

The University of Michigan : a seasonal portrait / [design, Anne Duderstadt ; photographs, Jim Duderstadt ... et al.]

Ann Arbor, Mich. : The Millennium Project, c2005.

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*The University Of
Michigan*

A Seasonal Portrait

*Anne Duderstadt
Millennium Project
University of Michigan*

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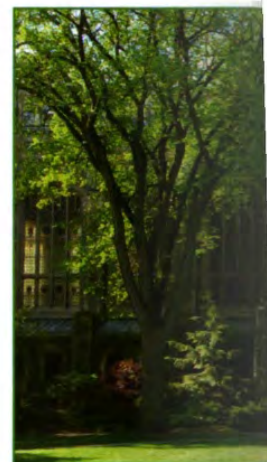
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Introduction

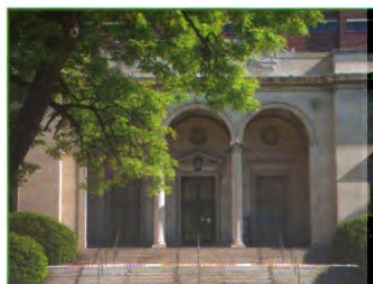
Our memories of the University of Michigan are frequently linked to the seasons. University life is shaped by the strongly seasonal character of Michigan's Great Lakes location. The campus comes to life in early fall, with returning students, alumni reunions, and traditions such as football weekends. Michigan winter forces activities inside as skies become overcast and Arctic winds bring frigid temperatures, snow, and ice. Although spring in good, gray Michigan is usually a short season, the first spring flowers and blooming trees are a hopeful sign that summer is near, and commencement is imminent. Summertime is quiet, the campus deserted, with few students and even fewer faculty. But university life is only dormant for a brief period, since a new generation of students will soon appear with the approaching fall, as the cycle of seasons begins anew.

This pictorial essay of campus life at the University of Michigan follows the seasons, from the fall excitement of new students and returning alumni, to serious academic duties of winter, to the pride of accomplishment symbolized by spring commencement, and finally to the quiet repose of summertime. Many of the images in this book are timeless. Others convey the ever changing character of a great university. Most will bring back memories.

The essay begins with a quiet campus in the hot doldrums of a Midwestern summer, awaiting the deluge of returning students and resumption of campus life.

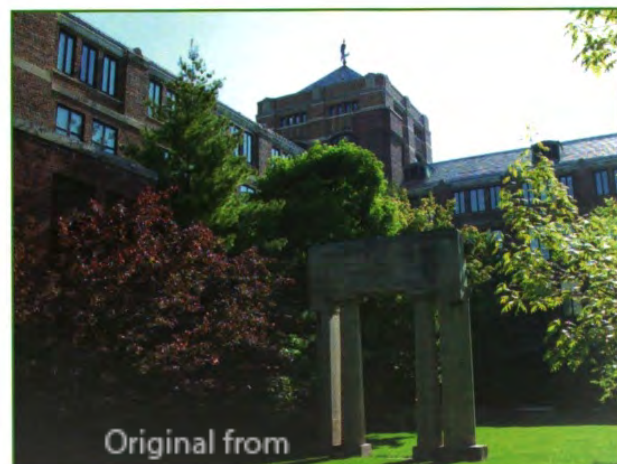
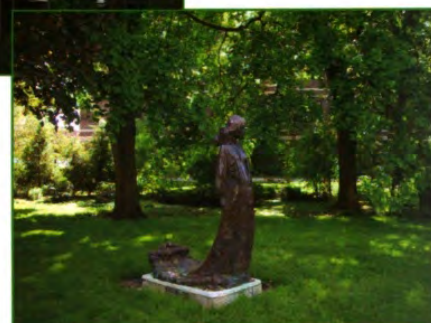
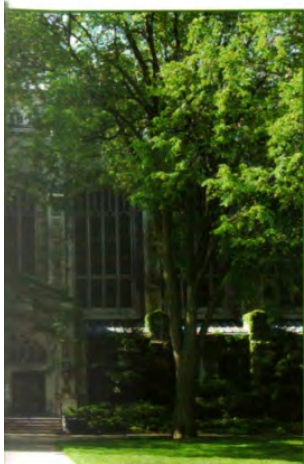


The Quiet Days of Summer



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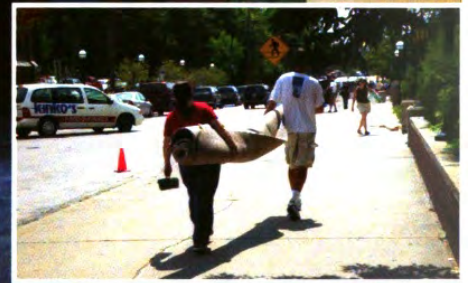
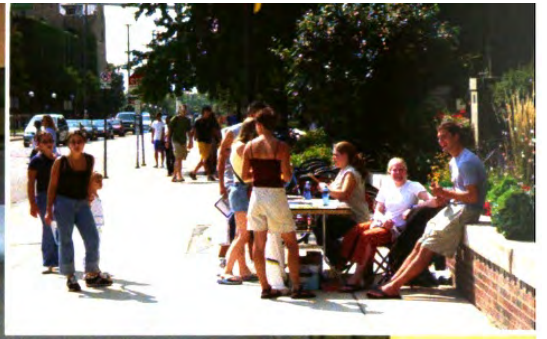
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The Great Drop-Off ...



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"Call if you need anything!..."

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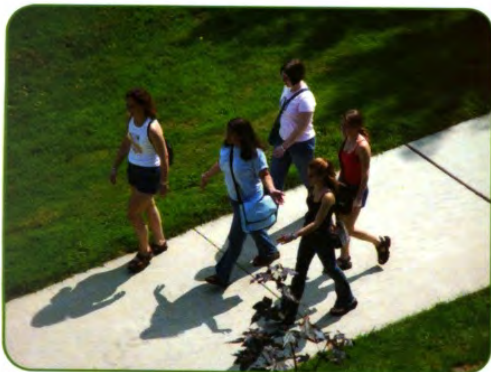
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New Places

New Friends



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New Beginnings



Michigan falls are glorious, with bright blue skies, the vibrant colors of the turning leaves, and moderate temperatures. The campus is characterized by excitement and optimism, with returning students and faculty, alumni reunions, and always the expectation of a winning football season and possibly a New Year's Day trip to Pasadena.

