VISIONS

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE

▲ "THE EDUCATION SENATOR" ▲ HIGH STAKES ▲

▲ SOVIET SWITCH ▲ PROGRAMMING ETHICS ▲ SPRING 1990 ▲

THIS IS THE SIXTH IN A SERIES OF MESSAGES EXPLAINING THE MANY PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ISU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

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FRONT: SOPHOMORE KAREN HUNTER AND SENIOR LISA TICE.

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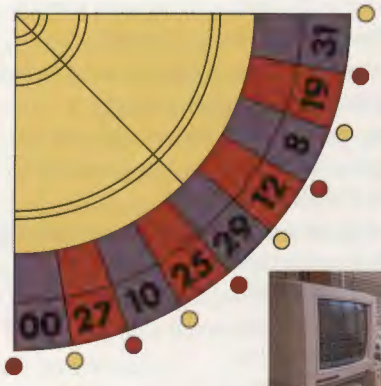
SPRING LINE UP 1990

VISIONS

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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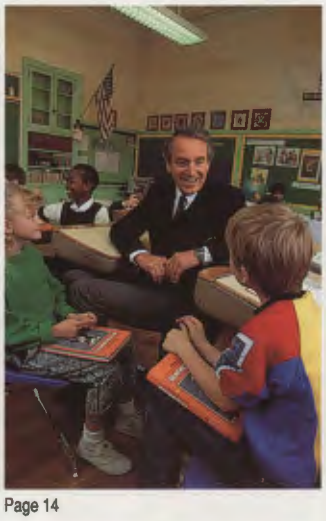

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Alumnus Tom Harkin hopes to influence two key U.S. Senate committees to pump more money into America's sputtering education system.

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What harm could a $1 lottery ticket cause? The state of Iowa has turned to sociologist Joe Hraba for answers.

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VISIONS is published four times a year—Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter—by the Iowa State University Alumni Association for its members. Copyrighted 1990 by the Iowa State University Alumni Association, James A. Hopson, '69, executive director. POSTMASTER: Send changes of add-ress to: VISIONS, Alumni Suite, Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011. Telephone (515) 294-6525.

Mistaken Identity

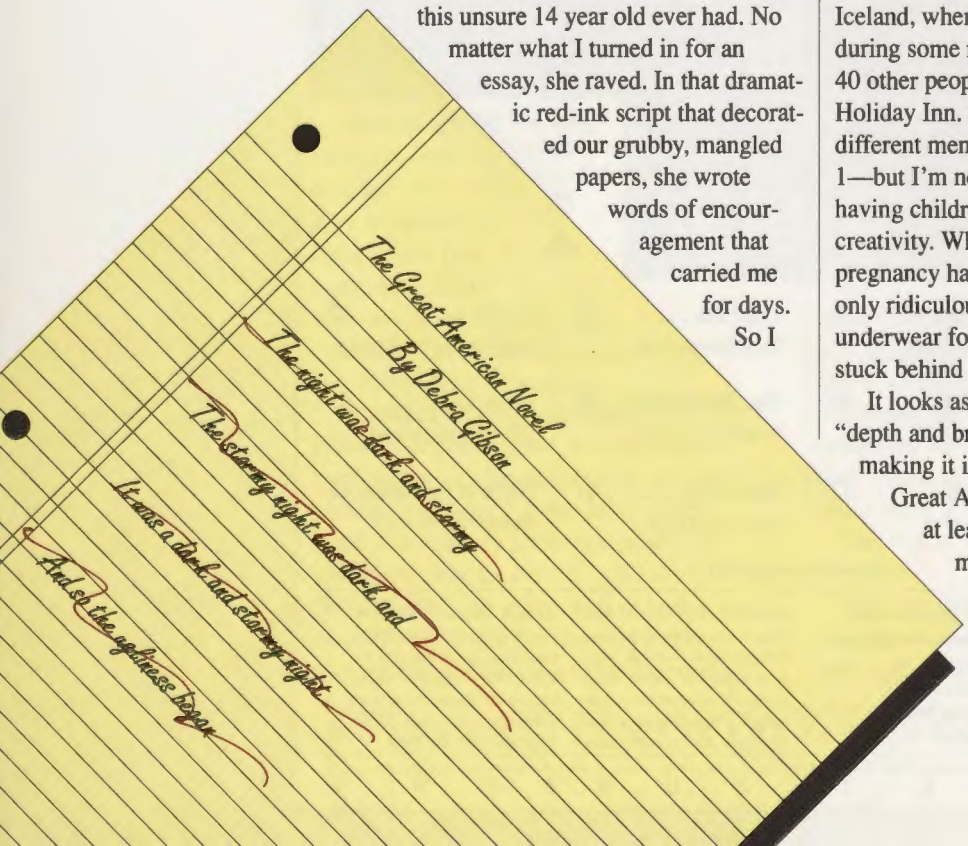
It's hard to be a Hemingway when you've known only the Cleavers

Actually, it was Mrs. Sorensen who convinced me that one day I would write the Great American Novel.

Back in junior high, you didn't question much of *anything* Mrs. Sorensen said—you just knew it was better to accept her knowledge of the subject than debate the issue. Not that she was difficult, just confident. And a far cry from any other teacher of English I've ever experienced.

She reigned over our classroom during the era of "Maude," the Bea Arthur character who rocked TV sets across America with her blunt talk, liberal convictions and dramatic sweep into any room. Mrs. Sorensen was our slightly refined Maude, right down to those oh-so-glamorous pantsuits with the matching calf-length jackets. She carried herself with the straight-backed, head-held-high posture that would impress any chiropractor, and when she walked into a room, all pubescent horseplay ended. Within seconds. She was an expressive storyteller dripping with panache and drop-dead-gorgeous diamonds, and she had a wonderful way of saying "Los Angeleese."

She was also the best cheerleader this unsure 14 year old ever had. No matter what I turned in for an essay, she raved. In that dramatic red-ink script that decorated our grubby, mangled papers, she wrote words of encouragement that carried me for days. So I grew up knowing that, yes, someday I would write the Great American Novel.



Well, since then, there've been high school and college and a career and a marriage and now a baby-to-be—not a lot of spare time to prepare for my debut on the bestseller list. But like the sweet anticipation tucked away in the brain about a month before every Christmas, pulling it out occasionally for just a quick savor, the "someday I'm gonna write the big one" idea has lingered.

Until I spent the past several weeks talking to, researching and scrutinizing two real-live novelists. And in the literary hierarchy of my mind, I've just been demoted into the bushest of bush leagues.

Jane Smiley and Fern Kupfer represent verifiable authors. They have book jackets flaunting their names in large, bold type. They have loquacious agents whose sentences beg to be accompanied by quote marks. They have reviews that contain words that don't even appear in my thesaurus. I mean, they even have their photos in People magazine.

And they have had life experiences unlike any I've ever even fantasized. Smiley spent months assisting with an archaeological dig in England. I once helped slip a grain elevator in Emmetsburg. She spent a year alone in Iceland, where it was dark 22 hours a day during some months. I went to Beijing with 40 other people and stayed in a brand-new Holiday Inn. She's tied the knot with three different men. I'm still with Bachelor No. 1—but I'm not complaining. She talks of how having children exposed her to new facets of creativity. Whenever I try to write about how pregnancy has changed me, I can conjure only ridiculous tales of trying on maternity underwear for the first time and of getting stuck behind the steering wheel of my car.

It looks as if I need to work on a little "depth and breadth" before I can dream of making it into the majors. I guess The Great American Novel will have to wait, at least so long as I know I've yet to meet any of life's real characters. Unless, of course, you count Mrs. Sorensen.

—Debra Gibson

LETTERS

For Safety's Sake

Dan Davenport's article, "A Stitch in Time" [Winter '90], provided the news this alumnus has been waiting for. I'm pleased ISU survived the inspection. I'm thrilled my program was spared. Of course, if I weren't an occupational safety graduate, I wouldn't know we survived. I wouldn't even know we were on the block. "[P]art of industrial education and technology" only confuses the issue, given the "Big Four" results which lists "dropping ISU's industrial education and technology program's teacher-certification track."

ISU's occupational safety program is a small, but nationally recognized, part of the department. We produce award-winning graduates year after year. We fought for survival three times in the last five years. We won. I'm sorry that the teacher education program was killed; I'm disgusted that your report doesn't even mention the part of IEd&T which was saved.

Check it out. Safety Education is the best-kept secret on campus.

Keri Holmes, '89
Highland, Indiana

Saint Louie

Dan Davenport's article in the Winter 1990 issue of VISIONS ["Whoo, Coach!"] might well have been titled, "The Deification of Johnny Orr." I'm glad Orr is so popular and that Cyclone teams have been playing before record crowds, but I question inferences—by both the coach and the writer—that Iowa State was a basketball wasteland before Orr's arrival.

Orr has done well, but he has wrought no miracles in his decade at ISU. There have been no conference championships. Few of his teams have been nationally ranked. Iowa U. seems to get its share of the top 100 rated recruits each year, but ISU almost never lands one of these blue-chippers. Orr's winning percentage for his 10 years at Iowa State is a bit over the break-even level of .500, but no doubt would be lower if you eliminated mismatch wins over rivals in lower divisions of the NCAA.

Although the reader might doubt it after perusing Davenport's puff piece, Iowa State has had other basketball coaches. One of them, Louis E. Menze, a quiet and modest man, apparently would have offered quite a personality contrast to the Johnny Orr depicted in the article as an ego-driven man given to braggadocio and lusting to be governor. Iowa State has won or shared four conference basketball championships, winning outright in 1935 and 1945, and tying with Kansas in 1941 and with Oklahoma in 1944. The coach who won all these titles? Louie Menze. Orr really hasn't come close to the crown.

The author says the greatest players in ISU court history came in 1985 and later years. I would argue that four bona fide All-Americans —Waldo Wegner (1934-35), Jack Flemming (1937), Gary Thompson (1957) and Don Smith (1967)—probably were just as outstanding and even more highly regarded in their day.

The purpose of this communication is to demonstrate that there really was life before Johnny Orr. It is not intended to just pit Louie Menze against Johnny Orr, for each has been a legend in his own time, and we all wish the very best for Orr and the Cyclone teams. I would suggest, however, that our great university may not have accorded Louie Menze his rightful place in Cyclone sports history.

Frank R. Hood, '35
Fairfax, Virginia

Bruising the Big Apple

After reading your absolutely delightful "Lost Weekend" piece in the Winter 1990 edition of VISIONS, I am really moved to discover that the great Iowan pastime of "New York City bashing" remains alive and well. How refreshing! Just when I thought it was safe to read a magazine or newspaper from Iowa without constantly being reminded of some traveler's misadventures in the "evil city," here we go again. As I recall, traveling through Iowa (-80 degree windchill, snowbanks, arctic blasts, cornfield after cornfield after cornfield) could prove challenging and time-consuming as well.

Please save this stuff for letters home. I know it sells, but not at my house.

Dwight Dinsmore, M.S. '81
Hamilton, Ohio

Environmental Vision

I appreciate all the hard work you put into VISIONS. It's very professional.

I have a concern about printing the magazine on glossy paper. This paper is very difficult, if not impossible, to recycle. I am aware of the strain on our landfill dumps. What's the possibility of printing VISIONS on recycled paper?

Dawn Ashbacher, '88
Iowa City, Iowa

Graduation Consideration

This note is inspired by the recent NCAA meeting in neighboring Dallas and by one of the main topics discussed during it—the graduation rate of varsity athletes in different sports over the past five years at several universities. This would seem to me to be a proper subject for a feature story in VISIONS, as it affects Iowa State. Surely there are innumerable Cyclone alumni who are very much interested in this matter and who don't have access to the facts.

I have coffee nearly every morning with a "poly-glot" group of middle-aged and elderly males, every one of whom expresses interest in graduation rates at various universities whenever the subject comes up, which is surprisingly often. So please give this some consideration and be assured that I'm one guy who looks forward to your every issue.

As an afterthought let me express my hope that our varsity athletes get better grades than I did at ISU.

Allen "Stretch" Kilborn, '38
Richardson, Texas

SHOWING JUST CAUSE

Committee on Equality bridges cultures to abolish hate crimes

A young man is assaulted in downtown Ames.

A young woman repeatedly receives harassing phone calls, then is assaulted in an Iowa State dormitory shower.

Unfortunate, yet unrelated, events? Maybe. But consider that the man was a Native American who earlier had been taunted about his race. Consider that the woman was black, and that the phone calls had included racial slurs.

Suddenly the incidents don't seem so unrelated. Suddenly they take on a new, frightening identity: Hate crimes. And suddenly ISU students and administrators are working to put a stop to them.

That work boldly surfaced last Dec. 6 when a fledgling group calling itself the Committee on Equality led a march on Beardshear Hall to protest hate crimes. The committee defines hate crimes as those prompted by the victim's race, nationality or sexual orientation.

Not only have Iowa State administrators met with the group in roundtable discussions that included city of Ames officials, but they publicly have given their support. And more importantly, they have vowed action.

"We needed to bring this out in the open because we don't want this to become a polarized campus," said Bamshad Mobasher, a computer science graduate student from Iran and a committee member. "We needed to make the community know this won't be tolerated. [ISU] has realized this, and has shown that it also is concerned."

Though administrators often are criticized for allowing such pleas to become awash in bureaucracy, ISU President Gordon Eaton has been a forceful proponent of the committee. In January he said the university must "go on a more vigilant alert to deal with the issue this semester."

The approximately 20 members of the committee have identified several of their most critical goals:

▲ to change crime reporting forms to address potential hate crimes. Forms currently used offer victims no opportunity to identify a possible hate crime. If forms allow victims to specify that potential, law officers would be better prepared to investigate such crimes. A U.S. Justice Department official distributed a sample form at the organization's January roundtable discussion;

▲ to establish a university hotline to report hate crimes, and

▲ to determine Iowa State's official definition of hate crimes, then publicize it in ISU student materials. The committee also said the university must establish a punishment for those committing such crimes.

"It would have been very easy for students to get mad, to rant and rave," said Ames Police Chief Dennis Ballantine, whose department has joined ISU Security officers in attending the discussions. "But they haven't. They've brought the parties together. That approach has gotten a lot more action."

Said Thomas Thielen, ISU's vice president for student affairs: "This group has given the university community the opportunity to openly discuss this issue, to give it media coverage and get things started. For that they should be applauded."

While hate crime is the committee's top current issue, it hardly is its only concern. With the university receiving state funds to increase minority recruitment, members say ISU has a responsibility to work to bridge cultural gaps.

"This effort came out of the grassroots,"

Committee on Equality: Front: Teresa Ann Taylor, Abram Morodi and Mark Washington. Middle: Marcus Tillery, Jeff Weiss and Lisa Beiwel. Top: Tangela Jones, Paul Stucky, Abayomi Iyewarun, Bamshad Mobasher, Bjorn Stevens and Mary Tandia.

Mobasher said. "People have come out of the woodwork to say they want to make things better."

Said Andrea Linville, a freshman animal ecology major and a committee member: "You have African Americans in their groups, women in theirs and other people in theirs, but nothing to bring them together. We need a support system to integrate all these people. Our name says what we're working for: Equality."

VISIONS wins district competition awards

In its second year of publication, VISIONS magazine helped Iowa State University capture one of only two Communications Sweepstakes Awards in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VI competition.

The magazine also won second place for the second consecutive year in the overall magazine division, as well as six individual awards. Editor Debra Gibson won a third-place award in the feature writing category for "Gray Matter" (Winter 1989). Art director Daniel L. Reeder won a second-place award for cover design. VISIONS was presented four photography awards: First place, series of photos: Earl Richardson, "Shaping Fire" (Spring 1989); second place, news/sports: Edward McCain, "Rising Sun" (Spring 1989); third place, news/sports: Gary Clarke, "No Fair Weather Team" (Spring 1989); and third place, feature/personality: Jim Gensheimer, "The Road Not Taken" (Fall 1988).

Marketing students 3rd in national competition

A team of four Iowa State students finished in third place in a national marketing contest sponsored by Lands' End, one of the nation's top mail-order corporations.

