontz explains how the campus nature trail was devised by members of the Biology Club in the 1960s, who wanted to make walking in the stately forests growing on the campus ravines a pleasure for the university community and for visitors. Christine Stephens describes, in her essay, the pleasures of walking and running there—until hunting season. Why, she wonders, are hunters on University land?

Next, we have three contemplations on the Shakespeare Garden, planted at the north entrance to Lake Superior Hall, and dedicated by President Lubbers in the fall of 1993. First is the speech given at that dedication by Rosalind Mayberry, who conceived of the garden and inspired a host of others from the whole campus community to see it realized. Both Jo Miller's adaptation of her speech at that dedication and Jim Persoon's essay explain how the Shakespeare Garden has been and can be used and its power to offer something like spiritual value for Grand Valley folk. Patricia Quattrin's observations on the original Shakespeare Garden and others like it in England affirm our good fortune in having one of our own.

The first of what may become annual Shakespeare festivals took place in late September this year, and some of it was celebrated in this garden: noon-time performances of Renaissance poetry and music. A main event of the festival was the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Laura Salazar. Student Tanya Eby won a role in that performance, and her lively recounting of how she did it won a prize in the student essay contest, sponsored by the organizers of the festival, as well as a spot in this issue.

The Arboretum was begun in the fall of 1990, as a means not only of enriching the campus, but of encouraging the recycling of paper. Trees have been planted and labeled along a walk starting from just north of the library and continuing to the Little Mak bridge. Patricia Clark walked and watched there and offers us her musings on these trees, on their value to us as teachers and learners. The short poem about the tennis court, which follows, depicts one person's awe of and delight in the power of the life force. Alumni Rick Stygstra wrote *A Natural History of the Grand Valley University Lands* as his senior writing project in English for Professor Rosalind Mayberry. "The Ravines and Flood Plains" is here excerpted from that longer work. Jan Ballard, a visiting instructor of Photography last year, offers a historical analysis of landscape architecture, combined with a photo-essay on the Meadows Golf Course, now part of Grand Valley's campus, and its place in that history.

Finally, Sharon Whitehill presents her interviews with Grand Valley gardeners, commenting on how important it is to academics to put their fingers into the earth, to make beautiful things grow.

We hope that you enjoy this issue. We encourage our readers to look with our contributors at what we are surrounded by as we work—and then to look for themselves. As William Wordsworth suggests,

Enough of science and of art.
Close up those barren leaves;
Come forth and bring with you a heart
That watches and receives.

Of course, some of you may want to wait until spring. This issue, appearing late in the fall—when it may already be snowing, or, certainly, when a long, Michigan winter will be approaching—will remind you of summer, of spring, perhaps even of the red and gold of autumn.

—R.S.