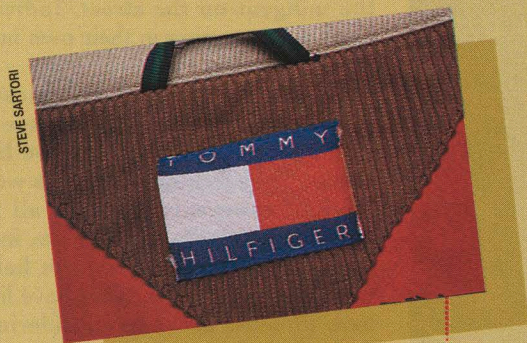


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Fashion Flare

Tommy Hilfiger never attended college, received no formal training in clothing design, and started his career in 1970 by selling bell-bottom pants to high school classmates in Elmira, New York. His goal, he said during a November speech at the College for Human Development, was simply to sell “stylish clothes to stylish people.”

En route to becoming principal designer and honorary chair of Tommy Hilfiger USA, one of the nation’s largest men’s sportswear companies, Hilfiger survived a close call with bankruptcy and a firing from Jordache — after one month of employment. He eventually spurned job offers from Perry Ellis and Calvin Klein and created his own line of clothing.

“I took all the classics and I made them different,” he said. “I get my inspiration from the streets of New York.”

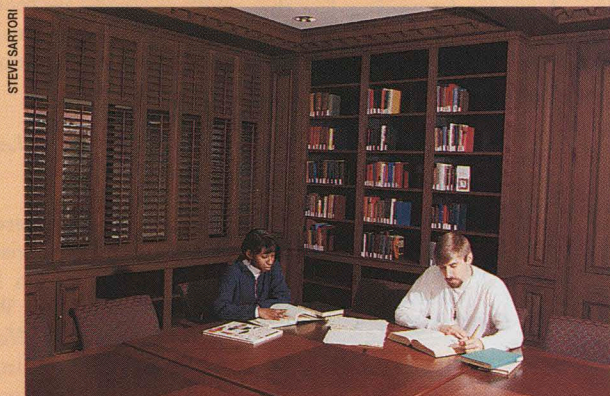
Hilfiger visited Syracuse University as part of the College for Human Development’s Sue Ann Genet Lecture Series, which brings nationally prominent professionals from retailing, fashion, design, and the culinary arts to speak on campus. Other lecturers this year have included Jerry W. Levin, president and CEO of Revlon, and Danny Meyer, owner of New York City’s Union Square Café and Gramercy Tavern. Scheduled to visit in April is David Bouley, restaurateur, chef, and owner of Bouley in New York City.

“Before he came here, Syracuse was a wasteland of college basketball. He turned that around in one year.”

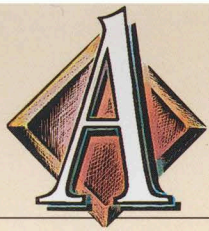
—Basketball coach Jim Boeheim on former SU coach Fred Lewis, who died December 27. Lewis, who inherited a team that won only two games during the 1961-62 season, led SU to 91 wins in six seasons.

Book Learning

New York Times columnist, noted author, and former SU student William Safire has donated a large portion of his personal library to the University, which will house the 10,000-book collection in the newly constructed William Safire Reading Room on the sixth floor of Bird Library. Completed in December, the room seats 25 people, is open to students, faculty, alumni, and classes, and will be used to introduce students to the library’s historical resources.



Safire, who attended SU from 1947-49, is providing the University with an extensive collection of volumes on language and the Civil War; works by Noah Webster and William Cobbett, the 18th- and 19th-century journalist and author; and documents concerning Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal. The collection, which is arriving in installments over three years, also includes many rare works and first-edition books by authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, and Mark Twain.



Academic Hits

Baseball is back at Syracuse University, but it has nothing to do with the athletic department, which dropped the sport 23 years ago.

A new course started last semester helps teach urban youths teamwork and problem-solving through baseball. Eleven students were enrolled in Strengthening Urban Communities Through Baseball, one of six sections of the undergraduate course Problems in Public Policy. In addition to classwork, the SU students met weekly with the Syracuse children enrolled in an alternative baseball league program. Baseball facts helped the children reinforce history, math, geography, and other subjects. The children also spent time individually with the SU students, talking about life at home and in school.

When colder weather arrived, the SU students continued meeting the children, accompanying them on a trip to meet the SU basketball team, to a Syracuse Crunch hockey game, and to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown.

The course enabled the SU students to explore such issues as whether male and female athletes are treated differently in recreational, school, and professional athletics; the connection between athletic competition and violence in society; and the positive role sports can play in teaching interpersonal skills and enriching the lives of disadvantaged people.

The course will be offered again next fall.



GOOD TV

Which are the best television shows of all time? Robert Thompson, an associate professor of television, radio, and film, and Ian Bruce, a Newhouse doctoral student, queried 388 of the nation's newspaper critics. The results, based on the responses of 96 of those critics, found these programs most memorable:

1. Hill Street Blues
2. M*A*S*H
3. The Mary Tyler Moore Show
4. All in the Family
5. Cheers and I Love Lucy (tie)
7. 60 Minutes
8. The Dick Van Dyke Show
9. St. Elsewhere
10. The Twilight Zone



Around Campus

• The School of Social Work has moved from the ground floor in Brockway Hall to the newly renovated and expanded Sims Hall. The move, completed during winter break, provides the school with better facilities and a more central location on campus. "This change sends a signal to students, alumni, and parents that the School of Social Work is central to the University and that its students, faculty, and staff are highly valued and appreciated," says Dean William Pollard.

• A new undergraduate course being offered this semester is How Things Work, which reveals, among other things, how airplanes fly, how sailboats sail, and why we don't fall out of roller coasters. Course creator James Somerset is a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering. "Technology really is quite simple," says Somerset. "We only think it is difficult because we have incorrect perceptions."

• SU's Arts Adventure program, launched last September, allows students to purchase half-price tickets to concerts, orchestra recitals, plays, and musicals throughout Syracuse, including performances at the Civic Center and Syracuse Stage. All freshmen and transfers receive a \$25 credit toward ticket purchases at the beginning of each semester.