The ISU group was one of three finalists out of 102 teams entering the clothing company's "Big Idea" College Competition.

Front row: Scott McNab, Prof. John Wong and Russ Wittkop. Top row: Alonzo Brown, Prof. Sridhar Ramaswami and John Cole.

Marketing majors Scott Cole, Scott McNab and Alonzo Brown, along with journalism major Russ Wittkop, then competed in the finals Feb. 1 at the company's Dodgeville, Wis., headquarters.

Entrants were instructed to develop plans to help Lands' End "build a relationship with collegiate America." The ISU team concentrated on traditional marketing methods like advertising, catalogs and promotions, as well as campus case studies and lectures. The group sought to familiarize students with Lands' End and its products, hoping they would patronize the company after graduation.

"This helps students see that the outside world is not easy," said marketing Professor Sridhar Ramaswami, the group's faculty adviser. "They learned that it's a tremendous amount of hard work just to develop basic plans."

Ramaswami said the four will receive academic credit equivalent to a full semester class. Lands' End gave ISU's group a three-day trip to visit its Midwest facilities in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana, and gave all three teams $1,000 each for their schools' faculty development funds.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported in VISIONS' Winter 1990 cover story ("A Stitch In Time") that 302 students are in the teacher-certification track of the College of Education's industrial education and technology program. There are 302 students in the entire program; 20 students are in the teacher-certification track. VISIONS regrets the error.

NEWS BRIEFS

SO FINE The College of Design will add a master of fine arts degree as early as this fall. About 20 people are expected to pursue the degree the first year. Although the State Board of Regents originally wasn't receptive to the new program, consultants hired during the 1989 Peat Marwick Main and Co. audit recommended the addition.

ARMS CONTROL (CONT.) Just months after losing his battle to arm ISU Security officers, security chief Joseph Wehner resigned to accept a similar position at Ball State University — which allows its officers to carry guns. In June 1989, the State Board of Regents ruled that ISU Security officers should not be armed (VISIONS, Fall 1989). Wehner said the issue was a main factor in his decision to leave Iowa State. Hal Farrier, formerly head of the Iowa Department of Corrections, is serving as interim chief.

ENDANGERED CLINIC The Iowa State veterinary clinic established to save injured wildlife has contracted some ailments of its own. Because of dwindling donations, people bringing injured wildlife to the Wildlife Care Center now are being asked to make donations for the treatment. Veterinary students have been pursuing fund-raising possibilities, but director Kathryn Owen said a lack of money has forced clinic employees to perform euthanasia on some seriously injured animals. The clinic, which operates on about $25,000 annually, cares for about 50 animals, mostly birds, each year. It relies on volunteer student work.

BUILDING PLANS College of Engineering officials are studying ways to fund construction of a $55 million building that would be the biggest on the ISU campus. The main thrust behind the building is the need for classrooms that take advantage of existing technology like video disc libraries, computer graphics simulation and "artificial intelligence" systems. As one engineering college official said, "chalk, blackboards and overhead projectors aren't enough any more. We need to better use existing technology." The building would be dependent on state and federal funding, as well as alumni and corporate support.

Ethics and the Engineer

JIM HEEMSTRA

Kathleen Waggoner, Kenneth Brewer and T. Al Austin want to prepare engineers for everyday ethical challenges.

A survey conducted recently by an international public relations firm uncovered rather unsettling data about the future of America's ethics in business. As reported in Newsweek, 40 percent of high school seniors responded that they would accept a gift from a supplier worth more than $100; 23 percent said they would have no qualms about accepting $500 in cash; 32 percent would accept a free vacation and 66 percent would lie to achieve a business objective.

Sounds as if those kids need T. Al Austin, Kenneth Brewer and Kathleen Waggoner.

The three civil engineering faculty members have spent the past few years working diligently to promote the study of ethics in engineering at Iowa State. Their interests were spurred by their own personal encounters outside the classrooms as engineers, consultants and attorneys.

"I had some experiences in practice where I saw things that bothered me," Austin says. "Often, it's a matter of letting your economic interests become so overwhelming that you might compromise good engineering standards to get the job done on budget and on time. You begin to realize that not only is the client not getting the quality of engineering services deserved, but the public safety may be threatened as well. I soon realized that in my own education, I had no real exposure to these issues."

Computer programs help students determine where to draw the line

They are issues that can go well beyond feeling guilty about pushing ahead schedules or using inferior materials. Roger Boisjoly, project engineer for the Challenger spacecraft, beseeched NASA to postpone its January 1986 launch due to his uneasiness about the safety of the craft. Obviously, his pleas were disregarded, and seven astronauts were killed in that explosion. A poorly constructed walkway at Kansas City's Hyatt Regency collapsed in 1981, killing 114, victims of a project being built on a too-tight deadline.

Even though the American Society of Civil Engineers maintains and promotes its code of ethics, Austin and Brewer both felt more exposure to potential situations was needed in the classroom. The two teamed up with Waggoner, who had been studying the relationships among technology, society and the law while attending law school. Along with input from philosophy and law professors and a start-up grant from the National Science Foundation, they created a computer program that simulates a variety of scenarios an engineer may expect to face in the workplace.

"Rather than tell the students, 'This is the decision you should make,' we're asking them what other information they think they need to make better engineering decisions," Waggoner explains. "We have left it up to the students to seek out as much information as they determine they need, and then judge what of that information is reliable."

"The program is scenario-based," Austin continues, "and the idea is to help sensitize them to where they draw the line when their engineering judgment is influenced. We're trying to get our students to engage in critical thinking now so that they'll be better prepared when they do encounter these situations in their practices."

The program guides students through a series of "what-if" situations. For example, an engineer is offered inexpensive gifts by a contractor. Over time, he or she is offered a car by that same contractor, or a week's vacation in an exclusive condominium. Where does it stop?

"It's easy to get put in a compromising situation when you haven't thought ahead of time of the potential consequences," Brewer says. "We try to stress to the students that it's the way you make the little decisions that creates an expectation in other people of how you're going to decide the big ones."

The trio is hopeful that the NSF will provide further grant money for them to expand the model to create programs for disciplines other than civil engineering, models that could be distributed nationwide. They also have been instrumental in organizing regional professional conferences dealing with ethics in engineering.

"Most of the engineers we deal with here are not going to be involved in Challenger-type disasters," Waggoner says. "But how serious a problem does it have to be before the ethical implications are addressed?"

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Symphonic Success

The Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor had a rigorous game of touch football and a sore back to show for his trip to Ames. AIOFA was to thank.

A New York Philharmonic french horn player has quit counting the golf balls he's lost at Iowa State's Veenker Golf Course. His comment? "Thanks a lot, AIOFA."

Chicago Symphony's Varujan Kojian

Hundreds of the world's most talented musicians have issued similar utterances after being drawn to Ames and ISU by the Ames International Orchestra Festival Association. From its breathtaking Iowa State Center opening with the New York Philharmonic in 1969 to that prestigious orchestra's fifth visit last summer, AIOFA has enjoyed a smashing 20-year run. Every major U.S. symphony—and many from around the world—has performed at C.Y. Stephens Auditorium.

Why? Most notably, the acronym's fourth letter: F. *Festival*. Instead of blowing into town one night, performing the next and making fast tracks, musicians often stay longer, their every whim addressed by AIOFA's guild. "In how we offer them a good time," says president Debbie Gitchell, "we are one of a kind."

That Boston conductor-turned-football star had too good a time; he wrenched his back and had to conduct sitting down. Aubrey Facenda, a New York Philharmonic horn player, always schedules a Veenker golf outing. Others borrow bicycles, check out local shoe sales or take farm tours. While riding with a busload of Cleveland Symphony members from Des Moines to Ames, Gitchell elicited questions. "Is Mr. B's still downtown?" was the first, from a musician hoping to revisit a now-defunct strip joint. "Ames is an adopted home for many musicians," Facenda says. "It's our favorite, because it just opens up for us."

It's opened up for the best: New York Philharmonic. Los Angeles Philharmonic. London Symphony Orchestra. Czech Philharmonic. Arthur Fiedler. Leonard Bernstein. Simon Estes. Benny Goodman. Twenty-two symphonies have made 40 stops; Philadelphia and New York boast five each. "We'll beat those rats," says Facenda.

That parade of artistic mastery was initiated by the late Alvin Edgar, former head of the Department of Music. "When he booked the Philharmonic for a week to open the Iowa State Center [in September 1969]," says music professor Joseph Christensen, AIOFA's vice president, "people thought he had a screw loose."

That week remains one of the most memorable in university history. It not only launched AIOFA, but resulted in a cultural boon for Ames and ISU. "It's had a major impact on the university's reputation around the world," says Arthur Swift, now head of the Department of Music and an AIOFA member since 1969. ISU administrators say it's been crucial in attracting faculty and administrators. Students benefit, too: Musicians have held master classes, offered critiques and had informal discussions with students. Leningrad State Symphony musicians played duets with students. "Our students rub shoulders with the best in the world," Christensen says.

Simon Estes

The Philadelphia Orchestra closes AIOFA's 20th-birthday season on May 21. AIOFA still treats musicians like royalty, but times have changed. New York had a $7,500 pricetag in 1969; last July: $90,000. Even a full house couldn't prevent a $21,000 loss. Gitchell hopes to hire an executive director to step up fund raising and increase membership above the current 1,000. She says Ames and ISU will go far to ensure that the best little classical music festival in the U.S. lives well beyond two decades.

"So many [musicians] say, 'If you get a chance to go to Ames, go,'" Facenda says. "It's on the map. A little, beautiful, cultural oasis."

COURTESY OF THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, INC.

Boston Pop's Arthur Fiedler

His books can take us through Iowa's past, but Carl Hamilton's vision is clearly on the future. He knows that Iowa State's future is one of great prominence, and we know that he has helped to develop the promising possibilities that lie ahead. Carl and Ruth Hamilton have generously invested in Iowa State's future through gifts to the University Fund for Excellence. These gifts fund projects that improve teaching skills, provide faculty research grants, reward top students with scholarships, and so much more.

Thank you, Carl and Ruth, for giving in a way that provides so many extras to truly create a margin of excellence at ISU. Your gifts, and your enduring belief in Iowa State University, are invaluable. Thanks!

Thanks

THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Single Parents, Second Chance

Prof designs back-to-school program for Mesquakie Indians

Every spring for several years, Gladys Ebert organized the potluck dinner for Mesquakie Indians performing at ISU's American Indian Symposium. And every spring she would circulate among the attendees, eager to share her interest in the cultures and traditions of Native Americans.

But on that evening four years ago, the conversation she struck with a resident of the Tama Mesquakie settlement was a bit unsettling. The woman, an adult student at Iowa State and a single parent, spoke openly of the six years it took her to gather the courage to enroll in college, and how that decision ultimately had turned around the lives of her and her child. For Ebert, who had spent several years teaching in Midwestern high schools and who had seen firsthand the obstacles faced by unwed mothers, that conversation touched a nerve. Her uneasiness was compounded by her knowledge that national educational statistics were not on the side of Native Americans. For those living on reservations, more than 50 percent of all adults have less than an elementary education. Less than 25 percent have graduated from high school. For those who do go on to college, only about one-third succeed in obtaining a degree due to inadequate preparation, limited financial resources and difficulties adjusting to a campus environment.

Within just a few months of that discussion, Ebert, an assistant professor of family and consumer sciences education, had received funding from the state of Iowa's Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act to implement her plan, "to encourage them to do something with their lives that would help them become self-supporting, to increase their education and their vision of the world so that they could contribute even more to their tribal government," she recalls. She sought out, and received, encouragement from faculty and staff at the nearby Marshalltown Community College. She knew from her training in home economics, counseling and adult education that she alone could not convince the 50 single parents on the settlement that they could benefit from the training program she had conceived. So she contacted two older women who lived there, convinced them of the program's value to their community and elicited their help. They, in addition to ISU extension specialists, formed an advisory board to which Ebert could turn for advice, feedback and information about the attitudes of settlement residents toward such proposed changes.

JIM HEEMSTRA

Thanks to Gladys Ebert, at least 50 single parents from Tama's Mesquakie Settlement have gone back to school.

Upon creation of a curriculum for the program, the two women from the settlement contacted each of those single parents, eventually encouraging 15 people to become involved in a series of 10 preparatory workshops. Thus, the American Indian Single Parent Project was born.

Subsequent enrollments continue to please Ebert, with numbers averaging around 20 students per semester. Those registered for courses at the community college receive funding ($400-$800 per student per semester) for tuition, fees and books, plus expenses for transportation and child care. During their first few semesters, participants are encouraged to carry no more than eight credits per session. Periodic workshops continue to be held on the settlement, addressing topics like stress management, parenting skills and preparation for entering the job market.

But with each spring, Ebert faces the possibility that funding will not be renewed for the upcoming fiscal year. So it's back to writing the grant proposals and gathering support materials, student feedback like "This program made me realize that I can finally do something for myself again," and "It showed me it wasn't impossible to be a mother and a student." And she organizes the statistics—in the three-plus years the program has been in existence, one participant already has earned his associate of arts degree, and many more are closing in on that goal. Several others have obtained employment in areas for which they were unqualified prior to involvement in the project.

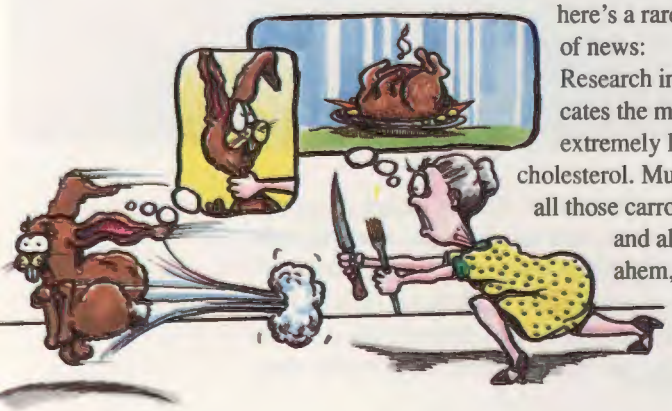
But there are some results that can't be reported by graphs or flow charts. When Ebert asked one woman how she felt the program had helped her, she looked at Ebert and said very simply, "You showed me how."

'Honest, I did my homework. But there was this awesome Dutch elm...'

At one time or another we've all been told to go fly a kite. Dick Rein just happened to listen—he's a professional kitist (kiter? kitesman? kitologist?) from New Jersey. He'll be conducting workshops for members of design Professor Bill Boon's highly provocative creativity class, who've been assigned to build their own kites. "The man can do amazing things with a kite," says Boon, adding that Rein will fly to Ames later this month. Better tie off a long string, pal.

What next? Braised Bugs and Cottontail Cordon Bleu?

Brad Skaar has come up with a hare-brained prediction for '90s eating habits that lends new meaning to the term fast food. The ISU extension livestock specialist predicts consumption of rabbits will take a decided hop this decade. He says you already can find makings for bunny burgers at Ames grocery stores ($1.50 per pound), and he doesn't rule out cottontail cuisine on restaurant menus. And here's a rare bit of news: Research indicates the meat is extremely low in cholesterol. Must be all those carrots and all that, ahem, exercise.



One life to live... but where?

Occasionally in this space we present a campus saga whose plot rivals the best soap's. Hence we offer *All My Sisters,* the saga of a sorority without a house. Our story begins last year, when the Delta Zetas' renovation was delayed by the city permit process. Work was delayed until summer, forcing the DZs to rush into rooms at the University Inn (Upsilon Iota, as it were). That was cool, until they were asked to move to a banquet hall on football weekends. They finally returned home in October. A pipe burst in November, causing a ceiling to collapse and leaving half the house unlivable. Finally, over break, the project was completed—almost. Next episode, we visit the basement ...

And for three crocheted doilies, you get a night at the Knoll

You've heard of genies traveling by magic carpet? Pshaw! ISU's president made it to Scandinavia on a *quilt*. Just by answering a magazine ad, Gordon and Virginia Eaton swapped a quilt for nearly two weeks' lodging in Sweden. While staying in a couple's home in a small, northern Sweden community, the first couple went skiing, snowmobiling, sledding and reindeer watching. The Eatons since have begun Swedish lessons, which will be difficult for the president to keep up on—he'll be on the road half-time this year raising funds for the university's capital campaign. We hope he opts for more traditional means of paying for that travel; otherwise, the nights could get mighty chilly back at the Knoll.