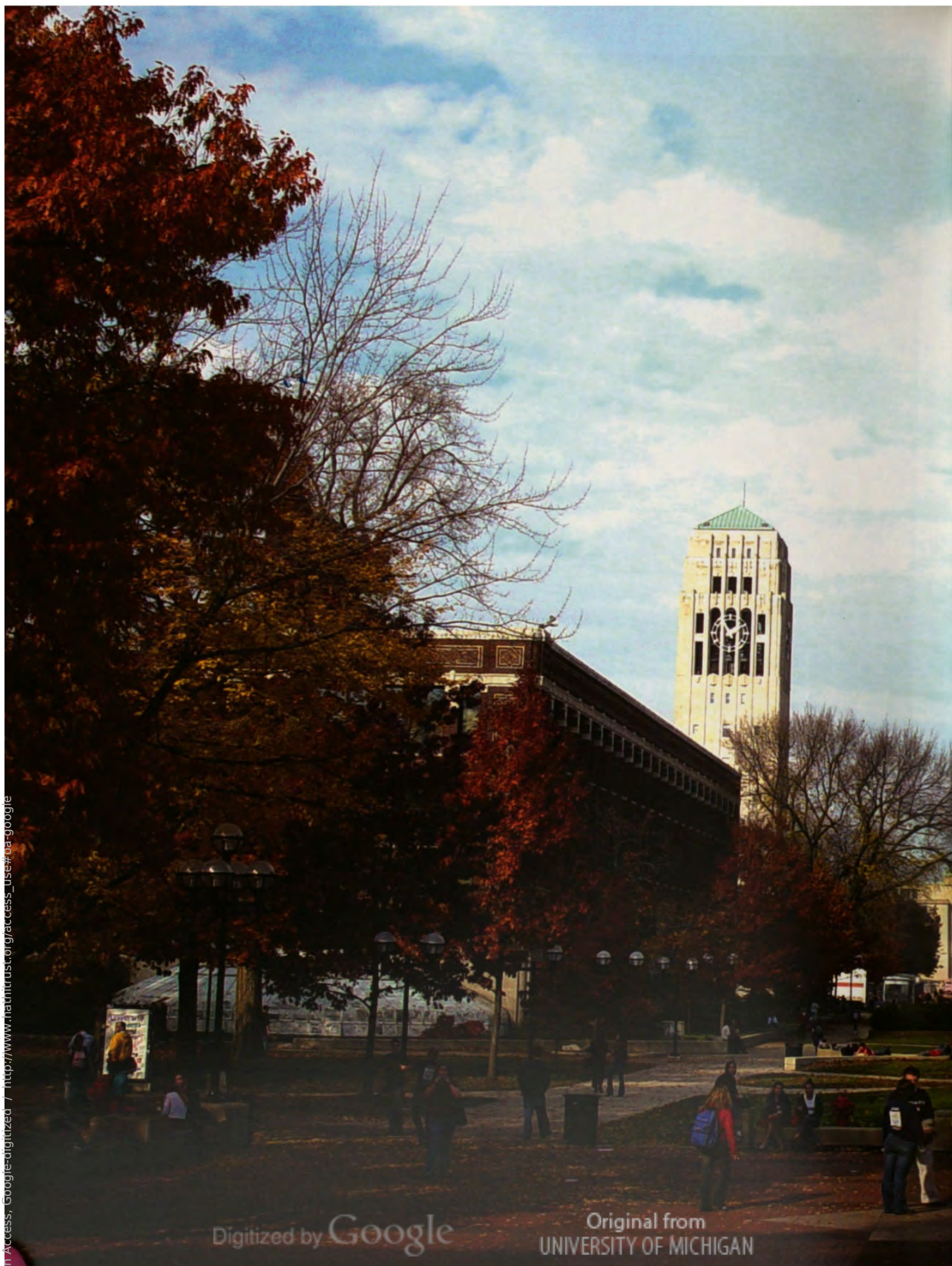
Fall is a time of beginning—new students, new faculty, and new activities. The calendar is crowded, with long-standing traditions such as football weekends, Homecoming, and fraternity and sorority rush. But with new students and faculty come new activities and opportunities. The pace is brisk and demanding, with little time to become oriented to the complexities both of the campus and the University's academic programs. There is little time to feel homesick. There are new friends to make, new classes to find, and new organizations to join.

Fall is also a time for visitors to the campus—returning alumni, campaigning politicians, world leaders, and even an occasional deity (e.g., the Dalai Lama). By the time the leaves have fallen, temperatures have dropped, and the holiday season arrives, the University is ready for a break.

Fall

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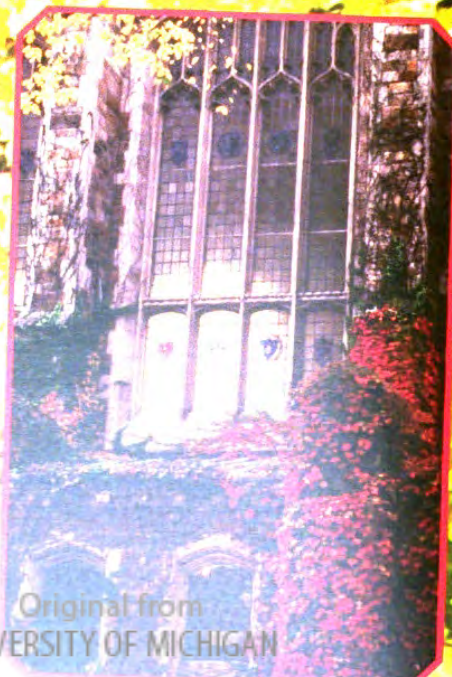
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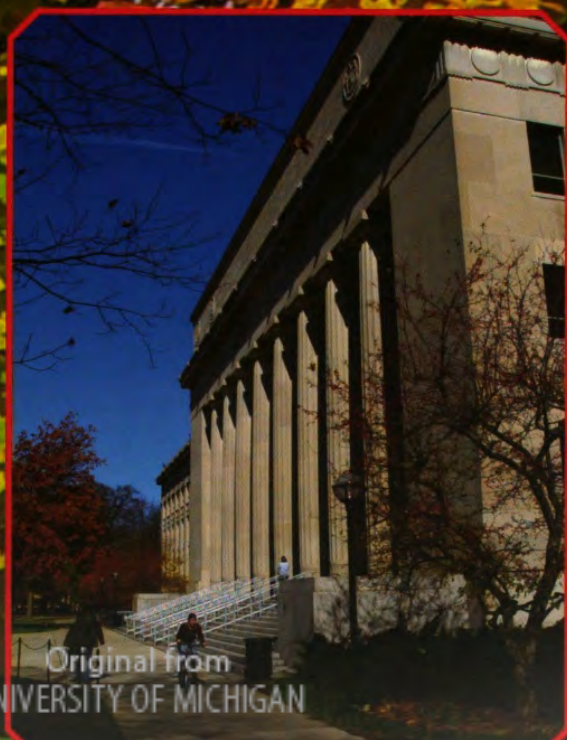
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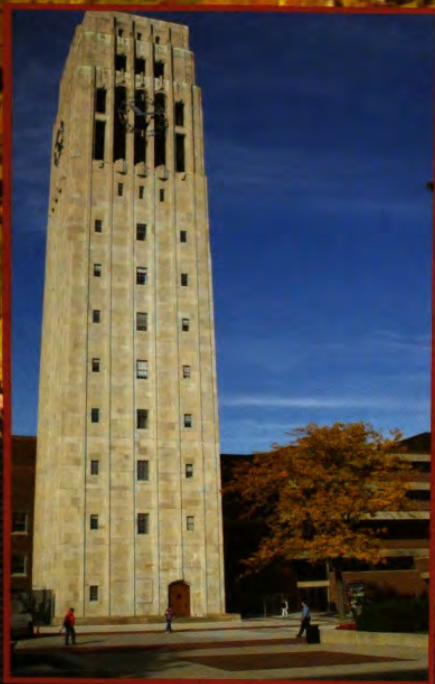
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Big Ten Championship Teams

Now for a cheer they are here, triumphant!
Here they come with banners flying,
In stalwart step they're marching, With shouts of victory crying,
We hur-rah, hur-rah, - we greet you now, Hail!



Far we their praises sing, For the glory and fame they've bro't us,
Loud let the bells them ring, For here they come with banners flying.
Far we their praises tell, For the glory and fame they've bro't us,
Loud let the bells them ring, For here they come with banners flying,
Here they come, Hur-rah!





Hail! to the victors valiant,
 Hail! to the conqu'ring heroes,
 Hail! Hail! to Michigan the leaders and best,
 Hail! to the victors valiant,
 Hail! to the conqu'ring heroes,
 Hail! Hail! to Michigan the champions of the West!

We cheer them again, We cheer and cheer again,
 For Michigan, We cheer for Michigan, We cheer with might and main,
 We cheer, cheer, cheer with might and main we cheer!



Hail! to the victors valiant,
 Hail! to the conqu'ring heroes,
 Hail! Hail! to Michigan the champions of the West!



