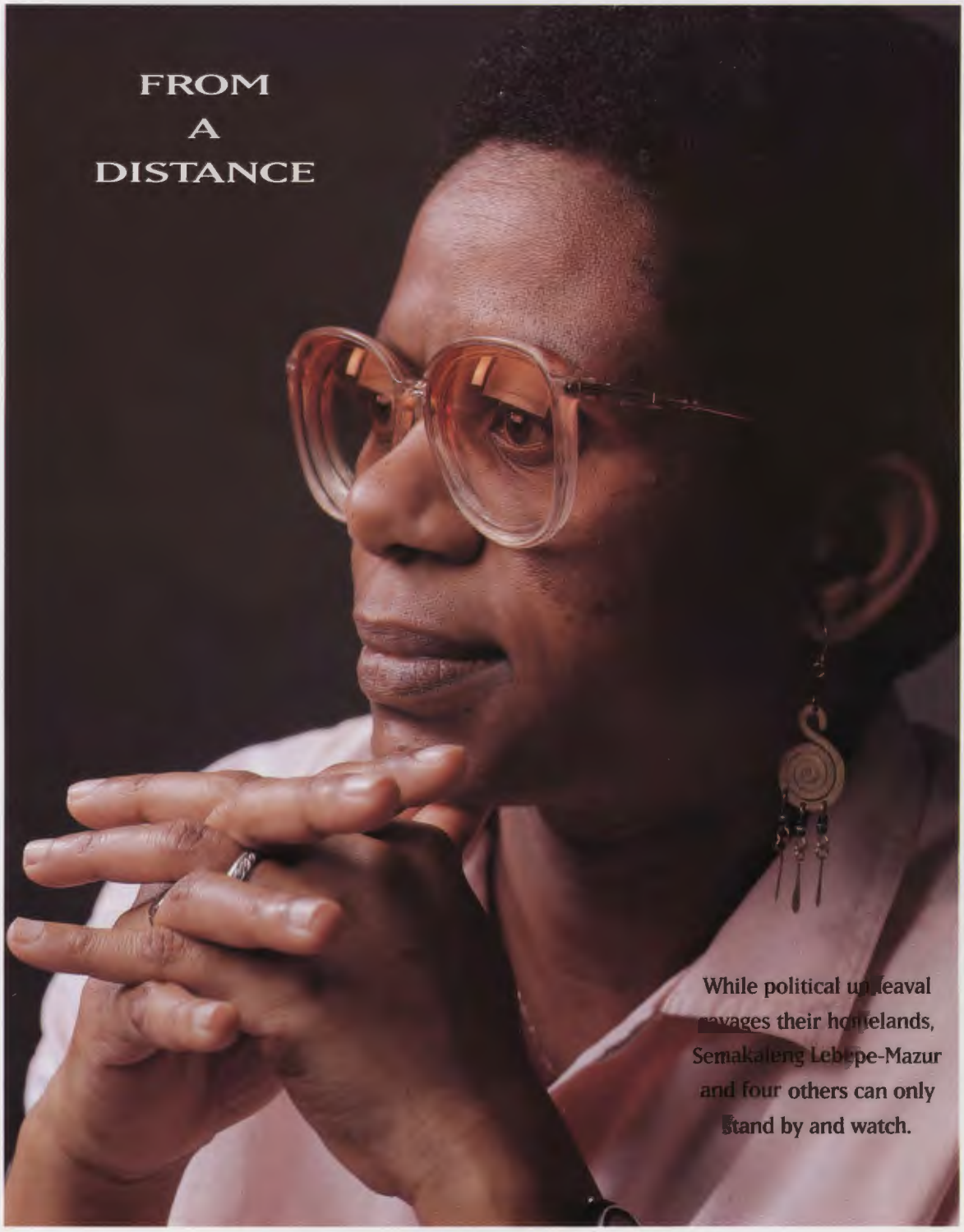
VISIONS

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE • SUMMER 1992



FROM A DISTANCE

While political upheaval ravages their homelands, Semakaleng Lebepe-Mazur and four others can only stand by and watch.

Our members always get dates.

Not to gloat, but when it comes to campus events, not one of the more than 40,000 members of the Iowa State University Alumni Association ever has a problem finding a date. That's because each August, we send members a whole year's worth! One of your many membership benefits is the annual events calendar, highlighted by 12 glorious campus scenes and chock full of campus goings-on like Homecoming, Veishea and various athletic contests. Non-members pay $7 per calendar, or, worse yet, have no ISU calendar at all. And guess where that leaves them on Saturday nights? *Put your membership to work!*

ISU Alumni Association, Alumni Suite, Memorial Union, 2229 Lincoln Way, Ames Iowa, 50010-7164

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Lifelong science devotee Patricia Thiel, one of Iowa State's leading researchers, hopes her own daughter is equally free to follow her heart.

BY STEVE SULLIVAN

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Former student Jerry Bowen finds that, after 15 years as a CBS news reporter, the air times, they are a-changin'.

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While sunny beaches lured thousands, a handful of campus altruists spent spring break laying a foundation of hope in downtrodden Kentucky.

BY PAUL HISCOCKS AND DAN DAVENPORT

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VISIONS

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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VOLUME 5 NO. 2

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Biting the Hand that Feeds You

MEDIA EXPOSURE IS A FUNNY THING. FOR years, higher education shunned it. One didn't flaunt one's forte; God forbid the ivory tower appear banal. But in an era when spin doctors and sound bites dictate the evening news, colleges and universities competing for tuition dollars find themselves in frantic pursuit of the headline.

So when the Pulitzer gods chose to shine down upon not one, not two, but *three* Iowa Staters a few months ago, the university couldn't have fantasized a better publicity opportunity. The big coup, of course, was the fiction award English Professor Jane Smiley won for *A Thousand Acres*, her *King Lear*-like tome about a dysfunctional Iowa farm family. Upon the announcement, reporters across the nation faithfully recorded her every witticism, attaching "Iowa State University" to her bio at every turn.

A few thousand miles away, Iowa State journalism graduate Tom Knudson was quietly picking up his second Pulitzer for public service in reporting. This time it was for his series on the perilous future of the Sierra Nevada; the story ran in the Sacramento Bee, where Knudson has been a reporter since the late 1980s. And in Fort Wayne, Ind., former ISU history prof Mark Neely Jr., now affiliated with the Lincoln Museum there, was accorded the Pulitzer for history for his book, *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties*.

Incredible. An institution of science and technology laying claim to three Pulitzer Prizewinners for journalism and the arts. All in the same year. Admissions recruiters quickly added this feat to their road-show repertoires. Prideful alumni crowed to their colleagues. Our proverbial buttons were popping from the Design Center to Cyclone Stadium.

Until the early-morning hours of May 2.

A nasty, looming shadow spread itself across our beaming faces, wiping clean any traces of swellheadedness. Once again, TV cameras and reporters' notebooks transmitted the sights and sounds of Iowa State to homes across the country, but their messages quelled any desire for backslapping or handshaking. It was Veishea '88 revisited, and the university's immediate image wasn't the only entity sporting a black eye *(page 10)*.

Police reports estimate that 8,000 men and women flooded Welch Avenue and then Lincoln Way during the first hours of that Veishea Saturday, yelling and pushing their way through the throng, eventually resorting to fists through windows, then into each others' faces.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN EBERT

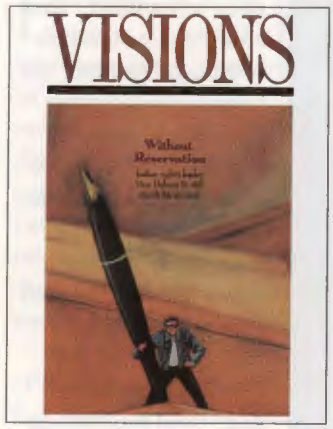
The timing couldn't have been more perfect for our nation's newsgatherers — here was yet another example of the continuing protests against that week's Rodney King/LAPD verdict. But that correlation was made in error. Those young men and women weaving and shrieking down Welch Avenue weren't motivated by social consciousness or acting out of racial frustrations. They were fueled by the two most common enemies known to Veishea: Warm weather and cold beer.

What will forever be referred to as the "Veishea '92 riot" was not an extension of the fury of south-central Los Angeles or downtown Atlanta. It was an embarrassingly desperate attempt for some attention-hungry postadolescents to "express themselves" — all for a shot at a sound bite or a photo on the front page of the next day's Des Moines Register.

We crave it. We detest it. Media exposure is a funny thing.