Illustrations by G. Michael Maddock

CAPITOL PURSUIT

Tom Harkin had to fight for the education that would carry him from meager beginnings to the U.S. Senate. Now he is leading the fight to help America's students avoid that same struggle.

By Dan Davenport

At last, cutting through the cloudless, pallid blue troposphere over eastern Iowa, Tom Harkin can take his world off fast forward. Like a teen-ager in a carnival kiddie ride, he's wedged into the back seat of a twin-engine Piper Aztec for the 60-minute, Clinton-to-Des Moines hop. His thin, bony knees scrunch together, a precarious little perch for his bran muffin and diet Coke. It's not yet 1 p.m.—lunch on time, for once. Or is this breakfast?

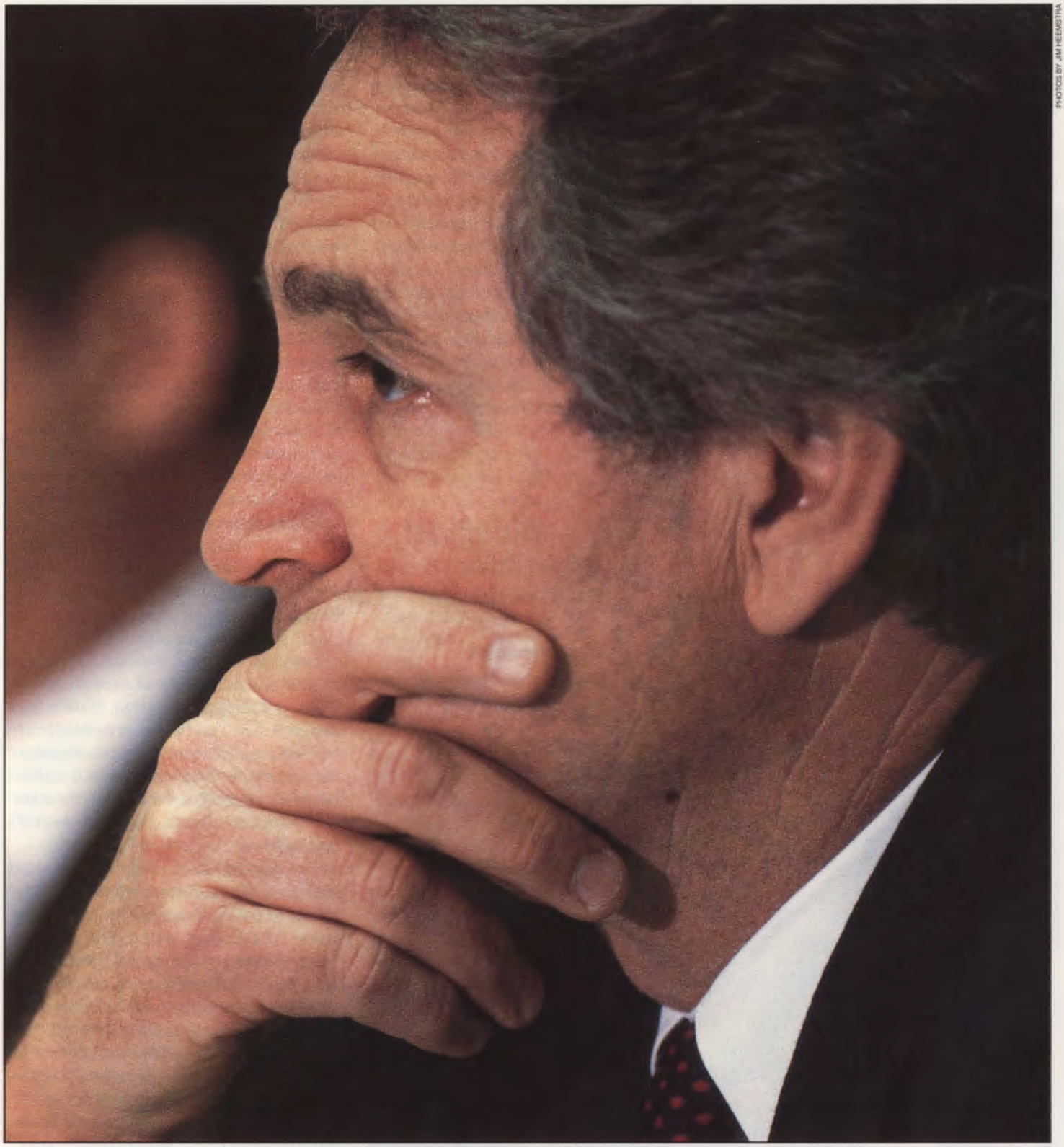
In the first month of his 16th year in Congress, Iowa Senator Tom Harkin is finishing off a cold, gray, eight-day week, the likes of which have rewarded him with more scrawls in his lean face than are typical of most 1962 Iowa State University graduates. When the Piper touches down, he knows, the whirlwind resumes. But for now, the former Navy pilot has found respite in the skies. And once he and the plane have leveled off, he immediately turns the conversation to one of his favorite topics: education.

Politicking on Capitol Hill or picnicking in Pleasant Valley, there are few issues that so exhilarate the first-term Democrat. It was education, Thomas Richard Harkin says, that carried him from what he terms hardscrabble beginnings in Cumming, Iowa, to political power and social approbation in the District of Columbia. Now he figures he's returning the favor.

You can argue politics from now until November, when Harkin meets what's predicted to be a mighty challenge from Republican Tom Tauke. But Harkin hates to see education ripped apart by bi-partisanship. "A child doesn't care which party I belong to," he says. But whether they realize it or not, children *do* have a stake in President George Bush's now-clichéd 1988 "education president" pledge. And many lawmakers—especially Democrats, of course—are growing impatient. In January, Bush requested a 2 percent increase in federal education spending to bring 1991 expenditures to $24.6 billion. Despite unprecedented political reforms in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, he wants to cut defense spending by only 2 percent, to $292.1 billion.

Bush is calling for some troop withdrawals from Europe, but he and his supporters have made their stance clear: The world will rejoice in the crumbling of the communist bloc, but it's far too early to begin making drastic defense cuts. "We can't let these encouraging changes lull us into a state of complacency," Bush said in February.

But Democrats, Harkin included, say the Pentagon could stand to lose a few pounds now. And with a potential "peace dividend" of tens of billions of dollars, Harkin says there's no telling what domestic ills could be cured—the festering drug industry, the mon-



PHOTOS BY JIM HEEMSTRA

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"A child doesn't care
which party I belong to."

ster deficit, the struggling education system.

But no senator can tuck any one broad concern under his arm like a football and run it past 99 other senators, 435 representatives and one president. Still, each interest needs its own heady, resourceful quarterback. And the angular 50 year old gazing at the dormant Iowa countryside a mile below—the youngest child of a coal miner and a Yugoslavian immigrant with barely 10 years of schooling between them—is as close to an education quarterback as you'll find on the senate floor. "[Harkin] can be thanked for helping education fare as well as it has," says a reporter for a Washington education publication. "He's one of the biggies putting up the fight."

Though the word "senator" often elicits visions of powerful, Hollywood-type speakers, much of their crucial work is done at the committee level. Most committees are one of two types: authorizing or appropriating. The former creates and scrutinizes programs, the latter signs the checks.

Harkin is a member of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, the authorizing body for education. And since 1988, he's chaired the Senate education-appropriations panel. "Very few senators," says Peter Rogoff, formerly head of the Senate education-appropriations subcommittee staff, "pull double duty."

fight like hell to get it funded on the other."

That's exactly how he's had to fight. Federal funding makes up only about 7 percent of this country's education expenditure, with state, county and local monies comprising the rest. Bush's secretary of education, Iowa State graduate Lauro Cavazos, favors increasing that federal involvement (VISIONS, Spring 1989). Harkin suggests going as far as a three-way split: dividing spending equally among federal, state and county and local levels. Cavazos won't touch those numbers, which haven't even been talked about since the Carter administration. After several discussions with the secretary, though, Harkin believes his fellow alumnus is sincere in wishing for more federal involvement. But he also knows U.S. education's dubious history is littered with unfulfilled wishes.

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"[Harkin] can introduce a bill on one side and go fight like hell to get it funded on the other."

Harken joins Arkansas Sen. David Pryor and Montana Sen. Max Baucus at a press conference to address rural drug issues.

Says Jerry Reshwald, director of government relations for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges: "It's a great position for him to be in. He can introduce a bill on one side and go

"[Harkin] has shown he's a friend of education, one who contends that if there's revenue to spend, education is a more than worthy recipient," says Becky Timmons, director of congressional liaisons for the American Council on Education. "But so far, there just hasn't been much to spend."

Sitting in his Washington office, a huge mirror at his back and a 20-foot ceiling overhead, Harkin needn't be reminded. He emphatically shakes the eyeglasses he's holding as he commiserates the federal commitment to education. "[Bush] has *got* to start fulfilling that pledge," he says. "Just saying 'education president' doesn't do it. I can help shift the priorities, but we know where it's got to start."

"We," for the most part, meaning liberals. Conservatives contend that more money isn't the answer, that Democrats like Harkin are doing education a disservice by dragging lawmakers into ideological tiffs. "There are [education] problems that go much deeper than whether the federal budget ought to be $23 billion or $25 billion," says Gary Bauer, an assistant to former education secretary William Bennett and now president of the Family Research Council, a conservative D.C. think tank and lobbying group. "[Harkin's] perspective sidetracks education reform to a mere argument over dollars. They need to decide what makes schools work, period."

★

This is a country built on such debate. When it comes to education, Harkin says he's proven he's no fiscally irresponsible liberal whining for money without regard for the source. In fact, he's fueled the 101st Congress' hottest education issue: the student loan default rate. And that involves *saving* money.

For years he's been critical of schools and students who contribute to a default rate that climbs to nearly 40 percent at some institutions. At a student loan meeting at Iowa State several years ago, Harkin asked how many students owned cars. Hands filled the air. TVs? Stereos? Everywhere, hands. "You sure live a hell of a lot better than we did," he told them, a most displeasurable sound byte for the Democratic gods. Maybe this is no longer the 1950s, he says now, but students must learn that education doesn't come without sacrifice. "My freshman year," Harkin says, "a buddy who was working full time drove up to Ames in his new car, all ready to go drinking. Here I was, living with two other guys in a basement. I had nothing. I had to say I couldn't go. He said, 'Man, you're living bad, Tom.'"

At that campus meeting, Harkin hardly

was picking on ISU students. In fact, Earl Dowling, director of student financial aid at Iowa State, basks in the university's 3 percent default rate—lowest in the state and well below the 7 percent national average. He doesn't want ISU to be painted the same color as high-rate, for-profit schools. But Harkin, who says he couldn't have made it through college without National Student Defense Loans and Naval ROTC aid, only used that forum to make a point: Defaults cost the federal government big bucks—now nearly $2 billion a year. It's the third-largest item in the education department's budget. "[Harkin] is protective of the loan system," Rogoff says. "He'll fight to see that it's not ripped off."

Harkin is battling for a bill that would sharpen the teeth of current education department regulations. Among its provisions:

▲ Institutions not decreasing their default rate after four years would be suspended from the loan program unless unusual circumstances exist.

▲ Loan disbursement would be delayed until 30 days after classwork begins. This is aimed at proprietary schools with a history of recruiting people not considered "ability to benefit" students. Too often such students enroll, receive loans, pay tuition, drop out and default.

"[Harkin] started with a very harsh stance against us," says Nancy O'Brien, associate director of governmental relations for the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools. "But later he sat down and listened to our concerns. He learned about our schools, he even visited one [Hamilton Aerotech in Davenport]. I know he has concerns, but his openness has left us very optimistic."

The loan default controversy undoubtedly is *the* education topic in Congress this spring. But it's hardly the only one. Lately, Harkin has pushed an increased federal role in early childhood education. While he agrees higher education should continue being the most heavily funded, he doesn't feel states, counties and cities can adequately bankroll pre-school, elementary and secondary education. He and Bush might agree here: The president's annual budget request included shifting about $500 million from higher education to elementary and secondary programs.

There's also reorganizing the Higher Education Act, which must be completed next year; deciding on potential cuts for Pell Grants; funding Chapter I programs that provide special assistance to students with learning disabilities; funding efforts to recruit disabled college students and providing more drug education to elementary and secondary students.

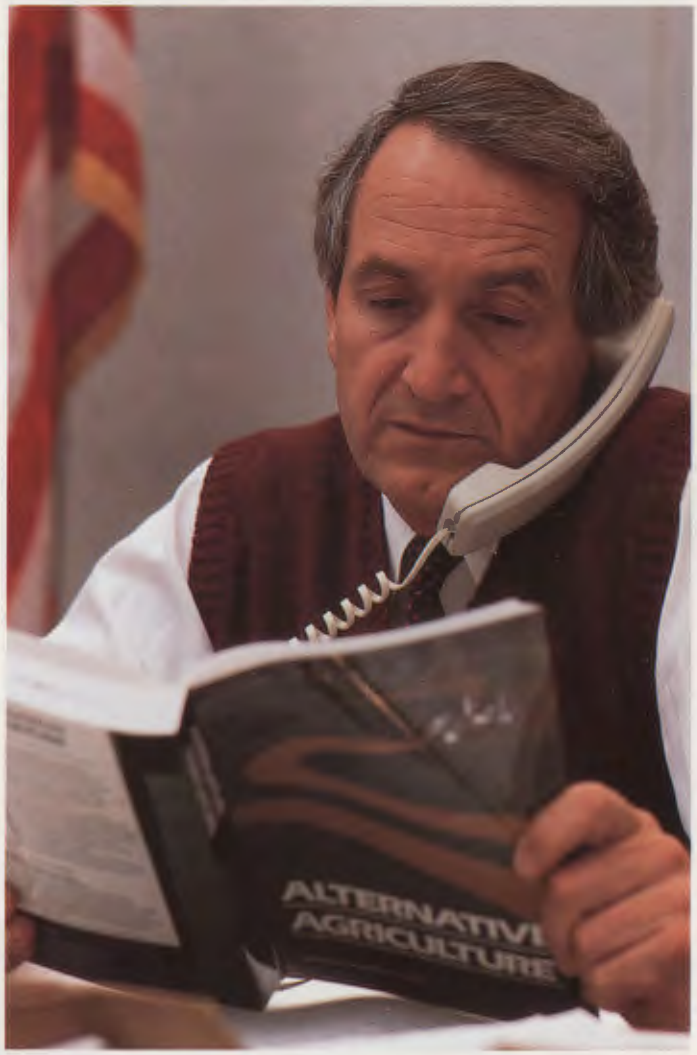
Harkin's subcommittee also oversees funding the National Institutes of Health; since his days on the Science and Technology Committee in the House, Iowa Staters have known Harkin as a friend of scientific research and education. "Tom is a New Deal-type Democrat," says Mike Crow, ISU's science policy and research director. "He sees science and technology as public works projects for the new infrastructure. It's a complex area, but he understands. He's really connected to our programs."

★

It's funny, Tom Harkin says, how one gravitates toward those causes most deeply woven into one's fiber. Though his mother died of a cerebral hemorrhage when he was 10, he calls her the most compelling force in his commitment to education. With just an eighth-grade education, his father got no further than a central Iowa coal mine; black lung disease killed him in 1967. His older brothers excelled in school—John and Charles Harkin, both engineers, are ISU graduates—showing Tom that education would be his only way out. His credo of "human rights and social justice" may evoke chuckles in Republican circles, but there's no mistaking its origins. Education included, the causes for which Harkin has fought most stridently are those he came by honestly:

▲ He calls leading the passage of the American Disabilities Act "one of the most gratifying things I've done"—his half brother, Frank, is hearing-impaired. As chair of the Senate subcommittee on the handicapped, Harkin led the 1988 creation of the NIH's Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Many respect him most for his work with handicapped and health issues.

