Monitor Newsletter July 16, 1990

Bowling Green State University

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Friedman's new book takes first indepth look at Menninger family

Dr. Lawrence J. Friedman, history and American culture studies, doesn't believe the adage that talk is cheap. Some of the most valuable information he collected in researching his latest book was gathered during interviews. In fact, the whole project came about as the result of a friendly conversation. Friedman's new book, entitled Menninger: The Family and the Clinic and published by Alfred A. Knopf Inc., is about America's "first family of psychiatry" and the mental health clinic they created.

Dr. Charles Menninger and his sons Karl and Will opened the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan., shortly after World War I. Widely known for its innovative approaches to mental health, the clinic came to play a key role in the development of modern psychiatric practice. Nearly a decade after he began scholarly research on the pioneering work of the Menningers in the treatment of mental illness, Friedman has written a 472-page book which tells how the charismatic family shaped the clinic and how the enterprise shaped the family.

Described by The New York Times as a "thorough, accomplished addition to the history of American mental health," the book also traces how the clinic evolved over the years into a major psychiatric research center which remains today under the control of the Menningers.

Friedman is the first writer ever to be given access to the clinic archives and the family's private papers—and it was almost a matter of being in the right place at the right time. While conducting research on a fellowship at the Menninger Foundation, Friedman casually remarked to Karl Menninger it was too bad no one had written a book about the history of his family and its work. Menninger agreed it was time for a book—but only if Friedman would write it.

"This is the first time any mental hospital has let a researcher in with no restrictions," according to Friedman. "I began (conducting research for the book) in 1981 when Karl Menninger gave me a key to the archives. The documentation was incredible. Each of the Menningers had kept memos and diaries—the level of documentation was just amazing," Friedman says.

The historian also conducted 106 interviews with members of the family, staff and former staff of the clinic. Friedman's "conservative estimate" is that he spent 300 hours alone with Karl Menninger. "Dr. Karl," who was awarded an honorary degree by the University in 1982, will be 97 later this month and is considered by many to be the 20th century's leading American psychiatrist.

The interviews produced even more historical documents.

"I never realized so much would be available," Friedman admits. "There was a period over five or six years when I spent all summer, every Christmas and all other breaks in Kansas. The more people I talked with, the more people started sending me things—documents they had hidden away."

Friedman said he now has a new respect for the use of interviews in collecting historical information.

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Martha Tack to be speaker at commencement

Dr. Martha W. Tack, a former membe: of the University's educational administration and supervision department, will be the speaker at the summer commencement Aug. 11.

Tack recently left the University to become chair of the leadership and counseling department at Eastern Michigan University. Tack, whose areas of expertise are leadership and planning in higher education, joined the Bowling Green staff in 1981. During her tenure, she served as director of the interdisciplinary higher education administration doctoral program, which she helped develop. She has been the recipient of several grants, including one from the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (FIPSE) to complete and deliver a FIPSE lecture on "The Effective College President."

She is the co-author of two books on college administration, The Effective College President and Leaders on Leadership: Restructuring and New Directions for Higher Education.

Tack received her bachelor's degree from Troy State University in Alabama and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Alabama. The recipient of numerous awards, she recently was honored with the Outstanding Contribution to Graduate Education Award from the Graduate Student Senate. She also received the Phi Delta Kappa (Bowling Green Chapter) Research Award in 1987 and 1990, and was named Education Alumnus of the Year in 1989 at Troy State University.

Receiving an honorary degree at the
**Bauer is named president of Firelands board**

Gary W. Bauer, a county extension agent for Huron and Erie counties and county chairman for Firelands, has been elected president of the Firelands College Advisory Board. Bauer, who was appointed to the board in 1985, succeeds Larry Betchler.

**Weight Watchers starts**

The next Weight Watchers program will be offered starting Thursday (July 19) and will run through Thursday, Aug. 23. Each session will be held during regularly scheduled lunch periods in the Jerome Library conference room. Persons interested in attending these informal lunches should contact Ruth Million or Karol Heckman in personnel services at 372-2225.