— Debra Gibson

LETTERS



VISIONS magazine strives to celebrate the power of thoughts and ideas. You, the reader, are the ultimate judge of success in this endeavor, making your opinions highly regarded and your letters greatly encouraged. Please send letters to: VISIONS editor, Alumni Suite, Memorial Union, 2229 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010-7164.

Rite vs. Wrong

It's hard to express my disgust after reading former [Government of the Student Body] President Molly Olinger's remarks about under-age drinking in the Spring VISIONS *(Age Barrier)*.

Alcohol causes countless physical, spiritual and social ills, yet her chief concern seems to be that 18, 19, and 20 year olds are being deprived of a "rite of passage" to adulthood. Her remarks take on added significance in light of violence that accompanied this year's Veishea which, by many accounts, was fueled in no small part by alcohol. But don't judge the revelers too harshly. No doubt many were only exercising their rite of passage and were loathe to waste a good riot as long as one was handy.

I considered most GSB members out of touch with reality when I was at Iowa State. It seems little has changed.

Gale R. Mino, '76
Augusta, Georgia

In *(Age Barrier)*, you made the statement "... Iowa followed a sweeping national trend in hiking the legal drinking age to 21 from 19." Interesting bit of revisionist history. All states were forced by the federal government to either raise their drinking age or lose all federal highway funds. This action was not voted upon by the people of Iowa; [they] had made no overwhelming demand that this change occur. ... As a consequence of this legislation, students were forced to leave the campus in search of parties at which alcohol would be served. These students are no longer drinking in a supervised environment. The Veishea riots of the past two years are a direct consequence.

... [Charles Cychosz, coordinator of ISU's alcohol and substance abuse programs], feels a portion of the blame on "underaged" drinking should fall to alumni when they resist having alcohol banned at pregame tailgate parties. He can take his pious morality and go back to his cave. Myself and thousands of ISU grads drank at ISU. I take great offense when he insinuates our behavior was immoral or wicked. Look at the numbers, for crying out loud! Does Iowa State graduate 10 percent of its students as alcoholics? 1 percent? 0.1 percent? I think you would find that the numbers are indeed a great deal smaller than that. Mr. Cychosz and VISIONS need to get a better grip on reality. Just because I drank a beer at Iowa State, or drink one at the ballpark now, doesn't mean I am an irresponsible citizen.

Your article does show the effect a closed mind has when those views are forced on an unwilling society.

Brad Lucht, '83, MS '89
San Diego, California

Leopold Center (cont.)

In response to your excellent article "For Land's Sake" *(VISIONS, Winter '92)*, you printed a letter ... alleging that only one side of the story was told *(Letters, Spring '92)*.

As the floor manager of the conference committee bill which created the Leopold Center [for Sustainable Agriculture], as a co-sponsor and author of the legislation, and as chair of the Iowa House Environment Committee, I am well aware of the necessity and history behind the creation of the Leopold Center ...

As a legislator whose district encompasses ISU ... I had received calls from researchers [with a] desire to conduct research on ways to maintain yields, but reduce chemical inputs. Without independent sources of funding, this type of critical research was not emphasized, at times not conducted.

While the Leopold Center ... was a legislative creation, the center has been funded by "oil overcharge" dollars, the state's general fund and fertilizer and pesticide (dealers) fees. Consumers *and* industry which contribute to today's environmental problems should contribute to the solutions. The long-term goal of sustainable agriculture will only be achieved with continued support of the visionary research conducted by the Leopold Center.

State Senator Ralph Rosenberg
Ames, Iowa

ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN WOI SALE: THIS TIME IT'S ON TO STAY

CAPPING A PROCESS laced with more hair-raising turns than a mountain highway, the State Board of Regents approved in May the selling of WOI-TV to a New York communications firm. For years, the sale of central Iowa's first TV station had been an issue that wouldn't go away. Seemingly every few years, somebody — be it the regents, the Iowa Legislature or a university administrator — brought up the question: Should a public entity be in the commercial TV business?

Last September, ISU President Martin C. Jischke revived the controversial issue. But by May, in just one of several bizarre turns, Jischke wound up lobbying for the regents to allow the university to retain ownership.

But the regents, led by President Marvin Pomerantz, said no. That despite the fact, as Regent John Fitzgibbon pointed out in casting his dissenting vote, that the move "compromise[s] the position of the president of the university."

Pomerantz' answer? "We have to put our resources where our priorities are," he said before an estimated crowd of 150 people — a great majority WOI proponents — before the deciding vote at ISU May 20. "It's questionable whether they're in commercial television."

JIM HEEMSTRA

Will being 'sold down the river' also mean a move down the road for WOI-TV?

The 6-3 vote in favor of selling the ABC affiliate to Citadel Communications of Bronxville, N.Y., drew choruses of boos and hisses. Several in the audience had just spent more than two hours pleading the case for retaining ownership. Iowa State launched WOI in 1950, making it central Iowa's first TV station. Supporters cited not only that rich tradition, but also WOI's effectiveness as an educational and outreach tool.

"It's a very tough day," Jischke said immediately after the vote. "It is a tough, difficult decision. [WOI] has been with Iowa State for a very long time. It is clearly not what I recommended."

But as VISIONS reported in its Spring issue (*Crunching Numbers*), Jischke earlier had recommended selling the station — to a different buyer. In February, he had urged the sale of the station for $12.5 million to the Iowa Television Group. But that move met with widespread calls to reevaluate the bidding process. In March, the regents ruled to reopen the bidding, with all offers to be evaluated by an outside firm. All four bids subsequently submitted — including Citadel's offer of $12.7 million, $3.25 million down and the rest in a promissory note — were deemed by Duff and Phelps Financial Consulting Co. of Chicago lacking in either magnitude or security. Nine days before the regents' vote, Jischke said at a press conference, "It's important to work to put the question of a sale behind us."

But within a week came the saga's most shocking twist: Citadel sweetened its offer to $14 million — every penny of it cash. The regents took that figure to the other three bidders; none responded. Thus confident it stood on solid legal ground, the board went against Jischke's wishes.

Though two days later the Iowa Legislature voted to block the sale, Governor Terry Branstad vetoed that obstruction on June 3.

"I'm very, very sad," said journalism Professor Emeritus Jack Shelley, perhaps the station's most outspoken and visible champion. "It is a terrible day for Iowa State University. One of the most valuable, irreplaceable assets Iowa State University has, has just been sold down the river. Once this station has moved to Des Moines, it will never again offer these opportunities for students."

The sale was contingent on Citadel's ability to guarantee to continue offering internships and other experiential programs. While Shelley and many others feel the move to Des Moines is a foregone conclusion, Citadel President Philip J. Lombardo said no such decision has been made.

(Editor's note: The WOI sale was approved at the height of an intense state budget battle in Des Moines. VISIONS will detail the outcome — and its effects on Iowa State in 1992-93 and beyond — in its Fall issue.)

THERE'S NO COVERING IT UP: THE TILL IS GONE

IT'S THE BEST OF RURAL America: Five-buckle overshoes in the breezeway, an over-zealous border collie racing through the grassy ditch in hot pursuit of the neighbor's pickup truck, and Farm Journal tucked down into the magazine rack between TV Guide and the hometown newspaper.

So it's big stuff to the rest of rural America when your face shows up on the cover of that Farm Journal. Especially when it's in recognition of your out-of-sight soybean yields — and you're known throughout the country for your work as president of the National *Corn* Growers Association.

"Boy, have I gotten it from my friends all over the Midwest," Keith Hora says about his celebrity *cum* good-natured notoriety. "If it's not from [corn growers], it's the soybean guys wanting to know why a corn guy is out in that beanfield."

That "corn guy," a 1960 ISU graduate, along with sons Brian, '85, and Kurt, '88, turned up on the magazine's cover last January after Pop Hora sang the praises of no-till farming at an agricultural engineering conference. That, coupled with winning the 1990 Iowa Masters Soybean Growers Contest, led to the trio's selection for coast-to-coast renown.

The Horas, who farm 2,300 acres in Iowa's Washington County, have Mother Nature to thank for their conversion to no-till methods. Heavy rains seven autumns ago prevented routine plowing; by the next spring, a newly purchased drill represented their shift in both theory and practice. And as their soybean growers awards attest, the innovation was worth a big hill of beans.

How has the exposure changed their lives? "Well, income-wise, it hasn't helped," Keith Hora jokes. While son Brian has hit the area lecture circuit expounding the virtues of no-till drilling, his dad remains the Rodney Dangerfield of commodity groups.

"My friends keep asking me how the blue jeans I wore in the picture got all faded, since I never work," the elder Hora says. "I just agree and blame it all on the golf course."