▲ He's voted for catastrophic health insurance and cost-of-living Social Security increases, and is a firm Medicare proponent—his father was in his 70s when Tom, the youngest, left home. "Seeing his health deteriorate every time I came home wasn't an easy thing to do," Harkin says.



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Harkin calls his late mother the most compelling force in his commitment to education.

▲ He's pushed rural health and rural development legislation, and is a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee—his father lost a farm in the depression.

Besides human services, the obvious common denominator of these Harkin staples is money. Few would begrudge these causes their nobility; taxpayers tend to balk, though, when they see dollar signs. Millions of Americans liked what they saw when they read Bush's lips in 1988. That's a fact Harkin must face, if not accept.

★

"Even when [Harkin] was 22, he looked at things differently than most guys."

"Even when [Harkin] was 22, he looked at things differently than most guys," says Tom Dawson, an administrative assistant for long-time Iowa Representative Neal Smith. Dawson and Harkin cut their political teeth together in Ames, helping run then-Iowa State history professor E.B. Smith's ill-fated 1962 senate campaign. "Always wanting to make a difference, affect change. It's been part of his living and breathing for as long as I've known him."

And longer. Harkin discovered politics as a teen-ager in Cumming, where he worked on Neal Smith's 1956 congressional campaign. He only was able to attend Dowling High School in Des Moines when then-Des Moines postmaster John McNerney loaned him an old Ford for the commute. McNerney's wife, the late Catherine McNerney, was active in the Polk County Democratic party.

So you had a mature, intelligent teen-ager with the fire of politics burning in his gut. But a senator in the works? Maybe not—at least until the magnetic aura of John F. Kennedy swept the nation in 1960. Harkin, a government and economics major who was leading Iowa State's Young Democrats at the time, soon became active in organizations like the Student Committee on Racial Equality. "What did I know about racial equality?" he says. "But I was getting excited about [Kennedy], more and more energized."

E.B. Smith, now an American history professor at the University of Maryland, remembers giving an ISU campaign speech in which he offered reasons why the U.S. shouldn't formally recognize Red China—a controversial topic of the day. As a glorified gofer, Harkin was in charge of Smith's transportation. But he was nowhere to be found when the candidate returned to the car. Harkin finally showed up, offering no excuse. Smith found it in the next morning's paper: Led by Harkin, the Young Democrats *had* recognized Red China. "It was always that conscience, that idea that he had to make it known what he felt was right," says Cliff Larson, who also worked on E.B. Smith's campaign and now directs Neal Smith's Ames office.

Jump to 1967. Harkin, after graduating near the top of his Navy fighter pilot training class, had been shuttling planes in and out of Vietnam combat areas. The more he saw of it, the more he disagreed. "But I couldn't express myself until I got out," Harkin says. "So I got out." After five years in the Navy, he received his discharge and immediately began campaigning against the war. That activity created a perfect bridge for his return to politics.

He rejoined the Neal Smith camp, serving as an aide while he and his wife, Ruth, earned their law degrees at the Catholic University of America Law School in Washington. With Smith on a congressional trip to Vietnam, Harkin photographed South Vietnamese "tiger cages," inhuman, underground pens holding enemy prisoners. Reporting that Harkin felt "a higher obligation" to show Americans the brutal tactics they were supporting, Life magazine published the photos in its July 17, 1970, issue. "If Tom felt something," Larson says, "he felt it strongly. And he usually did something about it."

That meant running for Congress in 1972. But Iowans didn't feel quite so strongly just yet—they voted Bill Scherle back to the Hill for a fourth term. Ironically, Ruth Harkin won the 1972 race for Story County attorney. "That was a good year for us," says Ruth Harkin, the first Iowa woman elected county attorney and now a Washington attorney. "I won, and with almost no money or experience, Tom got 45 percent of the vote. It was just a matter of time."

Two years, to be exact—Harkin defeated Scherle in 1974. Ruth, still county attorney, stayed in Ames, while Tom lived in Maryland with a friend from his political childhood: E.B. Smith. He and others close to Harkin watched him flourish on the Hill.

"I've watched a lot of congressmen and senators," Dawson says. "If you don't grow—especially on the committees that Tom's on—you can live a horrible life. Tom has grown and learned, but he's maintained that basic drive. He still finds service exciting."

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The first sensation for a visitor to Harkin's Washington office building is hardly excitement. Close your eyes when you

step off the elevator at the third floor of the Hart Senate Building, and you'll swear you're walking into a movie theater: The aroma of popcorn drips from the place. Sniff your way to Harkin's office, where he displays a corn popper made in Colfax, Iowa, filled with Jiffy Pop from Sioux City. Chic Washingtonian, no. Tom Harkin, yes.

After a late January hearing on the Hill, Harkin hurries outside, past an ominous queue of black luxury sedans to his waiting "bomb," as staffers less than fondly refer to the pea-green, 1979 Buick Regal in which he putters around the Capitol.

He boasts that he's one of few legitimate family men on the Hill; he and Ruth still regularly read with their daughters, 13-year-old Amy and 8-year-old Jenny, in their Alexandria, Va., home. When senator/lawyer/kid schedules mesh, they reserve Thursday nights for *The Cosby Show*—the only TV the girls have been allowed to watch regularly, he says—and a trip to the library. Books are the Harkins' answer to cable. One of Tom's most recent perusals was *The Bright, Shining Lie*, a condemnation of the Vietnam War he found so fascinating he was compelled to contact the author, Neil Sheehan.

There are no adults-only vacations for the Harkins, which means the girls have become quite the beach bums at their folks' get-away in the Bahamas. Harkin keeps a sailboat there and also sails occasionally on the Chesapeake Bay, where E.B. Smith has a boat. "It's tough to keep the family at the top," Ruth Harkin says. "But it works if you've got that commitment to family, no matter how hectic your days get."

They rarely get more hectic than one late January day. Harkin races out of his D.C. office, late for his own press conference to address rural drug issues. The senate vote to override a presidential veto already has begun, giving him less than 15 minutes to meet the press and say no to Bush. When he and several staff members find the mini-subway to the Capitol full, he's nothing short of apologetic when a security officer uses senatorial privilege to clear a seat. "You've got your [New York senator Daniel Patrick] Moynihan types who expect someone in a powdered wig to greet them at the door," Rogoff says. "Then you've got Harkin, unassuming almost to the point of being annoying."

That approach might play on a campaign swing through Mount Pleasant, but staff members say it also can be a royal headache. "If we could change anything about Tom, it'd be that he wouldn't get so hung up with people," says Lorraine Voles, his press secretary. "We've got a schedule, and he ignores us and keeps chatting." After an early-evening briefing, a staffer repeatedly tries to pry away his boss for a dinner party. Harkin casually continues debating with visitors the District's best pizza.

Time management deficiencies aside, Harkin does have a reputation for treating staff members well—and expecting plenty in return. He says he's surrounded himself with experts who share his philosophies and who work to enhance his effectiveness. But if, say, he is holding a press conference to react to Bush's drug policy, his briefing had better be complete and accurate.

That's how Harkin says he likes to work with colleagues, too. "We've had conflicts with [Harkin], like with all [senators]," says the NASULGC's Reshwald. "But with him there's not that vituperation. He puts it on the table, no bull——." Crow often sees the Harkin he calls "a pit bull."

★

"If we could change anything about Tom, it'd be that he wouldn't get so hung up with people."

"He'll stick his nose in there and fight," Crow says.

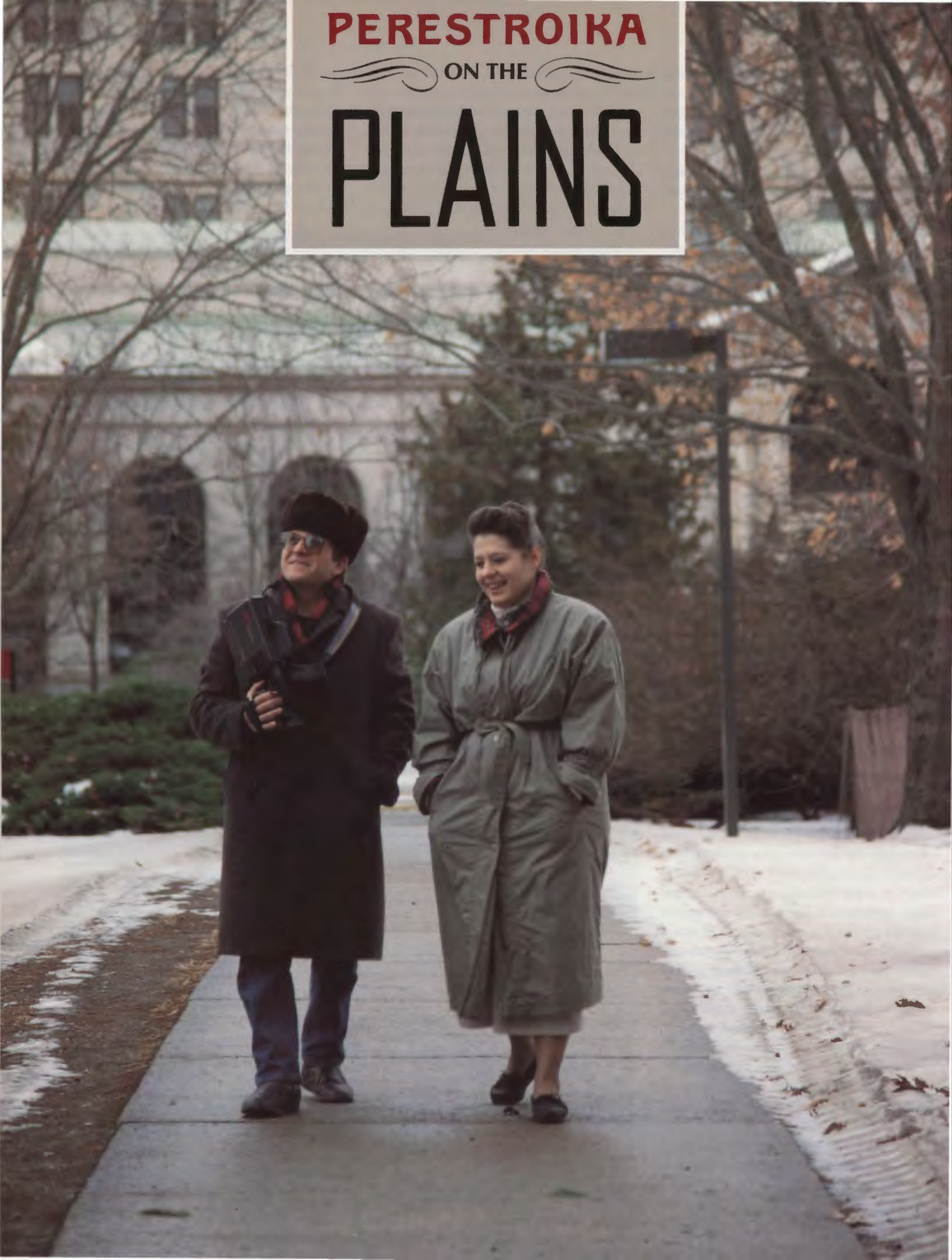
The Tauke faction uses that volatility against Harkin, calling him a "bomb-thrower people find difficult to get along with." Allen Finch, Tauke's press secretary, characterizes his boss as a bi-partisan coalition builder. "There's a clear [distinction] here," Finch says.

Harkin thrives on that fact. He's never found campaigning to be drudgery. In fact, he says "a very large part of me is thrilled" that Tauke poses such a challenge. That an Iowa Democratic senator never has been re-elected only further energizes him for a campaign on which he'll spend an estimated $6 million. "I want to be the first Democrat [re-elected]," he says, now back in the Piper, nearing a landing in Des Moines and the resumption of his dizzying pace. Though the education dissertation has ended, this campaign talk has added a conviction to his tone, easily audible above the plane's blaring engines.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm no masochist. It's just that—this might sound a little sophomoric—I've always had odds against me. There's something about a campaign, like being a fighter pilot, up there, one on one. Totally alone. And it's the same on the senate floor: Just you. All you've got to fight with is what you've experienced and what you believe."

Given that, it seems Tom Harkin should be well stocked with ammunition. ▲

PERESTROIKA ON THE PLAINS



BY DEBRA GIBSON

PHOTOS BY JIM HEEMSTRA

OK, so what dazzled Nikolai Atamanichenko the most about living in the U.S. this past year? The sleek cars? The spacious, lavishly decorated homes? The staggering array of cuisine available at his fingertips?

A long silence. Then, "Nothing," he says with a shrug. "This is only a business trip."

Oh.

This "business trip" marks the beginning of a history-making, five-year agreement between Iowa State and the Moscow-based V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Last spring, Atamanichenko arrived in Ames as the first Soviet scientist to participate in the exchange, while Karl Skold, MS '87, Ph.D. '89, a Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) researcher, traveled to Stavropol in the Soviet Union and worked for the academy.

But really, Nikolai, something had to impress you during your stay. Couldn't you give us just a little hint?

"Well, I like buying the strawberries and melons in the middle of winter—that was a surprise," he admits. "And you have more coffees to choose from."

A start, anyway.

When pushed, Atamanichenko might also admit to being a bit excited about the computer systems he's encountered while working at CARD. His main project has been to study U.S. computer programs to better develop those back in Stavropol for use in researching crop production systems. "Maybe I'll want to use some U.S. computer products back home," he concedes. "Maybe I'll even take back a laptop."

He's already packed a video camera, a soccer ball and a Barbie doll for the return trip. Wife Vera, who visited for several weeks late last year, avoided the long shopping lines back home and bought winter coats here. "She was fascinated by the colors of children's shoes," her husband remembers, shaking his head.

What won't Atamanichenko miss? American media, for starters. "Your TV has too much commercials—it's not very interesting," he says with a grin.

While Atamanichenko says it took him about three months to adjust to life in the U.S., he credits his CARD co-researchers (above) for easing the transitions. "Ten years ago, we had the image that Americans only were interested in business—that there was no time for parties or helping others." Wife Vera enjoyed shopping during her visit to Ames, and both enjoyed American grocery stores—"but your farmers use too many chemicals," Nikolai says.

DRIVE UP
SERVICE

Although Vera was partial to McDonald's during her visit, Nikolai doubts they'll be patronizing the Soviet franchise—"they're too expensive." At right, with CARD director Stanley Johnson.

Though he reads several major newspapers each day, "Pravda is the only one I read where I can really believe the information. In the U.S. you have all these authors who do these stories, and then the next day, you find out they weren't correct. Pravda journalists work one to two weeks on a story to check out all the facts. I'm afraid your American newspapers show the facts, but never get past the surface of a story to see the real situation."

News from back home has been an even more precious commodity these past several months for the scientist, as phenomenal historical changes occur on a daily basis throughout the Soviet Union and Eastern-bloc countries. Vera, a physician, tells him how fellow staffers in her hospital are allowed, for the first time, to elect their own administrator. While Atamanichenko, 38, is noncommittal about his reactions to specific changes, he does acknowledge that, "I feel we need such changes, but maybe they've happened too fast. While the younger population wants this change, the older officials in local governments want to keep their warm seats and good pensions."

Saying that "it will be tough" to leave good friends at CARD and return to a land that is far different than the one he left, Atamanichenko nonetheless is ready to see his wife and three small children again, as well as his parents and other family members. No, life isn't all that different, he says, as he makes himself a note to go out and buy a Father's Day card.

Gradually, the state of Iowa has been transformed into a gambler's nirvana. But precautionary research conducted by ISU sociologists may reduce the odds that you will...

If you're among the 70 percent of Americans who live in a lottery state, try this experiment. At your grocery store, find the lottery ticket station or the Nintendo-like numbers game screen. Look at them. Study them. Ponder their wondrous potential.

Do they make your pulse race like Secretariat? Do they turn your legs to quivering mounds of pudding? Do they coax, *Buy me and your problems will be solved?*

Do you obey?

If you're one of the 10 million or so Americans who do, chances are Joseph Hraba knows you pretty well.

He's not a compulsive gambling expert or a psychiatrist. He's certainly no lottery aficionado: The next ticket he buys will be his third. But gambling lightweight or not, he knows more about lotteries—and most notably, their effects on people—than many 100-ticket-a-week junkies.