**Classification of Employment Opportunities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Vacancies</th>
<th>Posting Expiration Date: 10:30 a.m., Friday, July 29.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-20-1 Custodial Worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-20-2 Physical Plant (Two positions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-20-3 Typist 2</td>
<td>Pay Range 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-20-4 Word Processing Specialist 2</td>
<td>Pay Range 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-20-5 Admissions</td>
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</tbody>
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**Faculty/Staff positions**

The following faculty positions are available:

- **College of Arts and Sciences**
  - **Environmental Health**: Assistant professor (reopening search). Contact Gary Silverman (2-8242).
  - **Economics**: Instructor. Contact Michael Marsdon (2-2015).
  - **History**: Aug. 1, screening will begin. Position will remain open until filled.
  - **Public Relations**: Assistant professor. Contact Richard Gebhardt (2-2576). Deadline: Nov. 15.
  - **Psychology**: Assistant professor (reopened search). Contact Gary Silverman (2-8242).

The following administrative positions are available:

- **Counseling and Career Development Center**: Co-director of career development. Contact Sam Ramirez (2-2558). Deadline: Aug. 10.
- **Student Health Service**: Medical assistant. Contact Marcia Buckenmeyer, personnel services (2-2558). Deadline: July 20.

**Datebook**

**Monday, July 16**

**Ohio Contemporary Art Quilts and Baskets Exhibition**, features 42 pieces by 24 Ohio artists through July 27. Gallery, Fine Arts Building. Opening gala to be held 6-8 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

**Meetings**

- **Bowling Green State University's Great Musical Theatre**, presents "Carousel," 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Show continues through July 17. To reserve tickets, call 372-8171.

**Tuesday, July 17**

Dissertation Defense, "Rock 'n' Religion: A Socio-Political Analysis of George Beverly Christian Music Industry," by William Romanowski, American culture studies, 12:30 p.m., 1008 Business Administration.

Huron Playhouse, presents "The Philadelphia Story," runs through July 21, 8 p.m., McCormick School on Ohio St. in Huron. Ticket reservations may be made by calling 433-4744.

**Thursday, July 19**

**Weight Watchers, noon-12:30 p.m., Jerome Library conference room. More information, contact Ruth Million or Karol Heckman, personnel services, at 372-2225.**

**Graduation from the front**

Commencement ceremonies will be held by Dr. Colm M. Turbayne, a professor emeritus of philosophy at the University of Rochester. Turbayne is known as one of the most prolific scholars in the studies of George Berkeley during this century and is a leading scholar in the theory of vision. He is the author and editor of six major books and 17 scholarly articles which are now standard texts and references worldwide on the interpretation of Berkeley, who is considered to be one of the three greatest English philosophers in history.


Commencement will begin at 10 a.m. on the lawn west of University Hall.

**Friedman from the front**

"The book very decidedly has changed the way I think of historical research. I was taught to conduct scholarly research, like many others, by going to archives. But now, I believe the most important information (for this book) was in bank vaults. It has really taught me the value of oral history. It has made me realize that the most important things in history are not found in libraries and archives. What the interviews are - reports and documents - are so crucial to people that they keep them.

For Friedman, the interplay between family dynamics and operation of the clinic has been particularly fascinating. The Menninger family, he said, was polarized from the beginning. In the book Friedman probes the personality conflicts, the alliances and rivalries among the Menningers as well as the inner operations of the clinic.

The book, which is illustrated with 16 pages of photographs, is divided into three sections. The first covers the period from 1919 through the end of World War II.

The second section details the years between 1946 and 1954, a period of enormous growth which saw the establishment of the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry and the Menninger Foundation's emergence as an educational center. The third section covers the years since 1954. While working on the book, Friedman was aided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as research grants from the University and from the Friends of the University Libraries and Center for Archival Collections.

Friedman also is the author of The White Savage: Racial Fantasies in the Postbellum South, Innovations of the Promised Land and Geographical Sources of the Menninger Family in American Abolitionism.

This summer Friedman is conducting research for his next book. This time the subject is renowned American psychologist Erik Erikson.