GARY CLARKE

Six months after his long-awaited release from Middle East captors in Beirut, Lebanon, ISU graduate Thomas Sutherland made a joyous return to campus as grand marshal of the Veishea parade. But his visit involved so much more than the parade. There was: (above), a display at which more than 3,000 well-wishers signed scrolls for him and fellow ex-hostage Terry Anderson, and (below) a presentation to him and wife Jean of an alumni association life membership and ISU watch by Board of Directors President Sharon Juon.

GARY CLARKE

◄ STATE STATS: FACTS OF STACKS ►

Number of volumes in Parks Library collection, June 30, 1991: 1,887,032

*

Number of archives and manuscripts: 5,382,000

*

Number of microforms: 2,337,484

*

Number of current serial subscriptions: 21,448

*

Number of aerial photographs: 22,089

Number of maps: 98,123

*

Number of rare books: 27,651

*

Publication date of oldest book in collection: 1475

*

Number of languages represented in library materials: 118

*

Amount of library shelving capacity, in miles: 35.79

Amount of books, in miles: 26.83

*

Number of books found in library and placed correctly by staff, daily: 400

*

Library exit count, October 1991: 249,297

*

Library exits per hour, October 1991: 535.5

*

Library exits per minute, October 1991: 8.9

Total circulation desk loans, February 1992: 32,056

*

Circulation desk loans per hour, February 1992: 75

*

Circulation desk loans per minute, February 1992: 1.25

SOURCE: PARKS LIBRARY

WILL THE PATIENT NEED A CAT SCAN, DOCTOR?

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN EBERT

You might say that Bill Hoefle is one smooth operator. His patient was no stranger to Vegas. And within weeks after the ISU professor and surgeon repaired her broken bones, "Jazz" purred her thanks with an autographed copy of her latest calendar pinup shot.

It was no secret on the Strip that she lived with entertainer Robert Goulet, although it was a member of his household staff who delivered her to the hospital that night. Hers had been a classic case of hit and run, and she suffered severe fractures of the femur and pelvis. Following three intensive hours with scalpel and thread, Hoefle repaired the damage and predicted a full recovery.

Jazz wasn't one to forget the kindness of strangers. When Goulet came through Des Moines several months later for a performance of *The Fantasticks*, Hoefle found himself with third-row, center-stage seats and a backstage pass. A post-curtain conversation with Goulet reassured him that indeed, Jazz had resumed running and playing with a vengeance.

Even now, whenever Hoefle returns to consult at Las Vegas' Sunset-Eastern Animal Hospital, he'll ask about Jazz. And when he's back within the confines of his College of Veterinary Medicine office, he'll occasionally catch the eye of the black domestic shorthair cat he once saved, as she arches her back and stares at him from the pages of the '91 Friskies calendar.

Purrrrrr...

ISU PROBES 'DESIGNER FOOD' APPROACH TO HALTING CANCER

CAN SOYBEANS PREVENT CANcer? A growing collection of evidence suggests they can, and some Iowa State University researchers are working to add to the list. Last fall, an ISU team received a two-year, $416,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to study the effect of daily doses of soy milk on the blood serum levels of isoflavin — a soybean component thought to prevent cancer.

This study, headed by food science Professor Pat Murphy, leaves the cart squarely behind the horse. Before a full-fledged investigation of isoflavin's power over breast, colon and rectal cancer is undertaken, the ISU team strives to determine how easily the compound can be placed into the body. Twelve students currently drink about two cups of a soy milk instant breakfast each day; soon Murphy will triple the amount. Scientists then regularly monitor the students' blood, urine and fecal samples for signs of isoflavin increase.

"In Asia, where people consume a lot of soy foods, it's well known that their incidence of cancer is lower," Murphy says. "We want to see if these students eat a reasonable amount of soy foods, what effect that can have on the [isoflavin] level. There are other studies going on involving other [soybean components besides isoflavins]. This is all part of the NCI's efforts to look at lowering the risk of cancer rather than treating it after it occurs. It's kind of a 'designer food' approach."

Food science Professors Laura Cook and Suzanne Hendrich also are working on the project.

JIM HEEMSTRA

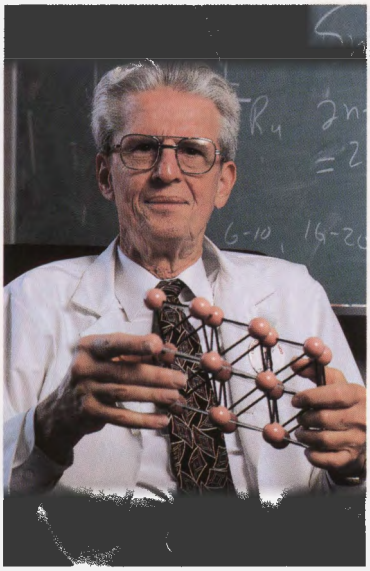
This agate and accompanying 19th century Chinese snuff bottle compose one set in a series of striking pieces in the Oppold Mineral Collection at ISU's Brunnier Gallery and Museum through Aug. 30. Director Lynette Pohlman says the show "explores the scientific and artistic aspects of minerals, allowing us to see minerals as nature's art and as humankind's." The collection of rare minerals is owned by William, '43, and Ruth, '42, Oppold of Chapel Hill, N.C.

ACADEMY INDUCTION HIGHLIGHTS CHEMIST'S 40-YEAR CAREER...

JOHN CORBETT WILL BE THE first to agree — it's a heck of a way to commemorate a 40th anniversary.

On April 28, the National Academy of Sciences tapped the Ames Lab chemist for inclusion in its revered ranks. Corbett, a distinguished professor of chemistry, becomes only the seventh faculty member (and third chemist) in the university's history to be elected to the academy, considered one of the highest honors afforded an American scientist.

"Damned surprised and greatly pleased" was Corbett's initial reaction to the announcement, although he's adamant that the award won't lure him from his 40-year employment with the Ames



JACK COVIER

John Corbett

Lab and the Department of Chemistry. During those four decades, Corbett has established himself as an internationally renowned inorganic chemist, working specifically in the area of exploratory synthesis in solid-state chemistry. "In other words, we're always looking for new compounds people have never made before, the more novel the better," explains Corbett, whose research is funded equally by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy.

"Professor Corbett wasn't chosen for this honor because of his credentials or his 40 years of experience," notes James H. Espenson, Department of Chemistry chairperson. "It's because of his work in what is singularly important and new in chemistry. He has pieced together different atoms in clusters and cages no one before him had conceived of; he has contributed significantly to the advancement of the understanding of structural matter."

Because he'll be jetting to Europe not once but twice this summer to present at professional conferences, Corbett has little time to bask in his most recent glory. But it isn't recognition that drives Corbett to pursue science at ISU, anyway.

"Iowa State is exceptional in that it has four scientists working in solid-state chemistry," he explains. "Most colleges in the U.S. don't have any. It's really kind of nice to have somebody to talk to."

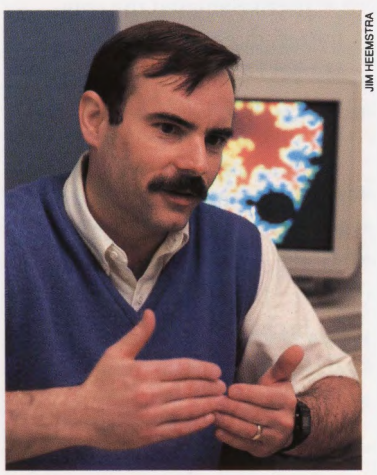
...WHILE PUSHING LIMITS NETS NSF AWARD FOR 39-YEAR-OLD PROFESSOR

IN A DECISION THAT WAS FAR from random, the National Science Foundation (NSF) recently selected computer science Assistant Professor Jack Lutz as one of its 1992 Presidential Young Investigator Award recipients.

Lutz, 39, who was nominated for the honor by department chairperson Arthur Oldehoeft, specializes in the field of computational complexity theory research. In his words, "The basic game is to try to understand why some problems take longer than others to solve on the computer. We measure not only the time they take, but also the memory space and whether randomness is really helpful in computation."

The Kansas native will receive from $125,000 to $500,000 for his research during the next five years, the total amount dependent upon matching funds obtained from private industries. He plans to use the money to bring more visiting scientists to campus and to sponsor additional young researchers entering the field.