BY DAN DAVENPORT

Hraba is a professor of sociology at Iowa State University. He's a sociologist who spends a good deal of his non-teaching time taking surveys. Last year, driven chiefly by curiosity, he applied for and was awarded a contract to study the effects of the Iowa Lottery and other forms of legalized gambling on compulsive gambling in the state. His research for the Iowa Department of Human Services was groundbreaking—not for its findings, but for its mere existence. It marked the first time a state had funded such a study of its own gambling operation.

The modern lottery era began in 1963, and compulsive gambling behavior probably has been around since man learned to say, "Let it ride." But not until the 1980s did doctors and researchers begin legitimizing gambling compulsion as they already had alcoholism and drug addiction. And even into the '90s, social scientists and

mental health professionals have done precious little to learn the depths of this ailment.

"[Compulsive] gambling assistance has been a joke," says Jean Falzon, executive director of the National Council on Compulsive Gambling. "We've got 48 states [with legalized gambling] saying people should gamble, but we're not doing a hell of a lot for the victims."

That's why, when the Iowa Legislature hatched the lottery in 1985, many gambling officials across the U.S. had to be shocked when one-half of 1 percent of its revenues was mandated to assistance programs. Buy two tickets and a penny finds its way to the Department of Human Services' Gamblers Assistance Program. Eighty million pennies—$800,000—rolled in during 1989 alone.

But waiting for problem gamblers to ask for help wasn't enough. The state also mandated that the Gamblers Assistance Program—directed by 1977 Iowa State graduate Mary Ubinas-Dahlquist—take the initiative in learning the extent of the lottery's "dark side."

Enter Hraba, who, incidentally, taught Ubinas-Dahlquist in one of his ISU classes. He applied for and was awarded $50,000 —from lottery funds beyond the one-half percent allotment—to answer some critical questions about the lottery's nocuous nature:

▲Was one researcher correct in 1985 when he found that lotteries are "conducive to the spread of deviant, even pathological behavior"?

▲With the co-existence of parimutuel horse and dog racing and riverboat gambling debuting next year, will the lottery be the "yeast" that sucks heretofore responsible citizens into destructive lifestyles?

▲ Just as many theorize alcohol can act as a stepping stone to marijuana and then harder drugs, could a gimmick as innocent as a scratch game called "Frosty the Doughman" lead to abuses of other forms of legalized gambling and then to illegal gambling?

After polling 1,011 Iowans from April to June last year, Hraba answers with a resounding...probably not. At least, well, maybe not. But he's really not sure.

Of the 100 million Americans who scratch, match, spin, win and (most often) lose at the lottery, Hraba says perhaps two million are Iowans. Seventy-three percent of those he polled said they gamble, most on the lottery. Hraba says he and his assistants found that lottery play is a predictor of gambling behavior, which in turn is a predictor of potential loss of control and gambling consequences—like increased debts, poor job performance or marriage break-ups.

For now, as the lottery prepares to celebrate its fifth birthday, Hraba found that it doesn't appear to be singularly responsible for many of the state's estimated 25,000-75,000 problem and pathological gamblers. "I doubt that scratching that silver off a ticket is going to lead to compulsive behavior," says Johnie Hammond, a state legislator from Ames and a key proponent of that one-half percent assistance mandate. And perhaps she's right—so far.

JIM HEEMSTRA

HRABA'S STUDY MARKS THE FIRST TIME A STATE HAS FUNDED RESEARCH ABOUT ITS OWN GAMBLING OPERATION.

Hraba's study points out that most people are like Ubinas-Dahlquist—she's not opposed to purchasing a ticket here and there, but she usually has more pressing concerns. (Not last April, though, when the nation wigged out over the $115 million Pennsylvania Lottery jackpot. Though she generally eschews Iowa's lottery, through a friend Ubinas-Dahlquist did buy 10 chances at that whopping payoff.) Eighty percent of Iowans polled said they hadn't bought an instant game ticket in the past week.

But in, say, 15 or 20 years, many of the state's young adults will have grown up with the lottery. Experts say many children who are bombarded by bi-weekly TV shows, advertisements and media reports of huge payoffs will be more likely to make the lottery a part of their adult lives.

"Once the lottery has been going for some time and 'X' percent of your state is gambling, it will be crucial to reassess the prevalence rate," says Rachel Volberg of Policy Research Associates in Delmar, N.Y. Volberg

is the principal investigator of a three-year, five-state gambling study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Iowa is included in her research, but because three of the other four states—New Jersey, Maryland and Massachusetts (California was the fifth)—have sponsored lotteries for considerably longer, Volberg says gambling's effects on Iowans appear to be less prevalent. Volberg found that Iowans were significantly less likely than those from other states to have wagered regularly in the past year. While Volberg's study estimates that 4.1 percent of those from the eastern states are problem and probable pathological gamblers, only 1.7 percent of Iowans fall into that category. Hraba's findings were similar.

But because the difference is strongly linked to time, Volberg stresses the importance of ongoing monitoring. "It doesn't do to take one measurement, a snapshot, and pretend it's the final answer," she says. "When you introduce something new into a social and cultural context, it's important to keep up on it. I would not be surprised to see [the lottery's effect on compulsive behavior] go much higher."

Volberg bases many of her predictions on some widely accepted theories borrowed from alcohol and drug abuse professionals. When the number of bars in a city is increased, she says, few effects are noticed in the first several years. But years later, studies have shown a marked increase in the number of alcohol-related accidents and arrests. "Gambling looks like other addictions," Volberg says, "cocaine and alcohol in particular."

Say "cocaine and alcohol abuse" and social workers jump. Say "gambling compulsion"—even in states supporting legalized betting—and people have been yawning. But thanks in large part to several farsighted legislators, Iowa is changing those attitudes. Though Americans in 30 state-operated lotteries bet more than $18 billion in 1989, only Iowa and New York have what Falzon calls "full-service, legitimate" gambling assistance programs. New York, home of the National Council on Compulsive Gambling, once was the country's model. But no more. It received $776,000 in assistance funds in 1989, a year that saw New Yorkers pump $1.4 billion into the lottery. Iowa received $24,000 more in assistance, yet its lottery revenues totaled only $130 *million*. "[Iowa] may not have the longest track record," Falzon says, "but it's the best."

Once that $800,000 reaches the Gamblers Assistance Program in Des Moines, it's up to Ubinas-Dahlquist to decide how it's spent. Among her choices are 11 assistance centers around the state that form a network that has made Iowa a model for a nation just now opening its eyes to its compulsive gamblers. "We have a feeling that we need to foot the bill [for treatment, education and awareness] because we're helping contribute to the problem," Ubinas-Dahlquist says. "But how can we be involved in helping if we don't know what's going on? We have to know. That's where Joe came in, to answer those questions."

State representative Hammond says there is more than a smidgen of justness in an Iowa State professor coming up with the answers. Though the Department of Sociology doesn't receive direct lottery appropriations, those scratch tickets and Pac Man-like computer screens have borne a bonanza for the university—already it has hauled in nearly $20 million. ISU's burgeoning agricultural biotechnology program is the most grateful recipient, pocketing $17 million from 1985-89. Without that money, Iowa State had struggled to get biotech off the ground; with it, the university has rocketed to national prominence (VISIONS, Fall 1989).

IT'S UP TO UBINAS-DAHLQUIST TO DETERMINE HOW THE STATE'S GAMBLING ASSISTANCE FUNDS WILL BE SPENT.

JIM HEEMSTRA

"I voted for the lottery because I couldn't come home and face people [at Iowa State] if I hadn't," Hammond says. "With all [ISU] stood to gain, I had to say yes. And it seems right that, with all the benefit Iowa State gets out of [the lottery], one of its professors was asked to find out what bad things it's causing."

And though Hraba's findings were incon-

clusive, bad things are happening out there. A 45-year-old salesman from Cedar Rapids told the Des Moines Register last year that his separation from his wife and $75,000 in gambling debts stemmed from his addiction to state-sanctioned wagering. "I can't even go into a 7-Eleven store because they sell lottery tickets," he told the newspaper.

And he's got company. Gamblers Anonymous programs are on the rise. Ubinas-Dahlquist's department served 300 people in 1989, 100 more than the previous year. "And there are thousands more," she says. "Gambling is here, and with it will come these kinds of problems. If we gave people the choice of having the lottery raise revenue or taking it out of taxes, they'd take the lottery, whatever problems it causes. These problems will only increase."

If and when that happens, Hraba would like to be one of those sounding the alarm. After stressing the importance of ongoing study in the executive summary of his report, he instigated personal discussions with Ubinas-Dahlquist.

"I told her I'd like to continue with this," he says. "There's a great need to fund a longitudinal study, to let us select a panel of people and follow them over a 10-year period."

Says Ubinas-Dahlquist: "We realize the importance, but it's not been determined if the funds will be there. With a study like that, the research costs will really mount up."

As will, perhaps, the human costs. ▲

LOTTERY WAS SHORE'S TICKET TO $50,000

If anyone knows the fickle nature of financial security, it's C.J. "Chet" Shore. Sixty years ago, his dream of farming in Iowa was wiped out courtesy of the Great Depression.

So you'll excuse the 93 year old if winning $50,000 in the California Lottery last August didn't elicit a Great Elation. "When you look at it from all angles," the 1925 Iowa State College graduate says flatly, "you really don't find that much to get excited about."

LEIGH CHARLTON

C. J. Shore

Not that he didn't win the money in pretty exciting fashion. "As a general rule," he says, "[lottery tickets] are a poor investment." But when checking out at an Escondido, Calif., mall last summer, he noticed the man ahead of him buying a few. When Chet received several dollars in change, he decided to give it a try. He scratched one of the tickets to find the word DRAW, sent it to lottery headquarters and forgot about it. A few weeks later, while visiting his children in central Iowa—granddaughter Patricia Shore Evans of Johnston is a 1976 ISU grad—he got a call from a retiree buddy who had seen Chet's name on TV in Escondido. He and sons Joseph and Howard Shore and their families caught the next flight to Sacramento, where Chet became the oldest man to spin the wheel on California's lottery TV show. He then returned to Iowa faster than you can say Internal Revenue Service. "I didn't want something like that to finish my stay [in Iowa] too early," he says.

Now back in Escondido, the money hardly has gone to his head. His time still is highlighted by twice-weekly shuffleboard matches at his mobile home community, and he's still partial to his oil painting. He hasn't parted with much of the 50 grand—"more like 40 after *they* got done with it," he says in reference to his friends at the IRS—but Evans says Grandpa has been doing a little more traveling lately. Shore says if he's learned anything from nearly a century of life, it's that "enough money" has become practically an oxymoron.

"I'm enjoying life," he says. "But I'm no dummy. I'm 93, and I know things could change and I'd need more money to get along. Luck's a funny thing. It can change pretty fast, you know."

Spoken by a man who knows plenty about the subject. —*D.D.*

Review

COVER STORY

CRITICS' CHOICE

Jane Smiley is emerging in national literary circles as a cogent novelist, but in Ames she remains just another ISU prof waiting her turn in the checkout lane. By Debra Gibson

He's the first thing you notice as you approach the front door, this rangy oversized Great Dane dog. Hitchcock, they call him, an imposing "puppy" who strides toward you through the house on those long, lean legs. He shoves his massive, angular face into the door's window, barking at the sight of you. Several minutes pass, then Stephen Mortenson comes to the door of the two-story, white frame house, rubbing his head and smiling sheepishly. It seems they've overslept on this gloomy, drizzly morning, but you're welcome to come in. Shortly after you enter, Hitchcock gives you one last, protracted stare before being escorted to the back porch.

About 10 minutes later, Jane Smiley, equally long and lean, strides into the dining room. She's clearly preoccupied; she can't find her comb. As she yanks open drawers and Mortenson, her husband, scans the countertops in the adjoining kitchen, she looks up at you and utters a casual "Hi," then continues her search. She finds her purse hanging on the back of a chair and digs out her comb, pulling it through her mass of wet, dark curls. She grabs a can of Coke from the refrigerator, plops down on a wooden chair

PHOTOS BY JIM HEEMSTRA

and at last makes eye contact with you. As you ask your first question, Smiley begins picking at the shoelaces of her white Reeboks. By your third question, she's jumping up and straightening artwork on the dining room wall.

While Jane Smiley may be earning a national reputation as a fiction writer who deftly captures the sights and sounds of modern American relationships, it's clear on this gloomy, drizzly morning that she would prefer to do anything rather than rhapsodize about her own.

"Jane's able to stay so focused because she's into clean living... she feels guilty if she takes a day off," says Mortenson, here with Phoebe (left), Lucy and Smiley.

Ask family, friends or colleagues to recall their first impressions of Smiley, and their answers are unanimous: She's really, really tall.

The 6-foot-2 Smiley is also intelligent, ambitious, consistent and affectionate, those same sources reveal. She gets high marks from both students and administrators for her work as a literature and writing professor in ISU's Department of English. When the New York Times Book Review featured Smiley on its cover late last year, it referred to her stories as "shaped with a constant, overseeing intelligence, with full sympathy for humanity's tendency to destroy its own best visions." And in January, the literary world bestowed upon her one of its highest honors. She was nominated, along with John Casey, Oscar Hijuelos, Amy Tan and eventual winner E.L. Doctorow, for the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction for her most recent novellas, *Ordinary Love* and *Good Will*.

But Smiley, 40, apparently doesn't view life as an accumulation of so many great blurbs on a jacket cover. As she said not long ago to Fern Kupfer, a fellow author, faculty member and friend, "So you win a Pulitzer Prize. You still gotta carpool."

Who *is* Jane Smiley? And what is one of contemporary fiction's hottest rising stars doing in Ames, Iowa?

"So you think Jane would be writing different books if she was living in Nome, or on the tip of Chile, or in some underground cave? Of course not—she'd be writing the same wonderful stories wherever she is," says Barbara Grossman, Smiley's best friend since their days as students at the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop. "Jane lives the life of the imagination, the mind. She's unaffected by place."

"I think it's perceived that there is a literary mafia in Manhattan that sits around in overstuffed, high-backed chairs discussing the latest issue of Mirabella or Vanity Fair," says Molly Friedrich, Smiley's agent, "and who knows, maybe there is. But Jane isn't of that world, she doesn't need that world, and quite frankly, she's better than that world. People have learned of her through word of mouth and consistently marvelous reviews, and the beauty of it is that Jane has come to all this success without having to compromise anything."

Indeed, if there is a consistent trait attributed to Smiley, it's her desire to do things her way. Though her mother remembers her as a "pretty easygoing child who didn't question much when she was younger," Grossman, now publisher of Charles Scribner and Sons, recalls otherwise from her days editing Smiley's early novels for Harper and Row and Simon and Schuster. "She doesn't take any crap from me," Grossman says with a laugh. "Jane inevitably gets her way, just like my children. You can't win with a 3 1/2 year old, and you can't win with Jane."

Bobbie Bristol, Smiley's current editor at Alfred A. Knopf, concurs, though less strenuously. "We sometimes butt heads, and she'll at least think about my suggestions. Then she'll come back and say very simply, 'You're right' or 'You're wrong.'"

After publishing three novels from 1981-84, Smiley decided she wanted to market a compilation of her short stories and a novella, *The Age of Grief,* in one volume under the novella's title. When the book came out

in 1987, it was met with glowing reviews, and eventually was nominated for the National Book Critic's Circle Award for that year. "People loved the novella," Friedrich remembers, "but kept saying they wished Jane would have written the same story in novel-length form. When I told her that, she looked me square in the eye and said, 'Molly, there just isn't a marriage in America that deserves more than a novella.'"

Marriage. It appears often in Smiley stories, perhaps because it's one institution to which she can most relate, having experienced three of her own. Her literary interpretations of matrimony portray it sometimes as flourishing, often times not. In *The Age of Grief,* a dentist privately agonizes over his suspicions that his wife is having an affair, grappling with how to keep his family intact while steadfastly maintaining his silence. The main character in *Ordinary Love* is a middle-aged woman whose brief affair cost her her five children, and now, 20 years later, she attempts to explain to them, at last, why their family destructed. In a more drastic vein in *Duplicate Keys,* what appears to be the perfect marriage dissolves when one spouse murders the other. "Jane is not afraid to write about the dirty little secrets of life," Grossman says. "She makes us think about those things that we can't and won't admit about ourselves, but she always writes of them with sympathy."