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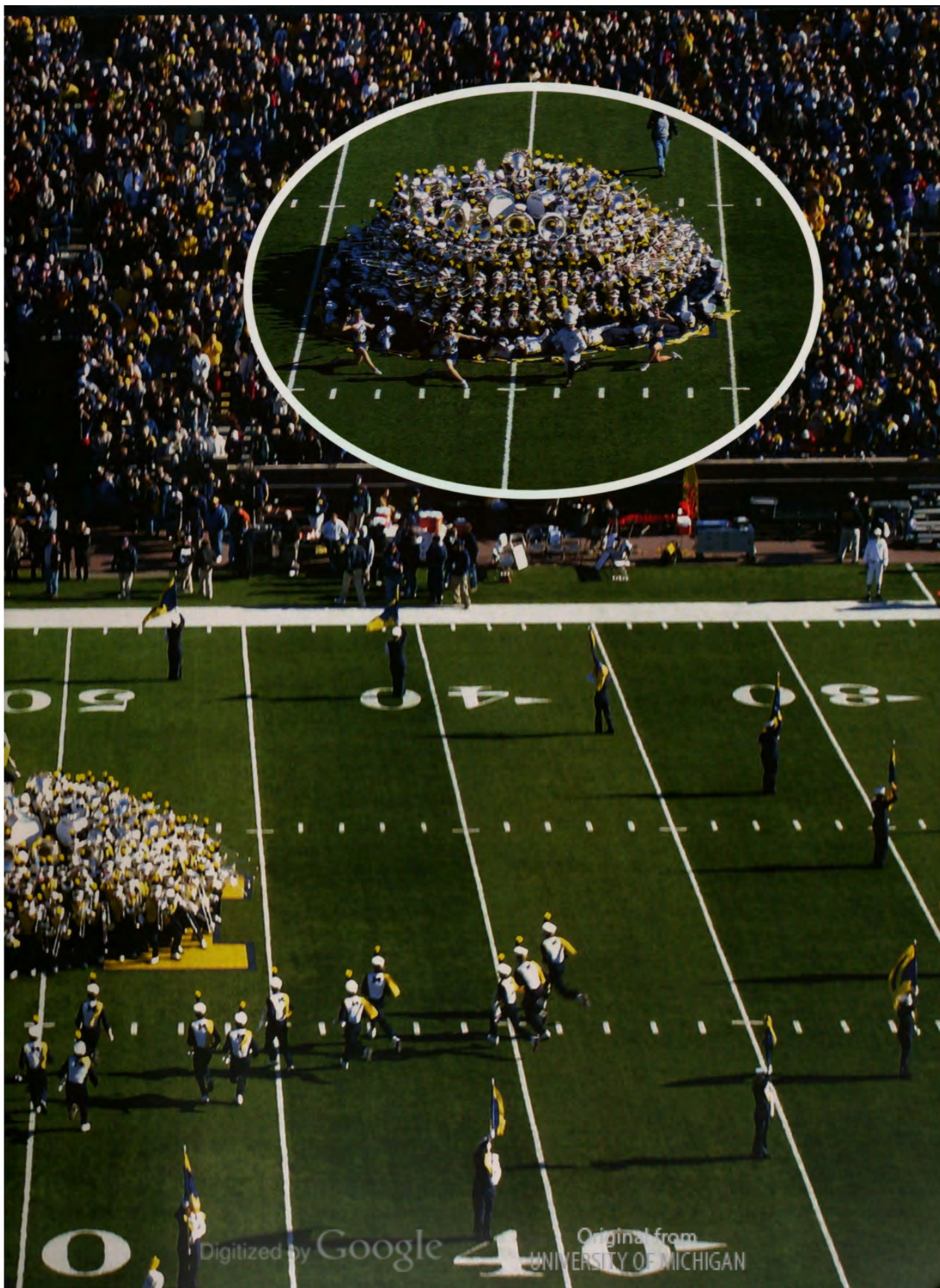
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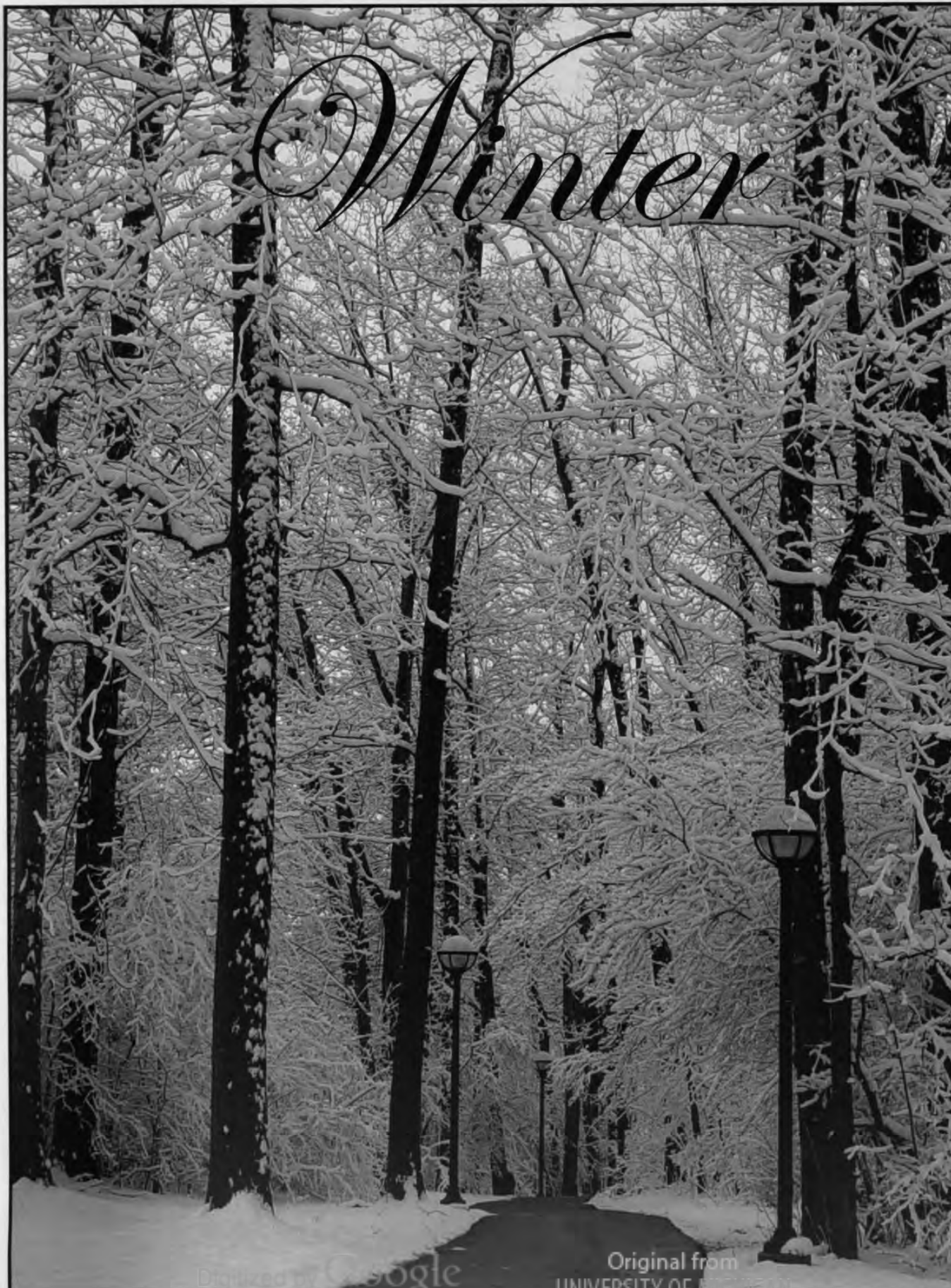
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Winters in Michigan can be harsh. The temperature usually drops below freezing by Thanksgiving and rarely surpasses this threshold again until March. Storms sweeping across the Great Lakes can be ferocious. But more typically, a Michigan winter is wet and overcast. The phrase "good, gray Michigan" is apt. It is just the kind of season when one wants to stay at home and curl up in front of a warm fire.

Yet when students and faculty return to campus after the holiday season, the focus is on serious matters: classes, research, and artistic projects. Winter days are short with darkness falling by mid-afternoon, and while the Great Lakes moderate the temperature, Ann Arbor is usually wet with overcast skies. Winter sports provide some distraction, but trudging through the snow to a basketball game or hockey match on a bitterly cold night can be a challenge.

To students, the challenge is to make it to spring break and perhaps an escape to warmer climates. To the faculty and staff, winter is a time for the work necessary to sustain the University of Michigan's reputation as one of the leading universities in the world.