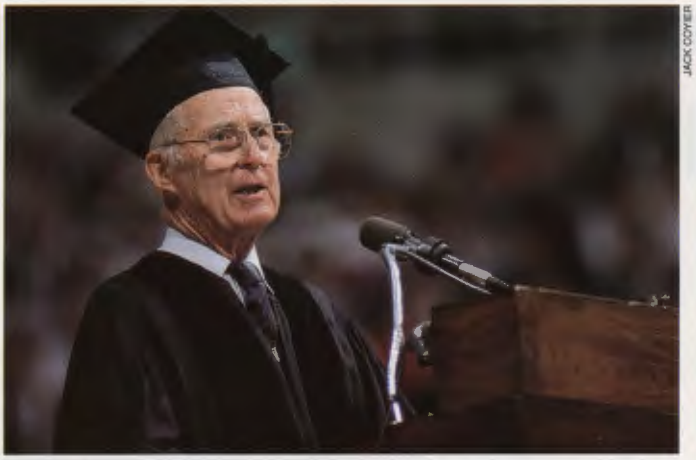
Lutz, who received his PhD from Cal Tech, joined the ISU faculty in 1987 and was one of only two theoretical computer scientists to receive the distinction this year. (A total of 220 researchers were honored.) In response to the stated purpose of the Young Investigator Award — to help universities attract and retain talented young faculty members — Lutz replies, "This is where I want to be professionally; I very much value the life of academic research.



JIM HEEMSTRA

Jack Lutz

"I've always been interested in the limits on what can and cannot be done," he continues. "When you work with computers, limits are resources ... except the sun can blow up before you come up with a solution. I want to keep solving bigger and better problems, because we don't know what barriers are real and which are there simply because we're not smart enough to run clever programs."



JACK COYER

In May commencement exercises, Iowa State gave an honorary doctor of humane letters degree to Norman Borlaug, 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner. Borlaug, who gave the commencement address to 2,500 graduates, is renowned for his work in battling world hunger.

"AND YOU CAN QUOTE ME"

"[One uninterested toy manufacturing] representative said, 'The secretary to the president of our company looks like a Barbie doll. See, women *can* look like that.'"

—Cathy Meredig, founder of High Self-Esteem Toys and creator of the "realistically" proportioned Happy To Be Me Doll, during April 22 campus speech

JISCHKE TO TASK FORCE: 'BE BOLD' IN WAKE OF VEISHEA RIOT

IN ASSIGNING THE CHARGE TO a newly formed, 17-member task force to examine the embattled Veishea celebration, President Martin Jischke did not mince words:

"In the absence of significant change, the elimination of Veishea, or its self-destruction, is a real possibility."

Strong words, to be sure, for the vaunted 70-year campus tradition. And anyone in the room listening to Jischke's direction couldn't fail to detect the solemnity in his tone. Two weeks after an estimated 8,000 rioters smacked Veishea with its second black eye in four years on May 1-2, Jischke has made no attempts to mask his disdain. "I believe, in the absence of change, we're on the path to a real tragedy," he said. "Two things must happen [for Veishea to survive]: "The 'official' Veishea must be revitalized as a university celebration, and this newer, 'unofficial' Veishea must be eliminated."

Jischke advised the committee, directed by College of Design Dean Thomas Galloway, to examine a range of options, from ending Veishea to declaring a one-year moratorium to moving it to another date. "Be bold," Jischke told the group. "Face the real issue. Do not duck."

Jischke said he expects to receive committee recommendations by late July.

The 17 committee members are:

• Students: Kelly Breffle, junior in biology; Eric Hamilton, junior in political science and president of the Government of the Student Body; Josephine Moreno, graduate student in textiles and clothing, vice president of the Mexican American Young Achievers Society and a member of the Hispanic Council; David Mosby, freshman in political science and vice president of finance for University Drive Association and Craig Vanderleest, senior in industrial engineering and general co-chair of the 1992 Veishea committee.

• ISU faculty and staff: Galloway; Bonita A. Glatz, professor of food science and human nutrition and professor of biology; David Holger, professor and chair of aerospace engineering and engineering mechanics; Loras Jaeger, manager of the Department of Public Safety; Robert F. Meier, professor and chair of sociology; Kirk Smith, assistant professor of music; Steve Sullivan, communications specialist and Veishea adviser and Mary Beth Snyder, dean of students.

• Ames community members: Ann Campbell, City Council member and chair of 1988 Veishea task force committee; Mary Harms, owner of T Galaxy and adjunct professor of marketing; John Parks, City Council member and vice president of Dasher Management Corp. and Joseph Romano, executive director of the Iowa State Center.

A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH

ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL WALLACE

As Rod Serling liked to say through those tough-guy pursed lips: "There's a signpost up ahead." Unfortunately, these days that too often is all it is — a sign*post*. No sign. Pranksters, hell-raisers and assorted miscreants steal Iowa road signs to the tune of $1.5 million each year, with most ending up as heavy-metal wall decorations.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) has always done a slow burn over such hijinks, but in April it put aside its angst and gave guilt-ridden ISU sign snatchers a chance for redemption.

In the prelude to Sign Amnesty Week, the DOT made it known that it would accept any returned signs, no questions asked, at two campus drop-off sites. By week's end, Iowa State students had brought back some 60 signs, ranging from stops to speed limits to mile markers and bridge weight limits. One guilt-racked pilferer even dumped off a street sign from Oklahoma City — NE 8th Street, to be exact.

"People have a lot of fun talking about this sign stealing, but we take it seriously," says Gary Harris, DOT secondary road research coordinator and a 1989 Iowa State graduate. "When we decided to do this, we really hoped to get several hundred signs. For some reason, it just didn't work out that way."

Call it a sign of the times.

◄ HUB TOP TEN ►

TOP 10 LENGTH OF TITLES OF MAY 1992 GRADUATES' MASTER'S THESES AND DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS, BY SYLLABLE.

* * *

10. Characterization and expression of Aleutian mink disease and pseudorabies virus capsid proteins in insect cells using a baculovirus expression system (45)

7. (tie) Systems analysis for a navigation receiver allowing simultaneous utilization of the GLONASS and NAVSTAR GPS satellite navigation systems (47)

and, Pathogenic effects of Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae on porcine tracheal organ cultures and neutrophils in vitro, and porcine respiratory goblet cells in vivo (47)

and, Study of the high school principalship: Relationships of selected job contextual factors with principals' job satisfaction, security, authority and challenges (47)

6. Characterization of the Saccaromyces cerevisiae gene MGP1, a novel member of the ras gene superfamily that functions in the mitochondrial biogenesis (51)

5. A study of the reactivity of reduced molybdenum ethoxide. Synthesis and characterization of MoO (OH) and some novel molybdenum ethoxide cluster molecules (53)

3. (tie) Cloning and characterization of mink plasminogen activator inhibitor type 1 (PAI-1) cDNA and the regulation of mink PAI-1 expression at mRNA level (55)

and, Potential-step waveforms for the pulsed amperometric detection and pulsed voltammetric detection of compounds which undergo oxygen-transfer reactions at platinum electrodes in acidic media (55)

2. A systematic model for developing technology education as the primary discipline for advancing technological literacy in general education in Taiwan, Republic of China (58)

1. Synthesis and magnetic properties of novel Ln2-xMxCuO4+y compositions LN=La,Pr,Nd,Sm,Eu,Gd; M=Ca,Sr,Ba; 0<x0.2; $-0.5 \leq y \leq 0.5$ (96)

SOURCE: COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Brain Reign

ISU'S HISTORY-MAKING COLLEGE BOWL TEAM TAKES D.C. FOR $1,000, ALEX

THE COMPETITORS, CONcentration stretched taut across their temples like headbands, sit poised. They have trained much of their lives in anticipation of this moment, to scratch to the pinnacle of their pursuit. The mecca. The national collegiate championship.

There is no national TV audience, no slick-haired agents waiting to welcome impressionable superstars into their smarmy fold. But if college basketball can have its March Madness, surely College Bowl — the self-dubbed "Varsity Sport of the Mind" — can be allowed its April Anxiety.

And like its lithe, firm-muscled counterpart on the basketball floor, Iowa State's quintet of highly trained, fiercely competitive college bowlers climbed as far as their savvy and brawny intellect could take them in this "sport." For the first time in history, an ISU Fab Five competed in the April 24-26 College Bowl National Championship Tournament in Washington, D.C.

It is the major fuel for nuclear fusion bombs and forms .014 percent of naturally occurring hydrogen. For 10 points, name this isotope.

Better good than lucky, it's been said. But Iowa State's Scott Coon, Mike Divine, Brian Luzum, Leigh Ann Melloy and J.L. Nelson proved in March that sometimes you have to be a little of both. In its dozen-year existence, ISU's brain bowlers had never rolled past regionals. The University of Minnesota, fielding a team year 'round, has maintained a stronghold on the competition. Using the home-court advantage — as if they needed it — the Gophers again won in March. Winners of all 15 regionals advanced to D.C., but one at-large team was selected by a drawing. In an endeavor which is founded in nothing if not precision, ISU got to Washington by being plucked out of a hat.