Though she described herself in a 1988 Savvy magazine article as "schoolmarmish," Smiley is anything but. Hers has been an unconventional life, mixed with only faint smatterings of conformity. She was born in Los Angeles, but moved at age six with her mother to St. Louis following her parents' divorce. Frances Graves Nuelle, Smiley's mother, was the women's page editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat for many years, and young Jane spent most of her spare time with her grandparents, aunts and uncles.

When Smiley was 11 her mother remarried, and it was about that time that Jane became an avid horseback rider. As a teenager, Smiley recalls, "I was really, totally out of it. In seventh grade, I was 5-foot-1 and I weighed 80 pounds. By 11th grade, I was 6-foot-2 and totally dizzed out. I just rode horses all the time." While Smiley doesn't remember writing much until college, her mother recalls a sixth-grade teacher calling her with concerns.

"Apparently Janie was refusing to punctuate anything she would write," Nuelle remembers, "so I tried to explain to the teacher that Janie always had such a flow of information running through her head that she probably just didn't want to take the time. To this day, I know she's an incredibly fast writer."

Following prep school, Smiley headed for Vassar, where she enrolled in creative writing classes and fell in love with John Whiston. Her senior project, a 250-page novel based on "people I met at Vassar whom I thought were Dostoyefsky," was met warmly by her instructors, who encouraged her to continue writing. By now, she'd abandoned her earlier ambition to become a farmer, remembering "my boyfriend wasn't interested in farming or horses or the rural life. He was a Marxist who wanted to work in a factory and be the savior of the working class. I was willing to go along with that, to a degree."

At the beginning of her senior year she married Whiston, and following Smiley's graduation, the two of them set off for England to work on an archaeological dig. "I thought it was absolutely hilarious when I heard they were going on the dig," Nuelle recalls. "I remember the postcards I received from Janie during that time. The first one said, 'John and I worked for eight hours on the dig today.'" But Nuelle says that as time went on, Smiley's interest in the project waned, and by the end of their participation in the dig, her postcards were reading, "John worked eight hours on the dig today. I worked eight hours on my novel."

After leaving England, the couple traveled throughout Europe and the Mediterranean for several months, then moved back to Iowa City, where Whiston had been accepted into graduate school. Smiley began working as a seamstress in a teddy bear factory, then was accepted into the English graduate program at Iowa. About 18 months later, in 1974, she enrolled in the university's Writers' Workshop, where fellow classmate Grossman remembers her as "smart, verbal, feisty. Some of the professors loved that, others hated it." Smiley herself recalls dis-

The Age of Grief

I had never loved anything—object, or feeling, or person—the way I loved her right now. Love is in the body as well as the mind, a rush of blood to the surface, maybe, an infinitesimal yearning stretch of the nerve endings. I looked at her without seeing her, blinded by the loveliness of her nose, the grace of her forehead, the curl of her upper lip and the roundness of the lower. I will never see her, hard as I try to look past love. My eyes will always cast a light over her, and I will always think that this love, mine for her, is a dear thing. But it is as common as sand, as common as flesh.

Jane Smiley

ORDINARY LOVE

Well, the fact is that I have been a mother for thirty years, now, half again longer than I was a child, and the last thirty years have given me as many habits and predilections as my childhood did. The bodies in the house, whose presence comforts me, are the bodies of my children, not my mother and father. What comforts me is not my own safety anymore, but theirs.

Jane Smiley

agreeing with the instructional methods that were used. "The teaching was much more judgmental than analytical. We would all agree whether or not we liked a story, but we didn't learn anything about why it did or didn't work. So, no, I wasn't especially influenced by the Workshop. I was getting a lot of practice, but I think I also was floundering a lot. That's why I teach writing differently in my classroom. I don't allow the words 'good' or 'bad.' We always talk about how a story works and why an author made certain choices. It takes a long time to diagnose what's wrong in a student's story, because it can be very subtle and often you need to see several drafts before you can identify the problem."

Upon completing two master's degrees from Iowa, Smiley was awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant to study in Iceland during the 1976-77 school year. By then divorced from Whiston, she traveled there originally to research Icelandic for her Ph.D. dissertation. While she had studied medieval English and Old Norse extensively at Vassar and Iowa, she soon realized "I wasn't really equipped to be an old Icelandic scholar," so she "read and wrote and knitted and learned" for those nine months, then returned to the University of Iowa to complete her Ph.D.

She also married Bill Silag, and their daughter, Phoebe, was born in 1978. Life as she knew it had changed. No more archaeological digs or months in near-isolation in a foreign land. No more debating writing theory with fellow scribes. This was a world of diapers and laundry and electric bills. So Smiley began to write. It was during her pregnancy that she composed most of her first published novel, *Barn Blind,* the story of a family obsessed with horses. Following the birth of Phoebe, she completed her second and third novels, *At Paradise Gate* and *Duplicate Keys.*

Smiley says now that "my imagination really got engaged" after the birth of her daughter. "I think being a mother is about the most interesting thing a person can do, because you are always negotiating your own power and the power of your children. But it can lead to an almost impossible situation, too. Women are taught to be virtuous as girls, and to please others, and then when you have children and you have all this power over them, virtue and power are almost totally incompatible. Women are encouraged to be selfless, and yet in order to raise healthy children, you have to have a self who knows what's right and what's wrong. You're constantly balancing."

But by 1981, Smiley had grown "tired of sitting around," so she applied for, and received, an assistant professorship on ISU's English faculty. Just what did chairperson Frank Haggard see in this writer with not much teaching experience? "I saw a person with talent, with real promise," he remembers. "She already had a fine record, and I suspect we were pretty lucky to get her to come here. And besides that, she called me 'Shorty,'" he says with a laugh. (Haggard is 6-foot-3.)

It was during her early years at Iowa State that Smiley undertook what she views as her greatest accomplishment to date—the writing of *The Greenlanders.* Her stay in Iceland had inspired her to write the book, but as she told Publisher's Weekly, she wrote her first three novels to get the necessary "practice and technical skill" to tackle this project. The 558-page novel, set in 14th-century Greenland, focuses on the final years of a settlement community inhabited by descendants of Erik the Red. Smiley spent months digging up background details on the region and its mythology— traveling to Greenland in the interim— and then several years writing the book, which was published in 1988.

"*The Greenlanders* is funny, because either people just don't get involved with it or they adore it," Smiley says. "My editor was telling me that one of her writers said he would cite the book in his divorce proceedings because his wife hadn't done anything since she started reading it. He said he'd get up in the morning and there would be the 2 year old in the high chair waiting to be fed, his wife sitting at the table reading *The Greenlanders.*"

In 1986, Smiley and Silag were divorced, and a year later, she and Mortenson renewed a relationship that had ended in 1976 when Smiley went to Iceland and Mortenson headed for California. "We got together in 1973 while we were both at Iowa," Mortenson remembers, "and we lived in a shack on the Iowa River that had no running water, a wood stove and an outhouse—but the rent

was only $25 a month. One day we realized the porch had fallen off and was rolling down the hill." Several years and a few marriages later, Smiley and Mortenson were wed in the summer of 1987.

These days, they're both working out of their home on Clark Avenue. Smiley is on a one-year leave from her teaching position, and Mortenson is a freelance screenwriter. They've collaborated on a few ventures, including an episode of *thirtysomething*, and now are working on a project that "looks at life in the '60s through the eyes of Midwestern musicians," Mortenson explains. Smiley also currently is under contract with Universal Studios to write a screenplay. And she's working on a new novel, this one centered around two farm families living in Iowa's mythical 100th county in 1980.

For the time being, Smiley plans to continue living and teaching in Ames. Much of that is due to the joint custody arrangement she shares with Silag (the couple's other daughter, Lucy, is 7), but also because "you can get a lot of work done in Ames—there aren't a lot of distractions." Even so, Smiley would like to be "bumped up on the writer's hierarchy a little bit.

"I avoid a lot of the jostling among writers by not living in New York," she says, "but I'm also out of the loop. For example, last year when the whole thing with Salman Rushdie happened, the New York Times didn't call me up to ask what I thought. But the benefits are far greater than the drawbacks. I might have carried this Midwestern yokel stance almost to its end by now, but I can still go in to New York and ooh and ah and be impressed and innocent and fresh and that works. I don't have to pretend like I'm in the know." ("The woman wore *pedal pushers* the last time she came to New York," agent Friedrich crows.)

So what's next? "Quite simply, Jane is writing some of the most important novels of the 20th century," Grossman says. Editor Bobbie Bristol agrees, adding, "I predict that every book Jane writes will, in some way, leap beyond the last one. She will continue to outdo herself."

"There's an anthology of stories coming out this spring that highlights the best women writers of the past 25 years," Friedrich says, "and for whatever reason, Jane's work isn't featured in it. I was *enraged* when I saw that—it's not even arguable anymore that she should be included.

"Jane is consistently world-class," she continues, "and she's at the point in her career when people are anxious to read 'the new Smiley,' whatever it is. Pretty soon people will be wanting to read her grocery list."

For Smiley, the goals are much less verbose. When she returns to the classroom this fall, she wants her students "to be happier than they think they are. Writers should be fun." And as for her goals for her own writing? "I want to be a great writer. The more you write, the more evolved is your sense of what you have to do to satisfy yourself.

"Oh, yeah, I'd like to get on the bestseller list, too." With that, she gets up from her dining room chair and heads for the living room, signaling an obvious end to the questioning. Within seconds, Hitchcock stands at her side.

NO REGRETS

The sign said TRUCK STOP, but there didn't seem to be any truckers inside, just older men in overalls and seed-corn caps sitting at the counter under a thick blue cloud of cigarette smoke. They sat silently with gnarled, work-hardened hands circling white mugs of coffee.

The men at the counter didn't move or speak, but sat under the flickering fluorescent light, their postures as severely set as if they were in a Grant Wood painting. It is something I have noticed in midwesterners, this stillness. In the men, especially. They are very friendly and nice when you speak to them, but it is as if any extra talk or liveliness might be considered showing off.

Fern Kupfer

Fern Kupfer

She harbors *No Regrets* in the search for literary recognition

"Dear Fern Kupfer,

"I'll start by being a touch overly dramatic and say that No Regrets *may have changed my life. Of course, I won't know that until the dust clears since I only finished reading it 10 minutes ago..."*

"Don't you just love that line?" Kupfer howls after reading aloud her most recent fan letter. *'... Of course, it's only been 10 minutes ....'* These are the women I write for, the women just like me who want to clarify some things about their own lives by reading realistic fiction."

Much of Kupfer's real life creeps, and sometimes blasts, into her writing. The ISU English instructor has penned three books during the past eight years, the first of which, *Before and After Zachariah,* chronicled the pain and frustration she and her family endured after the birth and subsequent institutionalization of her severely retarded son. Kupfer, the daughter of a retired Long Island Jewish couple now living in Florida, weaves a poignant tale of love and marriage in the twilight years in her first novel, *Surviving the Seasons*. Its setting? A Jewish retirement community in Florida. Her most recent novel, *No Regrets,* recounts a cross-country van trip shared by two women friends and their young daughters, a trip made necessary after one of the women decides to leave her husband for another man. And yes, Kupfer and her daughter, Gabi, went on such a journey several years ago with a friend of Kupfer's who was ending her marriage for a new relationship on the West Coast.

"All my stuff comes from true places," says Kupfer, 43, a small-boned, lively woman who retains her rapid-fire New York accent. "I don't make up things—at least parts of all my dialogues are memories of conversations I've heard in places like doctors' waiting rooms. I think it's dangerous to be friends with a writer, because you're always looking around and you're always hearing things. So, people like my friend get upset. But people also need to remember that it's OK to have other peoples' voices in your head when you write. You have to be true to yourself."

Remaining true to her writing may have been most difficult for Kupfer during the final stages of *No Regrets,* an exceptionally pro-matrimony novel she was in the process of revising two years ago when her own 20-year marriage ended in an unexpected divorce. "I know it's cliché, but with every loss comes change, and with such a cataclysmic change, Fern had to do a lot of unnerving, resistant thinking," says Molly Friedrich, Kupfer's literary agent. "But she did it, and she emerged on top. Though extraordinarily painful, she managed to add even more wisdom to what already was packed into that compact body. I expect that because of that experience, and other difficult times she's lived through, her future writing will be even more resonant."

Kupfer describes that writing as "readable, not very cerebral. I'm not obscure, ever, and sometimes I'm too easy. So I can border on being slick. When I'm bad, I'm slick. When I'm good, I'm a character."

The life from which she draws continues to change. This summer, Kupfer will marry fellow English faculty member Joe Geha. *Surviving the Seasons* has been optioned by a British film production company. And as she nears completion of her third novel, she wants to remain accessible to her readers.

"I'm literate, but not literary," she says. "I like to think that people who read me and like me agree with everything [syndicated columnist] Ellen Goodman—who I personally think should run the world— has to say. I think my reader is someone who has an ironic sense of it all, but good common sense, too. Someone who is appreciative of what life is all about. Does that sound real corny?"

—D.G.

MEMORIZE THESE FACES

1989-90 Board of Directors

Roxanne Beale Amendt, **Past President,** Home Economics Education 1978
Executive Director, Metro Denver GIVES; Denver, Colorado

Linda R. Cottington, Applied Art 1970
Partner, Cara Communications Ltd.; Des Moines, Iowa

O. Robert Eddy, Chemical Engineering 1940
Chairman of the Board, Eddy-Walker Equipment Company; Des Moines, Iowa

Keith H. Heffernan, Farm Operations 1969
Director of Public Affairs, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; Waukee, Iowa

Adrienne Rickerd Herbert, **Secretary,** Home Economics Education 1951
Homemaker and Community Volunteer; Des Moines, Iowa

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Barbara H. Johnson, Home Economics Education 1949
Registered Representative, Century Companies of America; Cedar Falls, Iowa

Sharon Dunker Juon, Sociology (1969)
Executive Director, Iowa Northland Region Council of Governments; Waterloo, Iowa

Daniel L. Krieger, **President,** Industrial Administration 1959
President, First National Bank; Ames, Iowa

Joanne Seymour Kuster, Home Economics Journalism 1976
President, Kuster Ltd.; Des Moines, Iowa

Dale W. Longtin, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine 1958
General Partner, Muscatine Veterinary Hospital; Muscatine, Iowa

Warren R. Madden, **Treasurer,** Industrial Engineering 1961
Vice President for Business and Finance, Iowa State University; Ames, Iowa

Steven F. Mores, **Vice President/President-Elect,** Science and Technical Journalism 1967
President and Co-Publisher, Tribune Newspapers; Harlan, Iowa

Seated: Warren Madden, Dan Krieger, Adrienne Herbert, Steve Mores, Jim Hopson. Standing: Bob Eddy, Dynette Mosher, Dale Longtin, Joanne Kuster, Meg Speer, Sharon Juon, Amy Peters, Jill Wagner-King, Barbara Johnson, Dan Robinson, Cindy Shelton, Norm Skadburg.

After all, you did elect them

to the ISU Alumni Association board of directors. Whenever you've got questions or concerns only fellow alums could relate to, they're good people to call. They also serve the Alumni Association by advising staff in policy making, program planning and resource allocation. They volunteer their time and expenses to meet with the staff on campus at least four times a year. In addition to the directors, there also are several ex-officio members from auxiliary student, parent and alumni organizations.

As an Association member, it's your job to elect the 15 directors to five-year terms. Your help in electing three new directors for 1991 is appreciated—just use the ballot on the special cover surrounding this issue of VISIONS.

Get to know these people. And if you'd like to be one of them, contact the Alumni Association for further information.