Winter



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Winter

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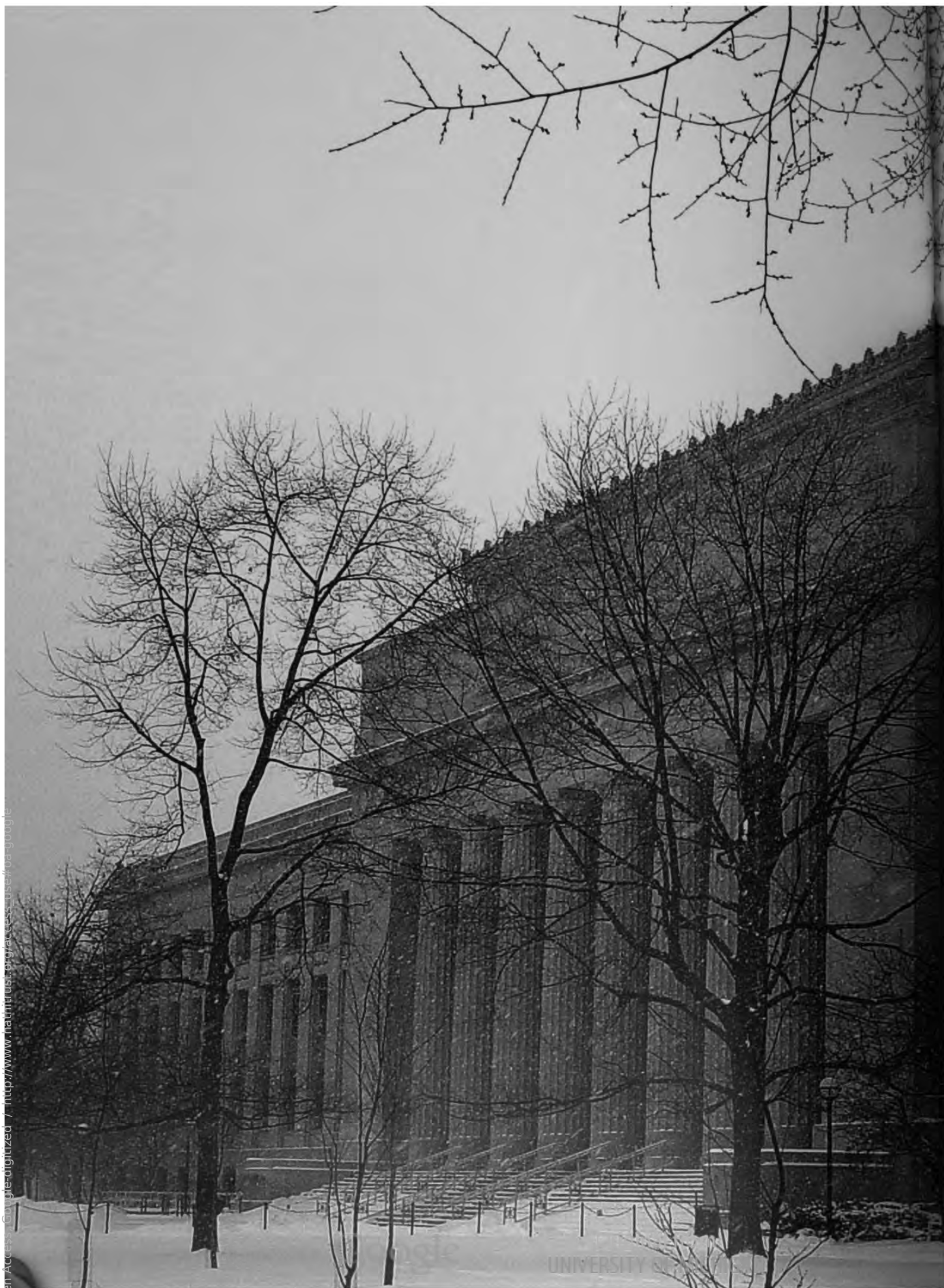
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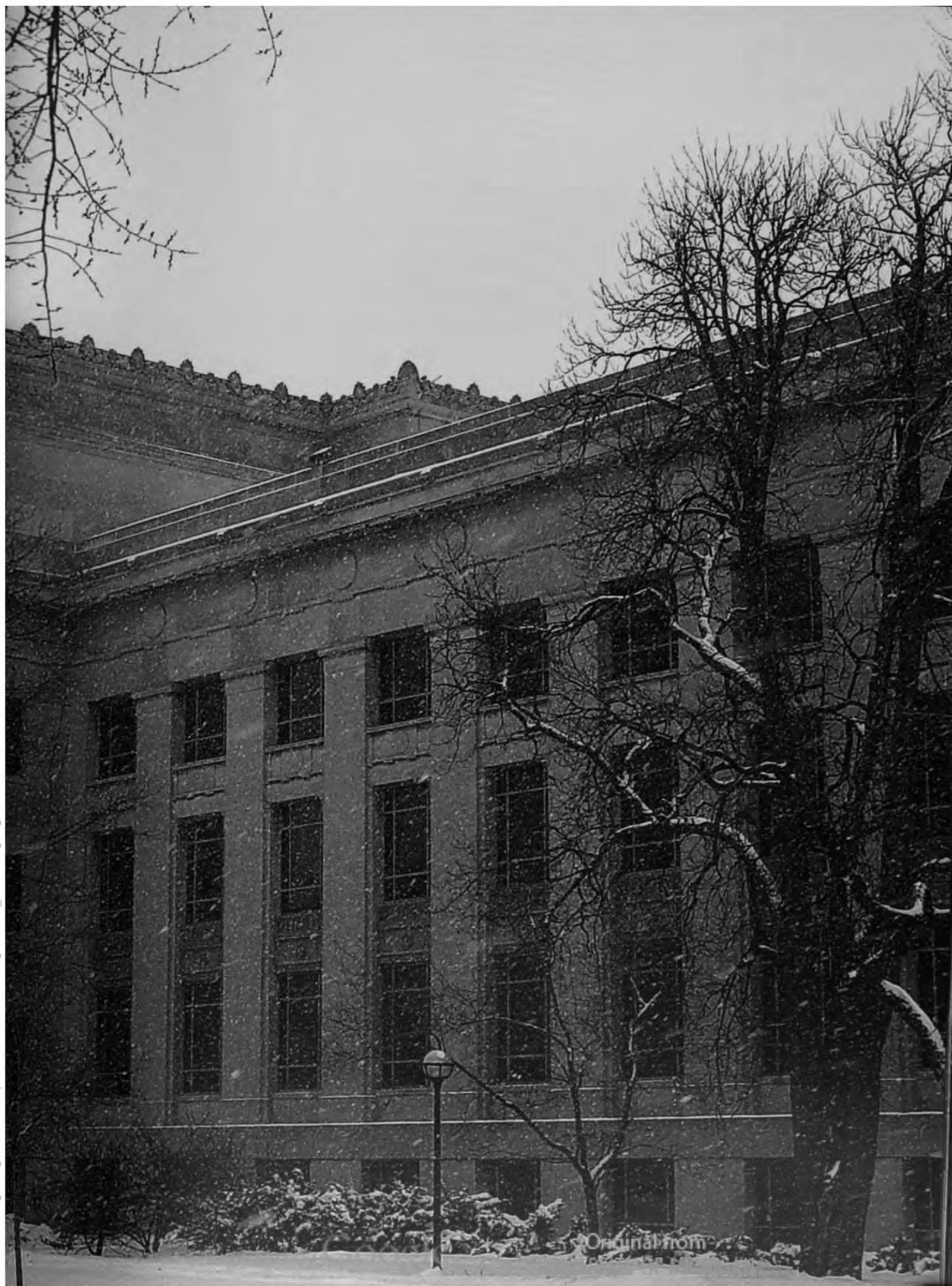