ISU's bowlers, clockwise from upper right: Leigh Ann Melloy, Scott Coon, Mike Divine, Brian Luzum, J.L. Nelson.

So much for dumb luck.

(The Iowa Staters made a respectable accounting for themselves in D.C., winning four matches and finishing 12th in the 16-team field. MIT — surprise! — took first.)

In addition to being

arguably his team's MVP, senior-to-be Nelson is Iowa State's TPV — Team Pressure Valve. Like an expectant father, he's eternally fiddling with a soda can or cigarette pack. His deep laugh slices holes in the stifling tension that ebbs through these competitions. With his full belly, coarse voice and worn Cyclone baseball cap, he does for the egghead stereotype what Michael Milken did for Wall Street. "I'm what we call the supreme garbage player," says the history major, the son of journalism Professor Emeritus Jerry Nelson. "I'll try about anything, but I'm a master of none."

Just as some basketball teams succeed largely on, say, outside shooting or pressure defense, ISU's smart squad wins or loses on its generality. Though Nelson majors in history, Divine in English, Coon in math and physics, Melloy in animal science/pre-vet and Luzum is an engineering grad student, none professes any extraordinary expertise. You're unlikely to find all five simultaneously on the dean's list, and there's not a Mensa-ite in the bunch.

"What you really need," says Melloy, one of a scant few females in the competition, "is quick recall. You hear part of a question and *boom*, your mind runs to the answer. Most players eventually would get the answers. But the best are so fast on everything."

This three-syllable noun generally designates the innermost part of an organ but is also used to name that part of the brain stem joining the spinal cord. For 10 points, what is the term?

Alex Trebek would be right at home here. For two seven-minute halves, the host throws out a toss-up question, with each member of both teams poised to buzz in. The team correctly answering then ponders the bonus question. "It's exhilarating to beat the other team to the buzzer," says Divine. "But then you've got to produce the answer."

SUE KYLLONEN

At the regional bowling competition in Minneapolis, there was little time to spare.

Adds Memorial Union Program Director and team adviser Kathy Svec: "These students have a ball, but they take it seriously. Giving them the opportunity to play at something they usually study is pretty neat."

All of the Iowa State players say they've pursued trivia as long as they can remember. Most could rattle off state — if not national — capitals when their mortal classmates were contentedly turning blank maps into grand works of crayon art. Melloy remembers listing off the presidents the way most kids sing-song their ABCs.

Most have aggressive academic plans, but admit it's the prosaic aspects of their lives that pay off most handsomely come bowling time. Nelson, eyeing a law career, is a political junkie. Would-be English prof Divine is strong in that topic and foreign languages, but also subscribes to Science News and devours the newspaper each day. You'd do well to avoid challenging Melloy in biology, and she has a bent toward opera. Coon and Luzum relish blasting math, physics and engineering queries like clay pigeons, but Coon also is dead-eyed when it comes to comic books.

And while the competition certainly leans toward the academic *(name this isotope?)*, it takes more than a passing knowledge of pop culture — from James Michener to *Home Alone* to B.B. King — to pile up points.

Though the Iowa State players clicked at regionals and performed admirably in Washington, they've had little time to get to know their teammates' intellectual nuances. It is a genuine all-star team, the best players from February intramural competitions. Nelson was the campus whiz in 1991 and '92, and was named to the regional all-star team in March. "This can be pretty cerebral stuff," he says. "But bottom line, we're having fun. Working as a team, competing against other schools … it's incredible."

According to Kitty Kelley's killer biography of Nancy Reagan, the former First Lady used a particularly nasty nickname for Vice President Bush. For 10 points, was it: Wimpy, Whiney, Weakie, Waspy or Wormy? ◐

• • •

(Editor's note: How'd you bowl? Answers to the previous questions, ©1991 College Bowl Co., Inc., are: Deuterium, medulla and Whiney. Sorry, no partial credit.)

Scratch Where It Itches

PHOTOS COURTESY HARVEY BLANKESPOOR

Combining classroom and research work led last fall to Harvey Blankespoor's being named Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) professor of the year.

ALUM DISPLAYS PARASITOLOGICAL PROWESS FROM SANDY BEACHES TO SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLES

WHAT COULD A VEXING but hardly grave weekend athletes' affliction called swimmers' itch possibly have in common with life-threatening diseases born in the tropical jungles of Africa and South America?

Harvey Blankespoor.

During the past 25 years, the Hope College (Mich.) biology chairperson and owner of Iowa State master's (1967) and doctoral ('70) degrees has parlayed a fervent interest in parasitology into solving these seemingly disparate mysteries. Blankespoor first became aware of swimmers' itch while working at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory at Lake Okoboji in 1965. In the ensuing 27 years, he has been able to reduce drastically the number of reported cases in Michigan lakes and, indirectly, other bodies of water around the world.

The dreaded itch attacks when parasites from waterfowl and snails bore under humans' skins. Though they quickly die, the parasites still can cause a nettlesome rash that has forced itchy — and cash-carrying — vacationers to flee lakeside resorts by the thousands.

The longstanding solution was actually more of a problem itself. Before Blankespoor came along, it was customary to dump into a lake thousands of pounds of copper sulfate to kill the parasite-carrying snails. But about all that accomplished was the build-up of the environmentally hazardous substance at lake's bottom. Blankespoor hatched the idea of capturing and treating individual birds that spread the parasite. The procedure's labor intensity was surpassed only by its effectiveness. After Blankespoor treated Michigan's Lake Glen ducks with the drug Praziquantel for three years, cases of swimmers' itch plummeted from thousands annually to just three. Copper sulfate has since been banned on Michigan lakes.

"We've had correspondence from all over the country, and from Cuba, Canada, Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Iraq — all trying to control swimmers' itch," Blankespoor says.

His other, related work, is focused outside U.S. borders. He has worked in villages in Sudan, where he says as many as 48 of 50 people have blood in their urine as a result of parasites. Working with medical personnel, he has helped determine when and where the people contracted the disease.

And as recently as this spring, Blankespoor has worked in the jungle of Ecuador to combat a disease found in people who eat raw crabs. This affliction causes urinary problems, enlarged livers, even death.

"At a small college like Hope (enrollment 2,500), there's no dichotomy between research and teaching," Blankespoor says. "I can continue all this work, but I involve undergraduates in all of it. I want to take this research out and help people with it, and I want to help others learn at the same time. I don't want to keep it all in my own little part of the world." ◐

Down to the Sea

▶ Not to mention up to the mountains, across the valley, over the river, upon the ocean, along the seaboard and through the canal. Has the Iowa State University Alumni Association got some prepositions for you in 1993!

BIG EIGHT TRANS-PANAMA CANAL — Jan. 19-30
aboard the *Crystal Harmony*. Acapulco, Costa Rica, Montego Bay, Grand Cayman, Playa del Carmen/Cozumel, Key West, Fort Lauderdale. (INTRAV)

YACHTSMAN'S CARIBBEAN — Feb. 13-20
aboard the *Nantucket Clipper*. St. Thomas, Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke, St. John. (Clipper Cruise Line)

CRUISE TO INDIA — March
aboard the *Song of Flower*. Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Pangkor, Penang, Male, Maldives, Cochin, Goa, Bombay, Delhi. 21 days. (Alumni Holidays)

SOUTH PACIFIC — March-April
16 days Australia/New Zealand. Cairns, Sydney, Melbourne, Christchurch, Queenstown, Auckland. (Alumni Holidays)

DUTCH WATERWAYS — April 23-May 6
Six-day Holland cruise aboard *M.S. Olympia*, plus Amsterdam, Paris, Geneva. (INTRAV)

SEA OF CORTEZ & COPPER CANYON — May 7-16
aboard *Aurora II*. Catalina, Cabo San Lucas, Los Islotes, San Esteban, San Marcos, Espiritu Santo, Topolobampo, Los Mochis. Train through Copper Canyon, Divisadero, Chihuahua. (Travel Dynamics)

COLUMBIA RIVER & PACIFIC NORTHWEST — June 5-13
aboard *Aurora II*. Portland, Columbia River Gorge Astoria, Olympic National Park, San Juan Islands, Victoria, Vancouver. (Travel Dynamics)

BEST OF ITALY, FRANCE, GREEK ISLANDS — July 1-14
aboard *Royal Odyssey*. Venice, Olympia, Rhodes, Mykonos, Athens, Naples, Capri, Portofino, Nice, Monte Carlo, Genoa. (Royal Cruise Line)

LANDS AND PEOPLES OF THE BALTIC SEA — July 14-28
aboard *Aurora I* with ISU Professor Andrejs Plakans. St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Tallinn, Riga, Visby, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Gdansk, Klaipeda. (Travel Dynamics)

CRUISE THE COMMONWEALTH — August
Seven-day cruise on Dnieper River plus Moscow, Kiev, Odessa, St. Petersburg, Frankfurt. (Alumni Holidays)

CANADA & NEW ENGLAND — Oct. 7-14
aboard *Golden Odyssey*. Montreal, Quebec, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Boston, Cape Cod, Newport, New York. (Royal Cruise Line)

EGYPT — November
Cairo, Abu-Simbel, Aswan. Five-day cruise aboard *M.S. Nile Romance*. Kom Ombo, Edfu Esna, Luxor, Giza. (Alumni Holidays)

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Brush with History

ART PROFESSOR CANVASSES THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL IN 7-YEAR, 8,000-MILE ODYSSEY

Betty Miller spent weeks tromping along the Lewis and Clark trail, but it was here, in her Des Moines basement, that she put brush to canvas.