Amy M. Peters, Social Work 1984
Alumni Affairs Coordinator, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Omaha, Nebraska

Daniel C. Robinson, Physical Education 1970, M.S. Higher Education Administration 1972, Ph.D. 1978
Associate Professor/Assistant Dean, ISU College of Education; Ankeny, Iowa

Norman D. Skadburg, Agricultural Education 1969, M.S. 1971
President and CEO, First State Bank; Webster City, Iowa

Mary "Meg" Graf Speer, Dietetics 1946
Registered Licensed Dietitian in County Health Care and Collaborator, ISU Department of Food and Nutrition; Ames, Iowa

Jill Wagner-King, Industrial Administration 1976
Manager of Software Marketing, IBM; Weston, Connecticut

Ex-Officio Members

Kris Davidson, *Secretary, Department of Human Resources; Co-president-elect, Iowa State Parents Association Board of Directors;* Orange City, Iowa

Bruce Davidson, *Program Specialist, K-Products, Inc.; Co-president-elect, Iowa State Parents Association Board of Directors;* Orange City, Iowa

William D. Hoefle, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine 1966, M.S. 1974
Professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Iowa State University and Representative for the ISU Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association; Ames, Iowa

Dynette Mosher, Home Economics Education 1981, M.Ed. 1984
Extension Home Economist and President, College of Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni Association; Mason City, Iowa

Cindy Shelton, Psychology 1990
ISU Senior and President, Student Alumni Association; Davenport, Iowa

David G. Topel, *Dean, ISU College of Agriculture, and Representative for the College of Agriculture Alumni Association,* Ames, Iowa

Time to get out the vote

As your president, I am preempting Jim Hopson's column in this issue to ask you to act on two matters very important to the future of your Alumni Association.

First, I encourage you to read the proposed amendments to Article V and Article VI of the Association's Articles of Incorporation. The proposed amendments are printed on page 40. You will be asked to vote on the amendments at the June 9 annual meeting (see next page).

Second, you have an opportunity this month to elect the alumni who will lead your association for the next five years. Profiles and photos of the six outstanding candidates are featured on the inside front slipcover, and a ballot and instructions for voting appear on the back, so you may return your votes to the Alumni Office.

Winners of the election and new board officers will be announced June 9 at the annual meeting.

For the past five years, I have been privileged to serve with 15 extremely talented and dedicated ISU alumni who represent you, the members, most capably on the board of directors. You'll find a photo of this hard-working group on page 37. Keith Heffernan and Joanne Kuster will complete their terms in June. I would like to thank my colleagues for their invaluable volunteer service to your Alumni Association.

I would also like to thank the association members who served on the nominating committee this year to select the six new candidates. They are Steve Mores, chair; Joanne Kuster, Tom Hertz, Steve Mahoney and Carolyn Pope.

And finally, my sincere thanks to you for supporting Iowa State University through your Alumni Association membership.

Dan Krieger

JIM HEEMSTRA

Dan Krieger

Venner named to new alumni activities job

Elizabeth Venner has been named the new coordinator of alumni activities for the ISU Alumni Association, Executive Director James A. Hopson has announced.

Venner, who joined the staff in February, will coordinate events for Alumni Days, Homecoming and other campus reunions. In addition, she will organize pregame parties for the Association in conjunction with the Department of Athletics, and she will coordinate in-state ISU club programs.

The Breda native received her bachelor's degree in home economics education and family environment from Iowa State in 1979, and has spent the past 11 years working in sales and customer service, most recently for Comfort Sales Company in Kansas City. She has been an active member of the Kansas

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The ISU Alumni Association welcomes the following new lifetime members who joined during the months of October, November and December. A list of new members will be published each quarter.

Kathleen A. and Forrest S. Aldrich
Rex W. Baker
Brian K. Bartelt
Rene D. and Michael S. Beck
Scott R. Boerth
Gary L. Borkowski
Roland J. Brandt
Richard A. Brauckman
William L. Buckels
Clair W. Burke
Jeanette M. Buckwalter and Paul J. Emmerson
Scott D. Cahalan
Valarie L. and Randall D. Campbell
John Q. Caruthers
Cheri Chambers and Michael E. Brown
Jonathan E. Chambers
Scott J. Cicciarelli
Kimberly K. and James L. Davis
Sandra B. Dobry
Larry D. Duval
Betty I. and Paul E. Force
Linda S. and Dean R. Frazer
Kenneth J. Frey
Kersten D. and Terry L. Gebard
Dennis H. Goering
Jeanne M. Hanigan
Thomas A. Hanson
Ronald J. Haworth
Vicki E. Hetland
Jeffrey K. Hoffmann
Cynthia F. Hofstetter
Alan N. Holter
Amy M. and Douglas O. Infelt
Scott D. Jaspers
Kristen R. and Stuart B. Johnson
Ngiang-Leng Khwang
Harriett J. and Donald J. Lantow
David F. Lawson
Shirley R. Lentsch
William W. Madden
Guy M. McCaw
Ethel H. McCleery
Carl A. Mehr
Alan F. Miller
Daniel R. Miller
Kevin T. Montgomery
Susan Peterson Moulder
Yih Chen Ng
Lisa D. Olsen
Randall J. Palan
Eric M. Pickel
Margaret O. and Walter S. Pilgram
Susan Powers and David R. George
Ray C. Randell
Dora Richardson
Brian W. Robbins
Brenda J. Ross
Jeff N. Ryan
Cheryl A. Schendt
Mary W. Shannon
David B. Shore
Dennis R. Swift
Marian Hess Thomas
Joan K. Thompson
Jacqueline and David G. Topel
Pui-Kwan Tse
Dennis E. VanRoekel
James A. Walker
Masumi Watanabe
Robert C. Wemer
Douglas J. Williamson
Rodney E. Winter
Tina Zegers and Brian J. Renaud
Ruth A. and Wayne P. Zemke

City ISU Club, having served as its president and on its board of directors.

Cyndi Murray Bonus, a 1985 graduate of Iowa State, has joined the Alumni Association staff as a graduate assistant advising the Homecoming '90 student committees. Bonus is pursuing a master's degree from ISU in adult education/training and development.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting of the Iowa State University Alumni Association will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 9, in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union on the ISU campus. The meeting will follow the Alumni Days' All-Alumni Luncheon. All Association members are invited to attend.

Those wishing to eat lunch at 12:30 p.m. should contact the Alumni Association at (515) 294-6525 by June 1 to purchase luncheon tickets.

Elizabeth Venner

Because you are a member of the ISU Alumni Association, you receive the award-winning VISIONS magazine!

VISIONS is published four times a year for Association members only—to keep you updated on the latest happenings at Iowa State!

Explore the Fairy-Tale Castles and Villages of Germany

Join Helga Van Iten, ISU assistant professor of foreign languages, for a storybook journey through southern Germany, Sept. 6-17. The price is $3,595 per person from Chicago, and an optional three-night extension in Munich is available.

For more information and reservations, contact ISU Alumni Association Travel, Alumni Suite, Memorial Union 2229 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010-7164, or call (515) 294-6525.

Attention Association Members

Following a year-long review of association programs and services, the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors approved at its winter meeting a number of important recommendations designed to guide the organization through the 1990s. Pursuant to implementation of these recommendations is the need to amend the organization's Articles of Incorporation.

The purpose of the first amendment is to reduce the number of trustees of the Iowa State University Achievement Fund from 13 to 3. The Iowa State University Foundation is an Iowa nonprofit corporation which is qualified as a Section 510(c)(3) charitable foundation, and as such has replaced the Iowa State University Achievement Fund as the principal fund raising organization for Iowa State University. The principal purpose of the Achievement Fund is to receive any bequests that might have been made pursuant to Wills which have not been changed and name the Achievement Fund rater than the Iowa State University Foundation.

The second amendment adjusts the officer and director indemnification provisions to reflect changes in Iowa law.

Members will vote on these amendments at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Iowa State University Alumni Association to be held on the 9th day of June, 1990, in the Great Hall, Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, at 1:30 P.M.

The first paragraph of Article V shall be stricken in its entirety and the following paragraph shall be substituted:

"The Iowa State University Achievement Fund shall be and constitute a trust fund and shall be managed, controlled and administered by a Board of three (3) trustees of which the President of Iowa State University *is one, and the other two shall be appointed annually by the board of directors of the Iowa State University Foundation to serve a one-year term.* In the event of death, resignation or removal of any elected trustee prior to the expiration of the term for which such trustee was elected, the vacancy thus created shall be filled by *the board of directors of the Iowa State University Foundation* for the balance of the term for which the vacancy exists. No member *of the Board of Directors of the Iowa State University Alumni Association or the Iowa State University Foundation* shall, while a member thereof, be eligible for election as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State University Achievement Fund with voting power."

Article VI shall be stricken in its entirety and the following new paragraphs shall be substituted:

"1. A director, officer, employee, corporate member or other volunteer of the corporation is not liable on the corporation's debts or obligations and a director, officer, corporate member or other volunteer is not personally liable in that capacity, for a claim based upon an act or omission of the person performed in the discharge of the person's duties, except for a breach of the duty of loyalty to the corporation, for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or knowing violation of the law, or for a transaction from which the person derives an improper personal benefit. If this limitation of liability is too broad, then the above provisions shall be enforced to the fullest extent as provided by law. If Iowa law is hereafter changed to permit further elimination or limitation of the liability of directors, officers, employees, corporate member or other volunteers for monetary damages to the corporation, then the liability of such director, officer, employee, corporate member or other volunteer of this corporation shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent then permitted. The directors, officers, employees, corporate member or other volunteers of this corporation have agreed to serve in their respective capacities in reliance upon the provisions of this Article.

2. This corporation shall indemnify directors, officers, employees, corporate member or other volunteers of this corporation, and each director, officer, corporate member or other volunteer of this corporation who is serving or who has served, at the request of this corporation, as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, other enterprise or employee benefit plan to the fullest extent possible against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses, actually incurred by such director, officer, employee, corporate member or other volunteer relating to such person's conduct as a director, officer, employee, corporate member or other volunteer of this corporation or as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, other enterprise or employee benefit plan, except that the mandatory indemnification required by this sentence shall not apply (i) to a breach of such director's, officer's, employee's, corporate member's or other volunteer's duty of loyalty to the corporation, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or knowing violation of the law, (iii) for a transaction from which such director, officer, employee, corporate member or other volunteer derived an improper personal benefit or against judgments, penalties, fines and settlements arising from any proceeding by or in the right of the corporation, or against expenses in any such case where such director, officer, employee, corporate member or other volunteer shall be adjudged liable to the corporation."

Of finals, physics and 4 o'clock feedings

College students often lament the out-of-touch nature of university coursework. They complain that tasks they're assigned have little relevance to the "real world" into which they'll soon be hurled.

Legitimate gripes, perhaps, but they were commiserations not often uttered by Home Management majors in the 1920s, '30s, '40s and '50s. HM majors in the Division of Home Economics were required to live in what were called home management houses, where they received hands-on experience organizing a household, budgeting, cooking, caring for babies, cleaning ... Wait a minute—raising babies?

That's right: From 1924 to 1958, HM majors were graded in part on their ability to care for foster children in their home management houses. "I was slightly terrified," says Dorothy Barthell Hughes, a 1949 Iowa State College graduate. "Just getting used to handling the babies was a valid learning experience—once you learned the baby wasn't going to crack."

Former home economics Professor Damaris Pease was one of three faculty members researching the infants in the late 1950s. She said orphans from adoption agencies were randomly sent to ISC for three-month periods, during which time 16 students and one adviser in each of six home units were responsible for—and graded on—a baby's care. Pease says today she was most interested in learning if these babies' developments differed from other orphans and from children living in their own homes.

"There were no discernible differences at those ages," Pease says. "Placing the children in home management houses wasn't detrimental to their subsequent development."

But it certainly was beneficial to the future parents. "It was several years before I had any children," Hughes says. "Perhaps that initial shock of having to care for another fragile creature was overcome by this experience."

Many HM majors still hold vivid memories of "their" babies. Lois Ferguson Beaver, also a 1949 graduate, will never forget 6-month-old Donny. "It was interesting how everyone related to him," Beaver says. "When we weren't in class, everything revolved around him."

Although Pease and other researchers determined the "multiple mothering" aspect of the course didn't adversely affect the infants, the practice was discontinued in 1958. Adoption was gaining in popularity, and babies were being matched with parents at an earlier age—often within seven days of birth.

While there were no long-term studies conducted of this curious start on life, Pease still speaks highly of the program. "Practically, it was very effective," she says. "It got those children where they needed to go."

—Melinda Taschetta

Parks Library Special Collections

Placing babies in home management houses was a "temporary" practice lasting 34 years.

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Sound engineer fine-tunes career on *Les Miserables* stage

Imagine the confusion for William Hurt. As the well-known actor plopped in front of a TV during an Off-Broadway performance of *Hurly Burly* a few years back, he waited for the cue that would transmit a laugh track from the television set. Instead, the actor was greeted with the sound of a flushing toilet roaring from the screen.

He had Kurt Fischer to thank for that.

Fortunately for Fischer, that misplaced cue represents one of only a few audio mix-ups from his past four years as a sound engineer for Broadway theatre productions. These days, he's orchestrating voices, music and special effects for the smash adaptation of Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*.

Fischer first hit the Big Apple as an aspiring dancer following his graduation from Iowa State in 1979. The physical education major spent seven years performing with a variety of modern dance troupes before choosing a more "stable" lifestyle.

Kurt Fischer

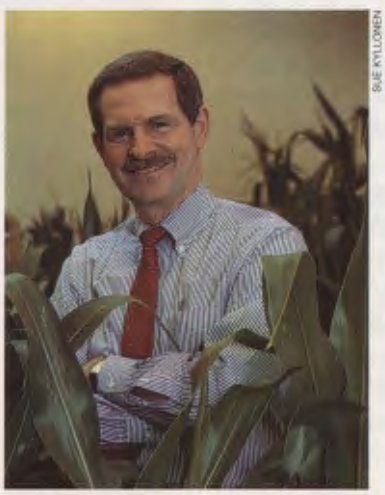
"I knew I wanted marriage and a family, and I knew I wouldn't have that if I continued my life as a dancer," Fischer explains. "I had a real interest in technical theatre, and I knew there was a lot of creativity involved in sound production, so I started training with sound designer Otts Munderloh on *The Real Thing,"* starring Glenn Close and Jeremy Irons.

That experience led to other sound design assignments with such Broadway hits as *Little Shop of Horrors, Big River, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Sweet Charity* and *My One and Only.* Eventually Fischer obtained his union card, and ventured out onto his first "bus and truck," a road production of *Dreamgirls*. Remembering itineraries that placed the crews in different cities nearly every night, sandwiching a few hours of sleep between tearing down one set and putting up the next, Fischer says, "Bus and trucks are like summer camp. You're a part of this band of foreigners descending on a

Altering genes may turn corn breeding industry on its ear

Forget the five years of hard work and the several million dollars invested. By the end of January, all Roger Kleese could focus on was getting through one more phone interview with one more reporter.

If he was indeed experiencing his Warhol-predicted 15 minutes of fame, it was for a project that could have pivotal implications for agriculture worldwide. In early January, Plant Science Research Inc., a Minnetonka, Minn.-based subsidiary of Biotechnica International Inc., announced the discovery of a process that could alter significantly the genetic makeup of corn plants. In its simplest terms, Kleese's research team placed a foreign gene in a corn plant that produced its own viable seed. Further research determined that the foreign gene was present and working in the next generation of plants.



SUE KYLLONEN

Roger Kleese

Because the company currently is pursuing a patent for this process, Kleese, the subsidiary's president, is unable to divulge the identity of the transplanted gene or its function. However, he does say that genes of that particular interest can condition plants for insect resistance (corn borers, in particular), and can control rootworm in corn. In addition, he stresses the important possibility of improving the nutritional quality (especially the protein quality) of corn so that eventually, supplementation in animal nutrition can be eliminated.

Talks currently are underway with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for approval to sow a field test of these "transformed" plants. Kleese admits that numerous companies and institutions have been racing to reach the same conclusions BioTechnica recently achieved, but points out reasons why he thinks his company succeeded before the others.

"Since our company began [in 1981], we have maintained a tremendous focus on implementing a limited number of projects," Kleese says. "We realized early on that we can't do everything for everybody, so we work on only what we think is doable. And it's paid off—ours was the first company to obtain a U.S. patent for genetically modified plants."