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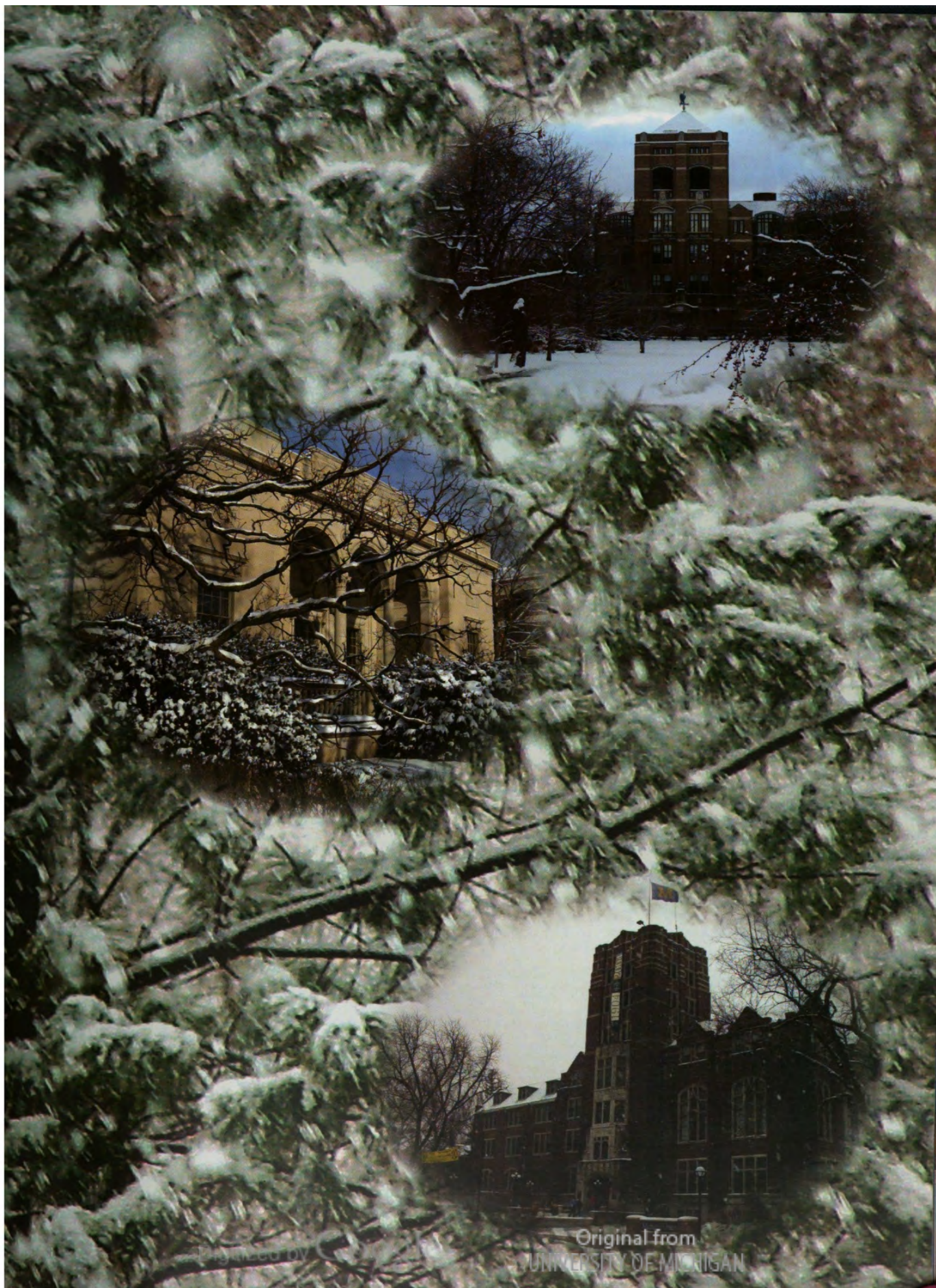


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Springtime in Michigan is a very brief season. In late April, the thermometer finally moves above freezing and then keeps right on going into the 70s and 80s, so that by early May, summer has arrived. All in the space of a few weeks, the tulips bloom, leaves appear on the trees, and students graduate and leave.

Hence, spring memories are few and brief. The University approaches spring with mixed enthusiasm. Certainly, the end of winter and the transition from gray slush to the first buds of trees and flowers is welcome. Yet, spring also signals the approaching end of the academic calendar, commencement, and the departure of students and faculty. And for many, it is a hectic season, when term papers must be completed, final exams passed, and for the faculty, funding proposals submitted.

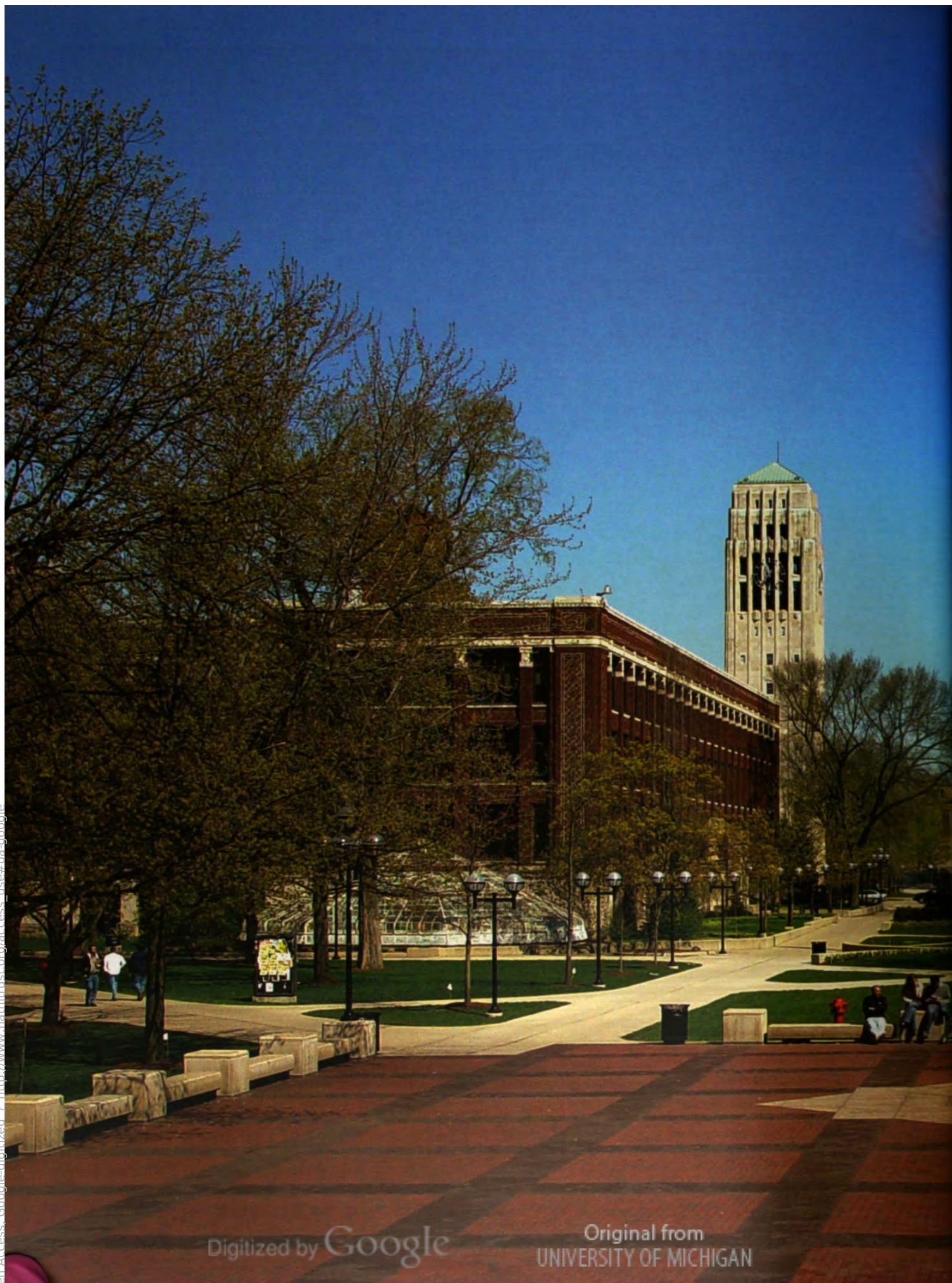
The parents swell with pride over their graduating sons and daughters and relief from college bills. Yet they soon face a college event even more traumatic than the Great Drop-off when they first bring their students to campus: when their offspring mention their intention to move back home until they decide what to do next.