LIKE ANY GOOD NEBRASKAN, Betty Miller got an early introduction to famed 19th century explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. While learning about the American West as sixth-graders in Lincoln, Miller and Donny Dickerson, the artists of the class, were asked to do a painting depicting the buckskinned trailblazers on their epic journey.

"We painted them wearing coonskin caps. Sacajewea was with them, carrying a baby," Miller remembers, the image of her work still vivid in her artist's mind. "At the time, I didn't know they had 33 other men with them on the expedition."

Miller went on past sixth grade, all the way to a doctoral degree and a post as professor of art and design at Iowa State. But never did she leave behind that fascination for Lewis and Clark. If anything, that wonder has flourished; the distinguished professor has spent the better part of the last seven years getting reacquainted with the men who helped open the door to the West. Her exhaustive research and thousands of miles of travel inspired a series of 40 watercolor and

oil paintings that went on display at the Percival Gallery in Des Moines in April.

Miller's art drew this response from Des Moines Register art critic Eliot Nusbaum: *This new group of work in particular captures a sense of the unspoiled Midwest, the landscape as it might have been experienced by 19th century explorers. ... There's an almost inescapably romantic sense of place here that helps make us appreciate our own backyard; or, at the very least, we share a moment with someone who does appreciate our immediate world and shares that appreciation.*

As of April, more than half of Miller's Lewis and Clark series had already sold, including 20 to the University of Iowa Hospitals. Slides of her work have been submitted by invitation to the Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation in Great Falls, Mont., and the Center for Great Plains Studies in Lincoln, Neb.

In light of all the attention being paid her work, Miller doesn't try to mask her obsession with Lewis and Clark and their famous 8,000-mile trail. "I've been so absorbed with it I can hardly have a conversation without bringing up what Lewis and Clark did," says Miller, a faculty member since 1969. "I could have done [the paintings] very superficially, not getting really involved at all. But I wanted to know everything about [the trail]. I'm now hooked forever."

To retrace the events that put Miller on the trail of the trail, as it were, we go back to 1975. While helping to hang a collection of Western art at ISU's then-recently opened Brunnier Gallery and Museums, Miller came upon a small landscape painting by Austrian Karl Bodmer. The naturalist had been hired in 1830 by Prince Maximillian of Austria to sketch the plants, wildlife and natives along the Missouri River. "It was a little oil painting — a tree-lined landscape along the river," Miller says. "It was an exquisite little painting. I fell in love with it."

That infatuation led her to Lewis and Clark, who had explored the Missouri River in the early 1800s. Prior to Bodmer and Prince Maximillian's journey, they sought the advice of Clark, who was living in St. Louis. "I was looking into Bodmer, but everything kept referring back to the Lewis and Clark expedition," she explains.

It took Miller and her husband, Vern, three trips by car to cover the entire trail. The first, seven years ago, began in Iowa and ended in Three Forks, Mont. The second trip, two years ago, followed the Missouri River from St. Louis back home to Iowa. The last trip, a seven-week faculty leave journey last fall, took her all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

"On the first trip, it was one of those blistering hot summers," she says. "Everything was drying up, the rivers coming off the Missouri River had tumbleweed in them. The watercolor would dry on the brush before I could get it to the paper."

Miller made sketches and took photographs during her journeys, using them as guides for her easel work in her Des Moines studio. Her painting reflects her love of nature, capturing the awesome, panoramic scenery of the landscape along the Lewis and Clark Trail. It does not, however, reflect the myriad man-made changes imposed on the trail during the past two centuries. The river's channel has changed with time and has been calmed by dams. Hydroelectric plants dot the trail. Civilization is everywhere.

"There's a wonderful conical hill near Vermillion, S.D., which Lewis and Clark walked four and a half miles to see," Miller says. "The natives of the area thought the hill was inhabited by 18-inch-tall demons that shot deadly arrows. Lewis and Clark walked up to the hill on a very hot day; when they got to the top and looked over they saw probably 3,000 buffalo.

"I went through a cattle farm, over a barbed wire fence and up this hill, which I knew had rattlesnakes on it. When I looked over, I saw cattle in pens. Not nearly as interesting as 3,000 buffalo." ◐

—Steve Sullivan

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Remaining devoted to science, her first love, chemist Patricia Thiel has developed into one of Iowa State's leading researchers

THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY

BY STEVE SULLIVAN

PHOTOS BY JIM HEEMSTRA

Three-month-old Amanda is watching the colorful, twisting mobile overhead, its sharp geometric shapes seemingly custom-made for the daughter of two academicians. Her dad, a mathematician, is sitting nearby, pecking away at his Macintosh computer. Her mom, a chemist, is relaxing in a rocking chair in the plant-filled jungle of a living room, waiting for a visitor to drop off a baby present. But Patricia Thiel is discussing the baby's *future* — specifically, her hope that, whatever Amanda's aspirations, she'll have the same freedom her mother had to pursue them.

"I never felt out of place doing science and math," says Thiel, who, for as long as she can remember, aspired only to a career in science. But her days of aspiring are long gone — she has arrived. She's now an ISU scientist with an ever-burgeoning international reputation in the mind-numbingly complex field of surface chemistry.

If Thiel's own pre-politically correct 1950s and '60s upbringing presented barriers to a female science neophyte, nobody bothered to tell her. Or perhaps they did — but she was too engrossed in textbooks to listen. "There weren't programs for women in science then, and I don't think they would have helped me much," says Thiel. "They would have helped people at that stage in their lives who were more attentive to social pressures. But I was too out of it. I was a nerd."

The nerd — actually just a shy Minnesota farm girl more interested in logarithms than prom formals — is now one of Iowa State's marquee scientists whose reputation in an up-and-coming discipline is stretching farther and farther beyond the walls of the Ames Laboratory. "[Thiel] is one of the top three or four people in her field in the world," says Gary Korba, research specialist with 3M, which is funding one of Thiel's projects. "There are few labs doing what hers is doing."

Though quick with a smile and possessing a charming self-deprecating humor, the sandy-haired 39 year old would never be described as flashy. The low-key personality belies a blaring, 30-plus page résumé. Since coming to Iowa State in 1983, Thiel has earned nearly $2 million in outside research grants and equipment donations. "That kind of funding over that period of time is excellent," says Tom Barton, Ames Lab director and materials chemist. "But Pat represents a heck of a lot more than $2 million. She represents creativity in research, excellence in teaching and, quite frankly, she represents an outstanding role model for women in science. Bring us more Pat Thiels."

Thiel's reputation as a rising star — she's advanced beyond being tagged a top *woman* scientist — got a boost in January. While on sabbatical in Germany, Thiel learned she had been awarded a $250,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for outstanding women in science and technology. The highly competitive grant, given to just 100 women, will support Thiel's research on surface structure of metal films and metal oxide films.

"The timing of the grant was excellent," Thiel says. "I have a child now [Amanda was born Feb. 1]. The award takes off some of the pressure of constantly trying to get funding. This grant is intended to encourage women to stay in science and be successful and have a good time doing science. It's going to do that for me."

Not that Pat Thiel needs much encouragement. For more than a decade, she has focused on the activities of atoms and molecules on the surfaces of materials. This is big science with potential applications as broad as the molecules are infinitesimal. Her research could have bearing on everything from personal computers to rust prevention — from Apple to Ziebart, so to speak.