Kleese, who received his bachelor's (1959) and doctoral ('62) degrees from Iowa State in plant breeding, now faces the challenge of marketing BioTechnica's findings. "Our products may really have the sizzle today," he says, "but they won't sell themselves. Making our findings a commercial reality is now the goal."

strange land, and you're always unbelievably tired."

Following similar road assignments with *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Big River,* that phase of his career segued into a shot at a "national"—a theatrical production (*Les Miserables,* in this case) that allowed him to spend three or four months each in several major U.S. cities as the show's sound engineer. It was that experience that landed him back on Broadway last October.

Fischer also was married last fall to Elisabeth Farwell, who is a stage manager for the new Andrew Lloyd Webber Broadway production, *Aspects of Love*. While he says he is satisfied with his current job and the security it provides (the average pay for his position is $1,000 per week), the next ideal career move for him would be to mix the audio for a new show, from its inception to its Broadway debut. And Fischer thinks he really likes the sound of that one.

(l. to r.) Krista Rogers, Mae Fritz and Linda Corkery

EDWARD McCAIN

Family tie is main ingredient for book

As E. Mae Hendrickson Fritz authored her first book in the early 1980s, she realized that her mother's forever growing trove of recipes was worth preserving. That book, *Prairie Kitchen Sampler,* evolved into a memoir of Alice Hendrickson's life, as told through the action in her farm kitchen.

Fritz tells the story affectionately through her mother's words, detailing cooking as an essential and labor-intensive contribution to a farm family. To complete the self-publishing odyssey, Fritz, a 1949 Iowa State home economics journalism graduate, enlisted her daughters, also Iowa State graduates. The book's illustrator was Linda Fritz Corkery, a Sydney, Australia, landscape architecture consultant and 1973 family environment graduate. Krista Fritz Rogers was editorial consultant and publicist. She's a 1979 graduate in industrial engineering and journalism and mass communications and a freelance writer and editor in Kansas City.

The *Prairie Kitchen Sampler* contains not only recipes but also precious family stories about Hendrickson's courtship, marriage, family and her life today in Kearney, Neb. "For me, the best part of the book is the pleasure my mother is getting from being the star," Fritz says. —*Mary Gunderson*

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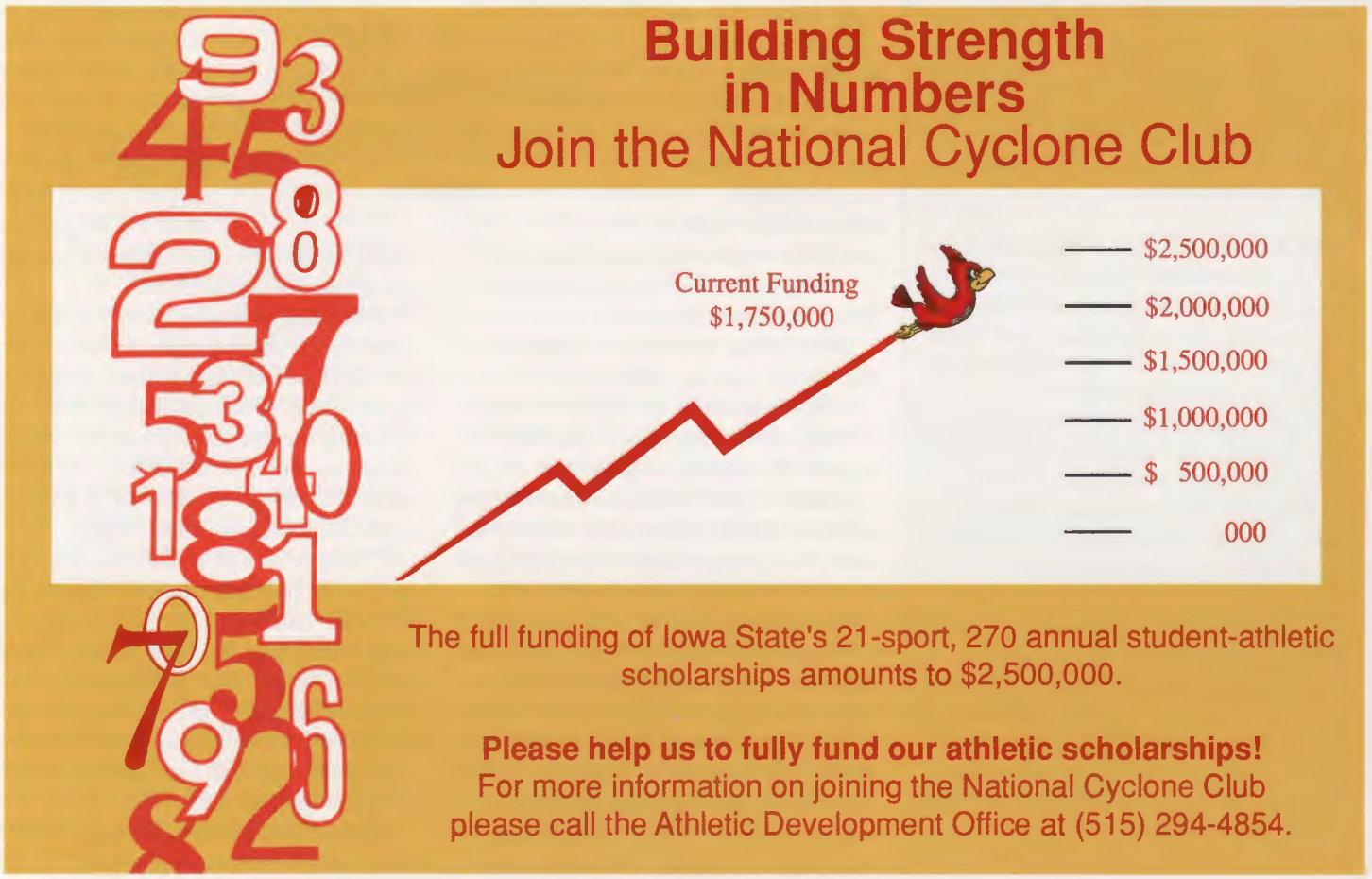

SPORTS BRIEFS

WHITE FLAG The NCAA has again said no to Iowa State football coach Jim Walden. Since taking over as ISU's football coach in 1986, Walden tirelessly has fought for an increase in the number of new scholarships allowed per season. His teams consistently fielded as many as 20 fewer scholarship players than their opponents. He's maintained that due to attrition and the 25-scholarship-per-year limit, he never will be able to reach the maximum 95. But after NCAA officials ruled for the third straight year against Walden's requested five-scholarship increase, he admitted his battle may be over.

LONDON'S FINER? Jim Criner, Walden's predecessor who was fired in 1986 amid an NCAA investigation, is back in football. In January, he was named an assistant coach for the London franchise of the International League of American Football. Criner had been operating a sporting goods store in West Yellowstone, Mont., since being fired after four years at Iowa State.

RECREATION CELEBRATION Iowa State officials hope to open the new Recreation/Athletic Facility early this month, nearly two years after breaking ground. The $13 million building will serve as a home for several Cyclone athletic teams and also will be used by students and ISU faculty and staff. Students fees were the primary source of funding for the 225,000-square foot building, with the Department of Athletics sharing a portion of the cost.

IN THE CARDS Former Iowa State assistant football coach Joe Bugel in February was named head coach of the National Football League's Phoenix Cardinals. Bugel, who coached under Earle Bruce during ISU's 1973 season, previously had been an assistant coach with the Washington Redskins.

JIM HEIDSTRA

A run on victories

NCAA cross-country championship confirms Bergan's coaching mastery

An hour or so after John Nuttall won the NCAA cross country championship and led Iowa State to its first team title, Bill Bergan approached the slight young Brit with his right hand extended.

"Congratulations," the ISU coach said. "You're a national champion."

"No!" Nuttall fired back with a broad grin. "*We're* national champions."

Bill Bergan had taught the lad well. Just 13 years earlier, Bergan had left a Waterloo high school coaching job to perform CPR on a program that had finished seventh or eighth in the Big Eight Conference 21 consecutive years. He's since produced seven Olympians and more than 75 All-Americans and 100 Big Eight champions, but ISU's 15 conference track and cross country titles—and now one NCAA crown—are his most prized accomplishments. The trophies are stuffed in his State Gym office like teeny-boppers at a New Kids On The Block concert.

"[Winning the NCAA title] culminates a fantastic job by Bill," says Martin Smith, coach of the University of Wisconsin men's cross country team that won three NCAA crowns of its own in the 1980s. "He's got the good runners, but a lot of us have good runners. I applaud a lot of things about Bill Bergan, but mostly his ability to take a group of runners and get the most out of them."

When Bergan first set about that task 13 years ago, he realized improvement would only come with the help of foreign athletes. Runners from Africa and Europe were becoming commonplace around the country, competing for teams that were losing too many U.S. athletes to schools with warmer climes, national prominence or both.

"Those lower-end schools just can't compete for the [top U.S. athletes]," Bergan says. As for the critics who say American universities should have American athletes, Bergan says this: "Universities are supposed to be universal, to have people from all over the world. I don't look at John Nuttall and see a person from England. I see all these people for the people they are."

Kenyan David Korir was Bergan's first Big Eight outdoor placewinner, in 1978 and

Bill Bergan is the only ISU coach to be elected to Cardinal Key, recognizing leadership, character, scholarship and service.

1980. Fellow Kenyans Yobes Ondieki and Joseph Kipsang, Belgian Bob Verbeeck and Nigerian Sunday Uti were other key players in ISU's ascent. And the better the Cyclones fared, the more easily Bergan could recruit crack U.S. athletes like Californian Danny Harris, an eventual three-time NCAA champion and 1984 Olympic silver medalist.

Once he got the young Harrises and Utis on campus, Bergan was relentless in emphasizing the team—especially on the foreign runners, who rarely had trained in anything but an individual atmosphere. Soon "we"-oriented freshmen became successful seniors guiding new Cyclones. And their jobs were made easier by Bergan's close scrutiny of potential Cyclones—often only through phone interviews.

Last year, one of Iowa's best high school sprinters approached Bergan with an interest in running for ISU. The athlete said he wanted nothing less than a full scholarship. Bergan said that, with a solid sprinting contingent, he only could let the young man walk on. He walked all right—out of Bergan's office. "If a guy can't blend in, I can't get excited about him," Bergan says. "So many programs have an outstanding individual who's so into himself. He might say, 'I just want to concentrate on my event.' Our guys don't say that."

That's why stars like Harris, Uti and Verbeeck—all of them Olympians—consistently ran in several events in conference meets. "[Bergan] makes you feel it's more important to score points in both events than to run just one and win it," says junior Brett Carney, the 1989 Big Eight outdoor 800-meter champ. "He tells us that, down the road, what we'll remember is helping the team win."

Carney mentions another critical Bergan attribute: The man cares. Publicly, there's never a hair out of place and you'd swear he could no more break 90 decibels than could his best miler break 3:45. In his three years at Iowa State, Carney says he's yet to hear Bergan yell—but that's never stopped him from conveying a point. And assistant coach Kevin Bourke says it's a Bergan mandate that every athlete be treated equally. A javelin thrower who doesn't travel with the team all spring gets as much respect as an NCAA champion.

Carney has seen that compassion off the track, too—he lived next door to Bergan for 11 years. He grew up seeing Bergan as a caring husband, father and community member. "He's like a dad," Carney says. "I had better [scholarship] offers, but no other coach was as concerned about me as an individual."

"The bottom line," assistant coach Steve Lynn says, "is that he's a good person."

And by all accounts, the man sitting amid all that Big Eight hardware—and that glorious NCAA trophy—is a pretty fair coach, too.

Walden's recruiting hits the fast track

Speed was the operative word for ISU football coach Jim Walden's 1989-90 recruiting season. The fourth-year Cyclone coach signed at least 23 players to letters of intent in February, including five from the talent-rich state of Texas.

All-area quarterback John Livingstone from Dallas leads Walden's Texas haul. Other Texans committing include speedy wide receiver James Brooks from Houston and defensive backs Weylan Harding from Houston and Kevin Fulton from Fort Worth. Walden said he and his staff shifted their out-of-state recruiting emphasis from California to Texas because more and more major-college prospects are coming out of Texas, and the Big Eight Conference is gaining more credibility in the area.

Walden also signed Birmingham, Mich., quarterback Bob Utter, and two Des Moines Register Iowa "elite" selections: Ankeny linebacker Jeff Cole and Newton lineman Brian Porter. Seven in-state players signed with the Cyclones.

Two signees will have familiar faces awaiting them in Ames this fall: Omaha running back Jason Williams, whose brother, Gene, is a starting offensive lineman at ISU, and Golden West (Calif.) College transfer David Lannon, a former teammate of all-Big Eight Conference running back Blaise Bryant. Lannon, a 285-pound offensive lineman, is Walden's only junior college signee.

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By Glynis Hinschberger

Engineering opportunities for women

The Congressional Task Force on Women, Minorities and the Handicapped in Science and Technology says that, by the year 2010, the United States could experience a shortage of up to 560,000 engineering and science professionals. This projected shortage is the result of fewer people interested in entering the technical fields at the same time many of those currently in the field are retiring. By the year 2000, 85 percent of the new entrants to the work force in the United States will be women and minorities. Yet statistics today show that people in these groups do not generally enter careers in engineering or science. Although women make up 51 percent of the U.S. population, only 11 percent are employed in technical fields. Blacks represent 12 percent of the nation's population, but only 2 percent are in technical fields. And only 2 percent of Hispanics, currently the fastest-growing minority group, are working in these areas.

Simply put, tomorrow's engineers and scientists are going to have to come from the ranks of women and minorities, because they will represent the true majority. In the last 20 years, many women have chosen to enter careers in engineering or the sciences. They are challenging the attitudes held some 40 years ago that women must have their jobs "defined" for them or that they "lack initiative." A 1989 survey for women engineers done by the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art indicates that the majority of working women engineers today are 35 or younger and have been working in their field for less than 10 years. Of those women who responded, 88 percent were white, 5 percent were Asian, 2 percent were Hispanic and 2 percent were black. These women expressed a high level of satisfaction with their jobs, and nearly 90 percent felt their profession is respected.

With these demographics, it would appear that we needn't worry about the future—that it will take care of itself. Perhaps that contributes to the complacent feeling of many of us that we have "arrived." However, that same survey found that 70 percent of the respondents believe that they have to work harder than their male counterparts; more than half have experienced harassment in the work place and one-third felt excluded from a decision-making capacity by the males in their organizations. That tells me there are still old habits and old behavior patterns that can catch us. We must still train the upper management in many of America's companies to recognize "officer material" in women, and to develop those with such potential. Then maybe we can have reason to feel complacent.

If we are to eliminate this projected shortage, we must tap the resources of the new work force. That means we have to create interest in technical careers like engineering and the sciences within that force. How? A majority of the Cooper Union survey respondents said they were encouraged to study engineering primarily by members of their family. More than half had a family member who was an engineer; generally that family member was a man. Most felt they received relatively little support from high school guidance counselors, college professors or their college environment. We must break the cycle. We must still educate the educators to make students aware of and even encourage the idea that career women are the norm and not the exception. Little girls should not be made to feel odd or different if they are brighter than their little boy peers. We need more role models and a more gender-friendly environment throughout elementary, junior high, high school and college.

One way any organization—particularly in engineering and science—can influence young people is to provide role models and mentors. The Society of Women Engineers, for example, has as one of its stated objectives to inform young women of the need for women engineers and to encourage them to consider a career in engineering. We do this through our career guidance programs, our scholarship funding and, most importantly, the volunteer efforts and enthusiastic spirit of our members. Our members prove to themselves and others what they are capable of every day they go to work. There are many interesting, exciting and lucrative fields for bright young people. The engineering field is only one of those. If we are going to continue to attract qualified individuals to engineering, we must all strive to provide an environment in which all people want to work.

Glynis Hinschberger, who received electrical engineering degrees from ISU in 1976 and 1977, is president of the Society of Women Engineers and manager of transmission planning at Northern States Power in Minneapolis.

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