Spring

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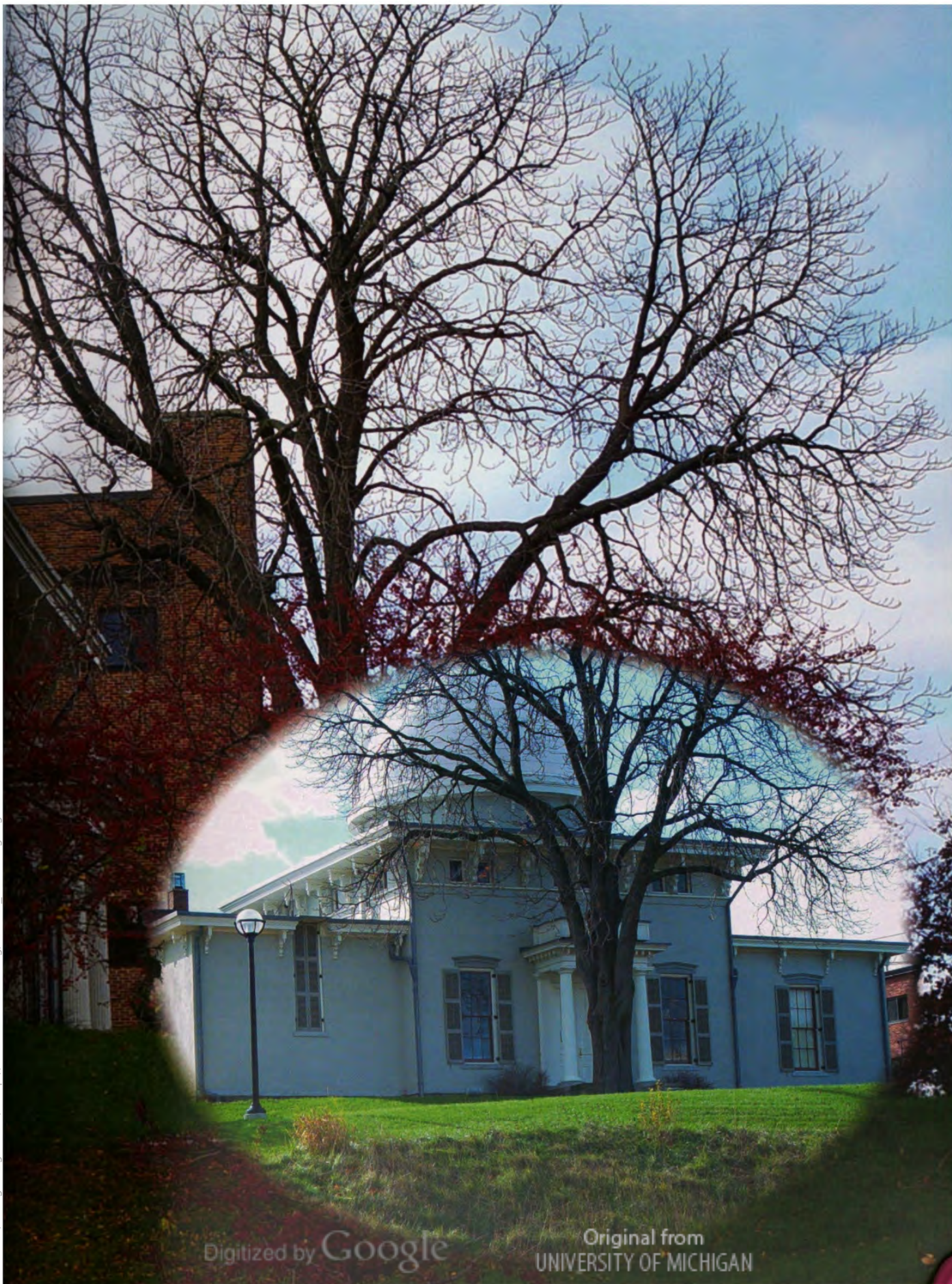
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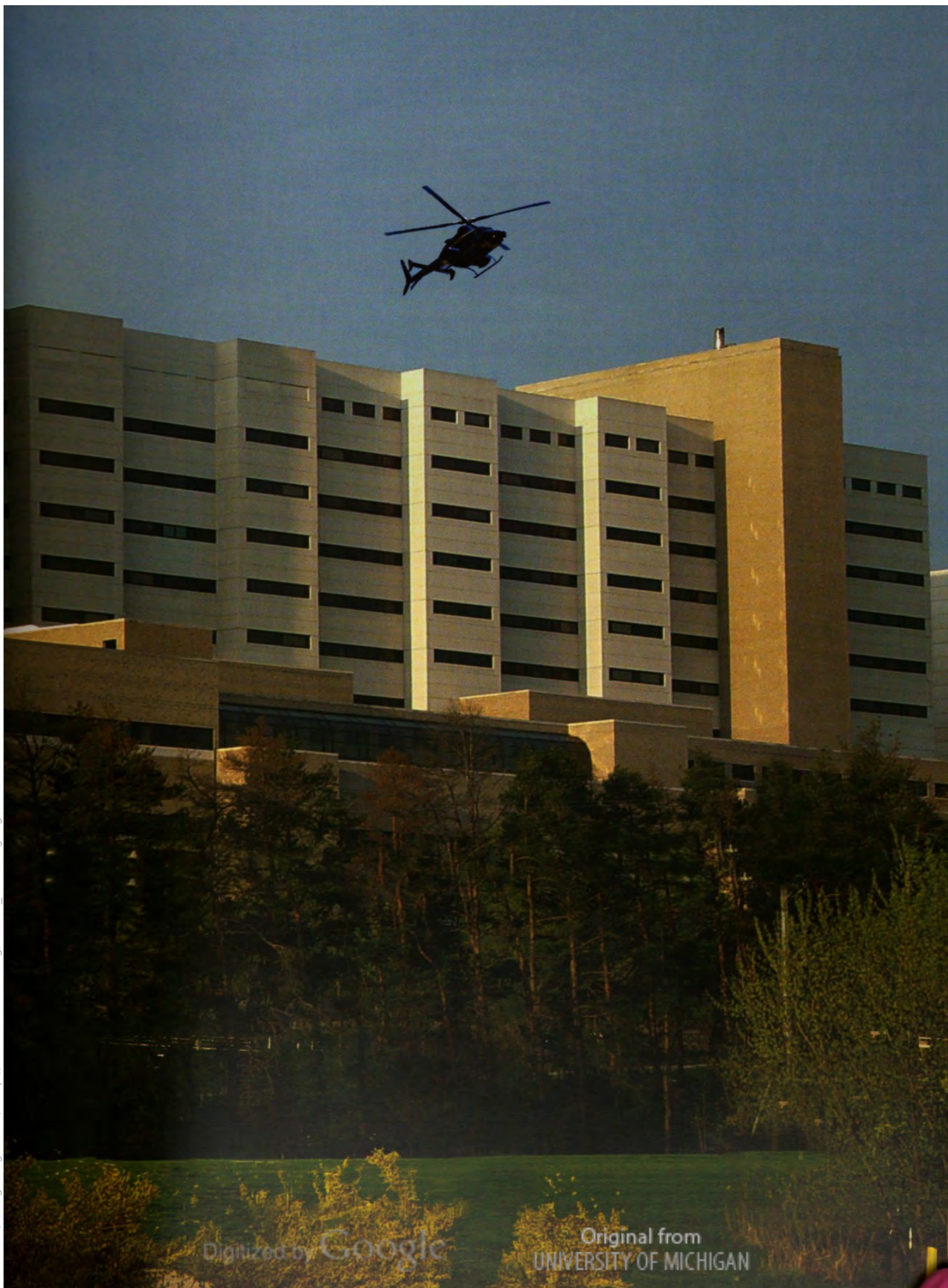
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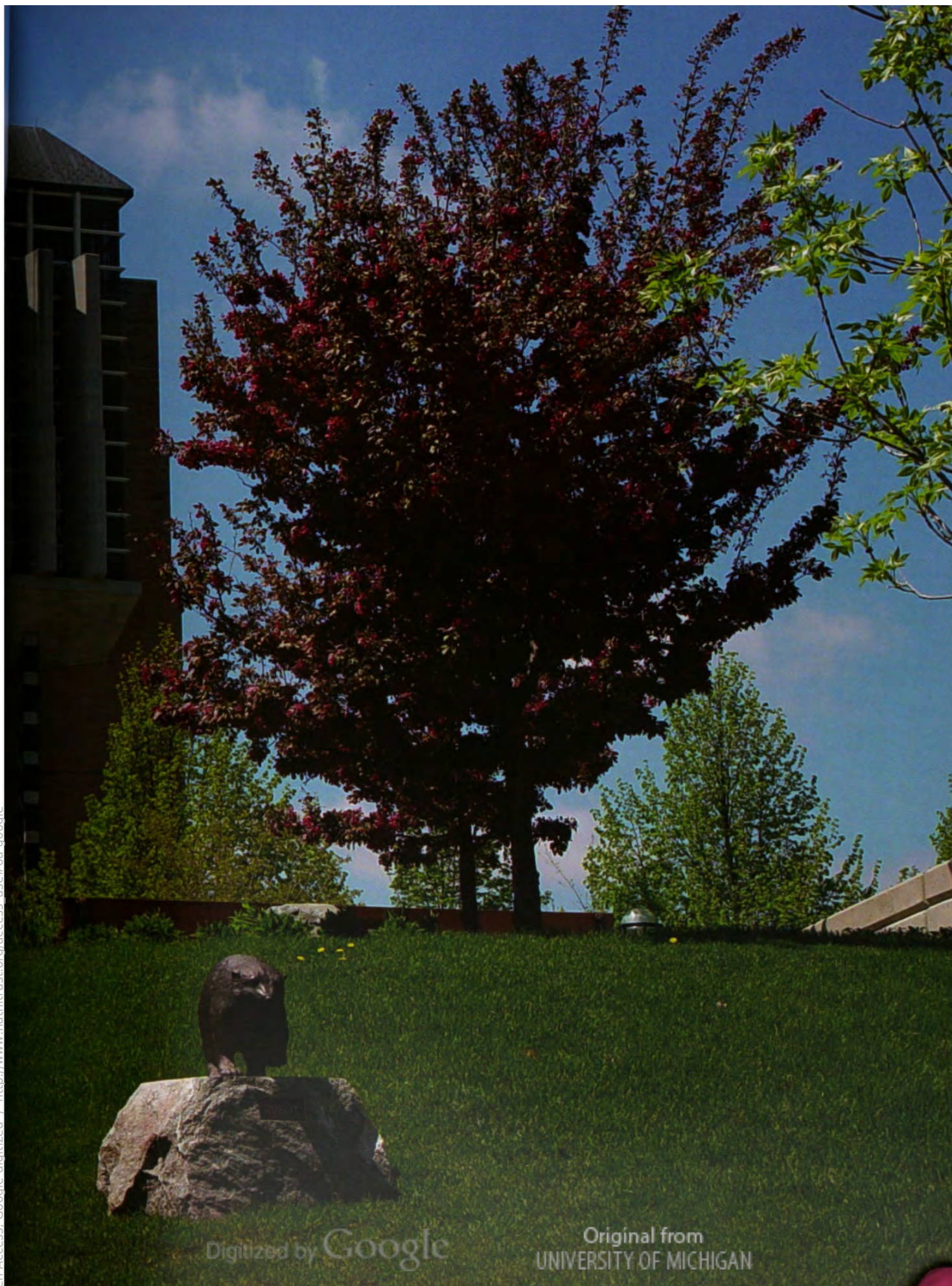
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Summer in Ann Arbor is a peaceful time. Most students have either graduated or returned home for summer vacation—or more typically, summer jobs. The faculty has scattered to the winds, traveling about the globe, combining scholarly work and traveling vacations. Even those students and faculty who stay in Ann Arbor to work on their research or take additional courses usually slow their pace a bit.