Surface chemistry is hot in the '90s. Look around. One of its beneficiaries — plastics — is everywhere, all the way down to the "chrome" on automobiles. Another — microelectronics — is doing everything smaller. For industry to put so many of these innovations to work profitably, all those atoms, molecules and chemical compounds on the surfaces of materials must line up like a well-drilled Marine company.

But just what is it about this amazingly complicated subject that has the NSF and industry all but drooling over the work of Thiel and a select few others? For instance, there's:

- Lubrication. Thiel examines the processes that can stabilize or break down

lubricants used to protect metal surfaces, such as those in computers. By studying the relationship between fluorocarbons, a lubricant, and the surface to which it is applied, Thiel seeks to control chemical reactions that can lead to degradation. "Industry blames the breakdown of fluorocarbons as one of their big ills," she says. "Fluorocarbons are used as lubricants for computer hard disk drives. If a disk comes in contact with the hard drive and that lubrication isn't working, you're going to have a head crash. You can kiss all the data on that hard disk — and possibly the computer — goodbye."

• Thin films. Think it's tough growing grass on thin soil? Try growing metal films only a molecule thick. When a metal surface is formed, the atoms can develop a smooth, defect-free film or a rough, unstable one. Thiel has discovered that a method of thin metal film growth once thought to produce only rough surfaces can form smooth ones with proper temperature control. That finding could lead to new methods of thin film growth, which could enhance, for instance, the development of magnetic films used in recording devices.

• Metal oxidation. The transformation of metal into metal oxide — car owners know it all too well as rust — begins at the surface and works its way inside. Thiel is seeking ways to help the surface limit the oxidation process. "This research won't help you drive a better car in the immediate future," she says, "but it will add to the pool of information that will help you drive a car that doesn't rust." Hang on, Pinto lovers. Help is on the way.

To observe surfaces, Thiel uses an ultra-high pressure vacuum chamber, a shiny, brass contraption that looks like something out of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. For her birthday a few years back, Thiel's first graduate student research team gave her a drawing with caricatures of each of them around a vacuum chamber. Peering out from within the chamber was Thiel.

The symbolism is not lost on Thiel, who admits that, back then, she was immersed in her lab work. But her upstairs neighbor would change that. Shortly after arriving at the Ames Lab, Thiel met Australian Jim Evans, an associate professor of mathematics and Ames Lab scientist. Evans had an office directly above Thiel's and would invite her to hear political speakers. (He's active in Latin American issues.) With math and science providing acres of common ground, they soon became friends. In 1988 they became husband and wife.

"She was clearly an exception to the rule when she came here, because there were few research-active women on the staff," Evans says. "Then, she became the first woman at Ames Lab ever appointed a program director." Thiel became program director for materials chemistry in 1988 and a full professor of chemistry in 1991. As program director, Thiel doles out research funding to a team of investigators. She has built up the lab's equipment, including the addition of a $750,000 machine for surface analysis. In addition to chemistry, Thiel also seeks to develop connections with researchers from other disciplines, such as engineering.

Thanks to her duties as an administrator and graduate student adviser — as well as the activities on the national science scene — the woman once chided about being hopelessly absorbed in her lab now rarely steps into one. "Some of my colleagues will say that a professor should be in the lab getting their hands wet with the students," Thiel says. "But I don't see myself ever having time for that again. I was abandoning that aspect of my work before Amanda came along because of the other duties I had."

Recruiting young women scientists isn't one of those duties, but she nonetheless is regarded as a valuable role model. "The fact that she's winning these awards, delivering papers at professional meetings and getting played up in the media is another way to break down the stereotypes we have about women scientists," says Mary Ann Evans, director of Iowa State's Women in Science and Engineering Program.

Though Thiel (here with Jim Evans and Amanda) balances career and family, she says, "I do not regard myself as a superwoman."

Amanda's birth broke down yet another stereotype. "I never thought she would have kids because she was so devoted to her work," says Mary Selner Walczak, herself a working mother who was one of Thiel's first doctoral students and is now a member of the ISU chemistry faculty. "I was delighted when she found out she was going to have a baby. She's made the transition 100 percent from career to mother and career. I found the transition rocky; in that way she's been a great example."

Still, two people mightily devoted to research and teaching didn't start a family on a whim. Both Evans and Thiel knew that motherhood has spelled the end of the career of more than one woman scientist. For starters, there's the usual pressures taken on by any new parent. But more unsettling can be colleagues' misguided perception that parenthood — more specifically, motherhood — signals a lack of commitment to work. But since Thiel waited until she was 39 — by which time she has established her funding and professional clout — her national presence in science appears secure.

A 1988 NSF survey showed only 18 percent of the employed chemists in the United States are women. A 1990 survey by the American Chemist Society (ACS) showed that 38 percent of women chemists are single, compared to 18 percent of their male counterparts. Kathleen Trahanovsky, a member of ISU's chemistry faculty and former head of the ACS's women chemists committee, says Thiel should be held

up as an example of the possibilities for women.

In a recent Science magazine article, two women chemists claimed the obstacles women scientists face are as outdated as the slide rule. Though Thiel says she's faced few barriers herself, she knows hurdles do exist. "It's wonderful that some women have avoided [barriers], but I don't want to contribute to that philosophy," she says. "It's not representative of the whole. I try hard to show younger women that they can do science and have fun.

"My motherhood is important to this because a fair number of my women graduate students didn't want to wind up like me — to work as hard as I work. They wanted to have families and have time for their families. In that sense, I may have been a negative role model."

There weren't many role-model scientists working on the farm in Adrian, Minn., yet all along young Pat Thiel held an unmistakable awe for science and its wizardry. Lawrence and Irene Thiel never attended college, and never, Thiel says, quite grasped their daughter's penchant for science and education. "The moment I moved beyond high school," she says, "they lost touch with the kind of world I was moving in. They didn't know how to encourage me. In a way, I was disappointed they didn't make the intellectual effort to try and understand what college, what grad school, what being an assistant professor was all about. But they were proud of me."

Thiel was close to her late father, who she remembers as a voracious reader with an appetite for learning. "He used to look forward to people with religious organizations coming around so he could engage them in debate about the existence of God," Thiel says.

Any gaps in encouragement were filled by Stan and Marge Engelkes, Thiel's "surrogate parents" who farmed nearby. "I was waffling on whether or not to even go to college," Thiel remembers, "and if I did, should I go to a college close to home or an academically better one in the Twin Cities? [The Engelkeses] encouraged me to go to college and go to the best one I could."

A child interested in math and science couldn't have found a better extended family. The Engelkeses raised two daughters, both of whom are now scientists. The couple now view Thiel as a third daughter, and Amanda as their newest grandchild. "We always told Pat that life would be different away from here," says Marge Engelkes, "that at college she would meet people more like her."

That proverbial shell in which the "nerdy" Thiel lived shielded her from the forces that drive so many young women from science — gender bias, peer pressure and stereotypes that steer girls from petri dishes to pom pons. "I felt plenty isolated, but I never felt out of place doing science and math," she says. "It would have been nice to be the queen of the prom. But what the heck. At this point in my life, I have no regrets."

During her freshman year at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., Thiel found a mentor in Emil Slowinski, a chemistry professor who selected his prize student to help him develop a freshman chemistry textbook. "She was the brightest kid in class and always wanted to do well," Slowinski says. "It must have been something internal, something she was born with. She was quiet, and I can't say I knew her too terribly well back then. When I saw her later, at national conferences, I was always encouraging her to get outside of the lab more and get a social life. I think she has bloomed."

Thiel became intrigued by surface chemistry as a research assistant at Control Data in Minneapolis. "Almost every problem that walked in the door was economic life or death for the company," she says. "It was the kind of thing where the production line was down because a green slime was developing all over the components and we didn't know where the green slime was coming from. It was costing the company millions each day and we had to identify it."

Engrossed by the challenge to crack the green slime mystery — and many other surface chemistry problems — Thiel went to the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena to earn her PhD. Shortly after graduating from Cal Tech, she headed to ISU. In 1985 she was named an NSF Presidential Young Investigator. Seven years, numerous awards, millions in funding and several momentous discoveries later, to talk to Pat Thiel is still to see the love of science burning in her eyes. What the heck, that grad student's cartoon was right, and she's not ashamed to admit it: She *is* immersed in science.

One of her doctoral students says Thiel has motivated him with a "never-ending enthusiasm for pursuing science."

At the moment, so, too, is another female member of the household — albeit not with the intricacies of surface chemistry but the wondrous colors and shapes of her geometric mobile.

"My hopes for Amanda are that she will be happy and feel fulfilled," Thiel says from her living-room rocker. "I tell myself if [her being happy] means growing up to be a secretary or a plumber or a race car driver or something totally different from science, that will be just fine."