Yet, while relaxed, campus life in summertime is also rewarding. The Arb is green and lush, with peonies in bloom, and an occasional event such as a Shakespeare performance, or a Woodland Dance. The Botanical Gardens also provide a quiet place to enjoy nature trails and the colorful display of the various gardens. The Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair takes over the town in July when visitors from around the country enjoy the four-day event. Summer Camps for schoolgirls and boys are plentiful, from athletics to computers. And perhaps most significant, during August, the streets are quiet and one can actually find a place to park! Yet the calm is brief, since as September approaches, students return to claim their rentals, the faculty returns to prepare for fall classes, and the campus is active and alive, prepared for a new beginning.



Summer

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Nichols
Arboretum



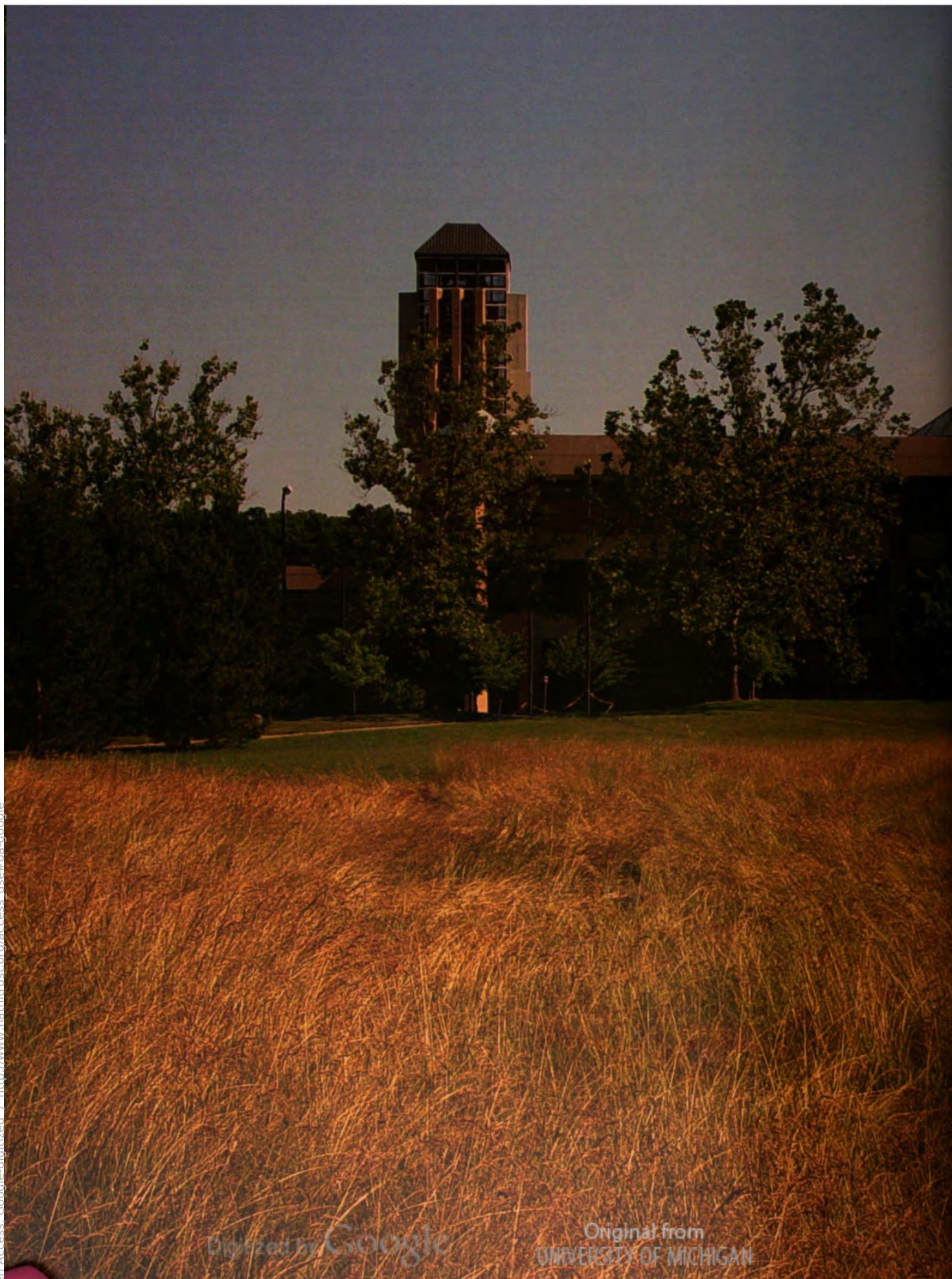
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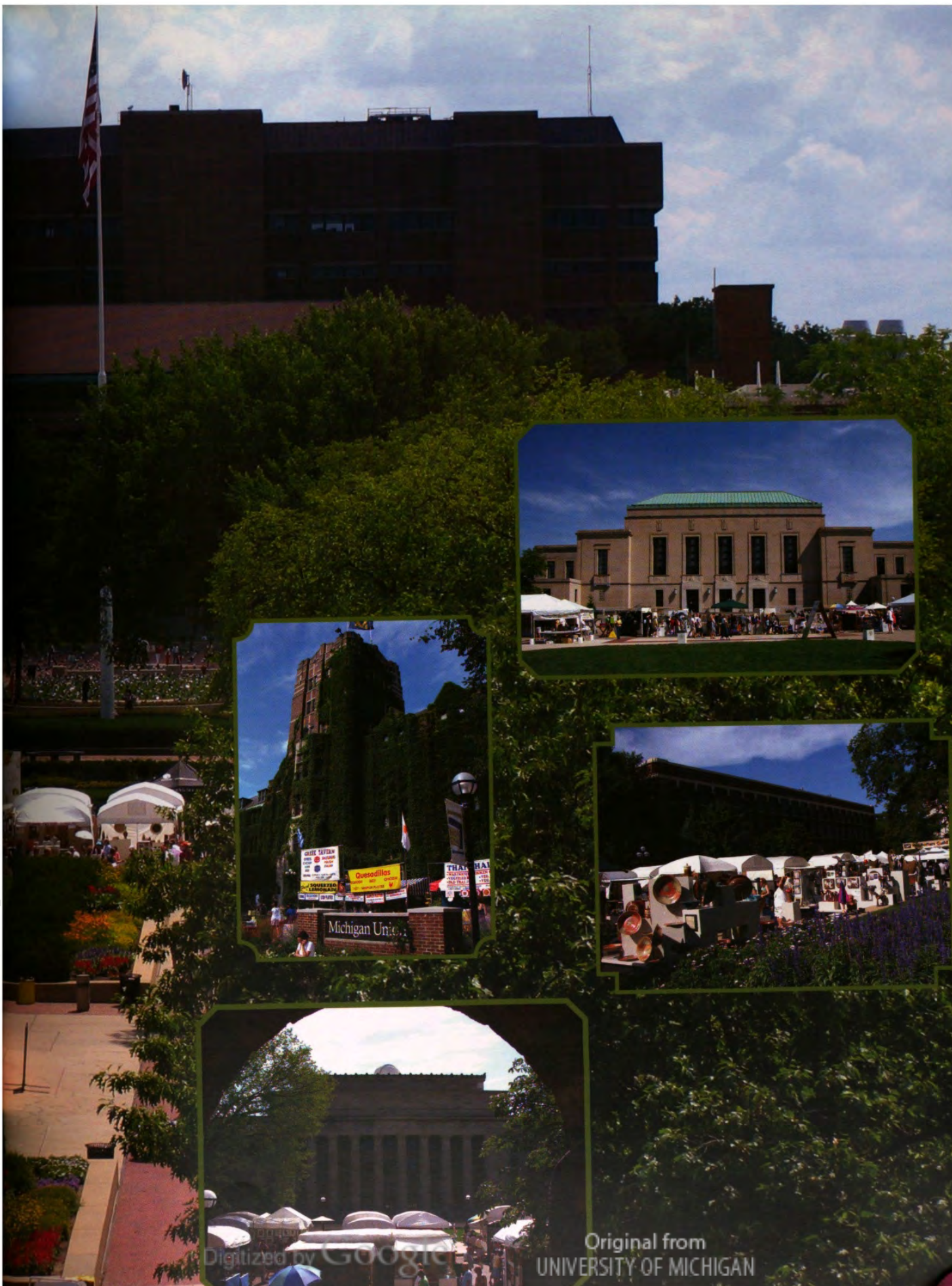
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Ann Arbor
Summer Art Fair



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Matthaei Botanical Gardens

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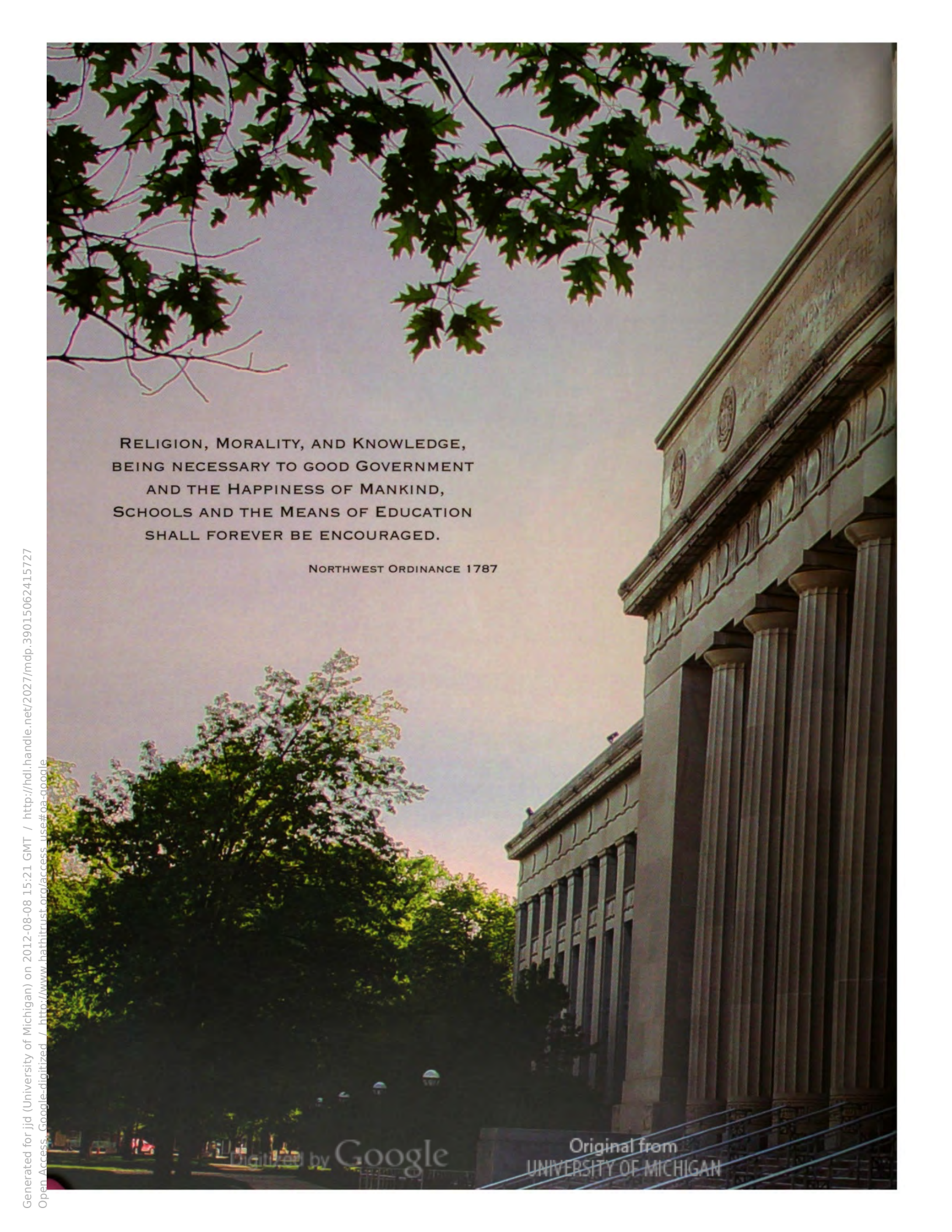




We're Next

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RELIGION, MORALITY, AND KNOWLEDGE,
BEING NECESSARY TO GOOD GOVERNMENT
AND THE HAPPINESS OF MANKIND,
SCHOOLS AND THE MEANS OF EDUCATION
SHALL FOREVER BE ENCOURAGED.

NORTHWEST ORDINANCE 1787

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