If little Amanda follows her dreams as earnestly as her mother did, the world had better start making room now — there's one formidable secretary or plumber or race car driver on the way. ◐

Steven Sullivan is a writer for the ISU News Service.

Worlds

Bloody civil wars, power- drunken despots and ludicrously unstable economies have rendered the New World Order anything but a *cause célèbre* for millions around the globe. While a relative peace holds forth in the U.S., some members of Iowa State's international community wake each day to their own quiet torture: What will become of their beloved homelands?

Apart

PHOTOS BY JIM HEEMSTRA

SEMAKALENG LEBEPE-MAZUR, 39, SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA
FOOD SCIENCE DOCTORAL STUDENT

I know that, after [South Africa's March] referendum against apartheid, that politically, it seems like there is some hope that some day we'll be able to have equal rights. But it is also tormenting because, day to day, parents do not know if their children will stay alive.

No matter what a referendum says, I will never get this image out of my eyes: It was the '76 riots. A young girl, 6 or 7. You know children, they see other people do something, they do it. This girl saw people raising their fists and yelling, "Power!" She was just little. She raised her fist. She was shot plain blank, you know. Just like that.

... I don't want to go back and put my family in that danger. [She has a 16-year-old son by a previous marriage in South Africa; now married to ISU sociology Professor Robert Mazur, she has a 2 year old and is expecting another child this summer.] But when I finish my PhD [in summer '93], I probably will have to return. I feel guilty, I hate myself, for being so comfortable. If I go back I'll have my education and will be able to get a good job. What else can I do? When I first came [to the U.S.], I would call my mother and she would say, "When will you come home?" Now I call and she says, "I'll be happy even if we all die here, because at least one child is still alive and happy."

My main concern [during the Persian Gulf war] was my family and friends. They all survived the war, thank God. Then I could think about [Iraq] and the people over there. It's too bad it had to happen, too bad about all the dead. I guess I can talk some about it, but I don't think it would be considered, like, very smart. I mean, it's the same system that was in Russia.

... Being here and watching what was going on in the war, of course I was uncomfortable. Wouldn't you be? I had the phone calls, the harassment from people. I'm an Iraqi, this is America. It's the most awkward situation I've ever been in. It's not something you can just forget. And the situation still is not completely dead. ... But now, I'm just, like you say, going with the flow. I don't have any major plans because I can't know what's going to happen. I don't know if I'll have to return [to Iraq], and if I do, I don't know what to expect. I mean, [engineering] students here study hard and they know they will get good jobs. Me, I know in Iraq, we do not really have much opportunity. I would probably have to go to the Army. And then I hear from relatives and friends who have been here and gone back, they have been discriminated against. But I must remember that there is the possibility that I won't go back. I just have no way of knowing ...

ZAID ALBANNA, 26, BAGHDAD, IRAQ
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE STUDENT

VLADIMIR PARPURA, 27, SPLIT, YUGOSLAVIA
NEUROSCIENCE DOCTORAL STUDENT

I do not like it, my country being at civil war. Being in America, it is embarrassing. You are in the eye of people because of war. [They say], "Oh, you're from that country at war, killing each other." ... I'm from Croatia. I don't see difference in [Serbs and Croats]. Maybe I'm raised the wrong way — or maybe the right way, I don't know. It doesn't matter what's wrong or right now. Everything is all mixed up. But I don't feel antagonism toward Serbs. That's how my parents feel. Why kill people, why make war? I was not raised to hate, to kill other people because they are on other side of border. Where you come from, your religion, what does that matter? It's just bull—.

... I'm glad to be studying here, but I feel a sense of guilt. I want to help. I have an M.D., I practiced in Yugo—, uh, *former* Yugoslavia for six months. So I write letter to dean of my university. If they need help as physician, I would come. I don't know what the hell I would do, who I would help, who I wouldn't, because I don't hate any of them. But I would come. They don't call me up. I just stay here, feeling guilty, wondering what will happen to my country. When [civil war] started, I gained 20 pounds. That's what happens when I worry.

DAVID VUL, 42, KIEV, UKRAINE
AMES LAB VISITING PHYSICIST

I am not going back to Ukraine. I have applied for green card, and I will stay in this country. I have lost my [Soviet] citizenship, and I want to become American citizen. I am a scientist, and in Ukraine, science, particularly physics, goes to end, finishes, I think because people need food and clothes, not science. But I cannot say science is most important reason for coming here. My wife, Olga, and my two boys, Roman and Edward, and mother are living in San Francisco now, because my wife has job as computer programmer. I miss for San Francisco, but our family needs money. When we came, each member had $100. I volunteered as tutor at [University of California-Berkeley], now I make money here.

I want to give my children the possibility to live in other way than I lived. Better way than I lived. I'm not sure I will find something good here, but perhaps they will. But life is OK for me here. I work much, eat good food like vegetables and Corn Flakes. Yogurt. I have nice apartment on street by Taco Bell. My wife has car, but I can walk. ... In [former Soviet Union], life is better [now], too. People have freedom. Unfortunately, maybe in other way, they get freedom and lose food. I hope it gets better for them.

Obviously, in this country you feel quite different. You feel ... how to say ... more freer. Back in China, there are still limitations on what you could say and do. For instance, changing jobs, relocating, traveling abroad and mandatory political studies. These things are often not up to you. It is up to the upper-level cadres to decide whether you can take the new job or can move to another location or go abroad. This is perhaps difficult for you to understand.

But I honestly feel there are improvements. It's not as bad as it looks like on TV. Living standard is better, political atmosphere is not so tense now. I was outspoken here during [1989] Tiananmen Square [student uprising], but I consider myself a moderate, not a radical. But I think that if you have a really different opinion, you'd better keep it unspoken. There is still a long way to go before we can see people expressing their views freely.

... Right now, I am here for two years. I feel comfortable with that. Right now, I don't want to deal with what happens later. I will worry about that then.

XIAOLIN WU, 35, BEIJING, CHINA
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

CBS
News

PRIME TIME

BY DAN DAVENPORT

PHOTOS BY LEIGH CHARLTON

VETERAN CBS REPORTER JERRY BOWEN HITS THE *STREET* AS NETWORK NEWS STRUGGLES TO ADJUST ITS PICTURE

ASK JERRY BOWEN TO TELL YOU THE ONE ABOUT THE HURRICANE, THE VOLCANO, THE STEWARDESS, THE JUMBO JET AND THE BARF BAG, AND YOU'RE LIABLE TO ELICIT A RATHER PUZZLING RESPONSE: *UH, COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?*

Realize, this is a man who utters the phrase "jump on a plane" as readily as a politician says, "My sentiments exactly." And a man — you might recognize him by his former little-screen name: Jerry Bowen, CBS News, Los Angeles — whose entire working life has been a series of anecdotes *cum* broadcast stories.

But VISIONS recently managed to find itself in the same hemisphere as the former Iowa State University student — in this case, the Hollywood office of CBS News' Los Angeles bureau. And though it took some digging, we now can present the barf bag *soiree*, in its entirety:

Bowen was off on yet another cush reporting junket to Hawaii. Mai tais, hula lessons, a hurricane — your standard tropical sojourn. For several days, he and L.A. bureau producer Laurie Singer had

hounded some of Hawaii's most temptestuous weather. After shipping their story to New York, they jumped on a plane — there it is again — bound for home. But before they and the pavement could part company, a stewardess whisked through the cabin, calling out Bowen's name. It seems the network needed words to accompany some spectacular tape of Mt. Kilauea erupting. Since it was going on 4:30 p.m. in Gotham, Bowen couldn't dawdle. During the hop to Honolulu, he snatched a barf bag and scrawled out a script. Once on Oahu the duo grabbed a cab, raced to the CBS affiliate and cut tape. By the time the piece had ricocheted off a few satellites and safely into Dan Rather's evening news hopper, Bowen had — all together now — jumped on a plane, and was cruising several miles above the turquoise Pacific.

In 15 years of reporting news for CBS, Jerold Bowen has collected these stories the way certificates of deposit used to collect interest. They range from ridiculous (the Zsa Zsa Gabor "cop slap" trial and Roseanne Arnold *nee* Barr's scratch and screech *National Anthem*) to sublime (mechanical heart recipient Barney Clark and the ascension of Popes John Paul and John Paul II). From awful (the decadence of the Marcos regime and the cowardly, late-night flight of Baby Doc Duvalier from Haiti) to awe-inspiring (literally the smell of death wafting through devastating earthquake scenes in Mexico City and San Francisco). From front page (the 1980

Got a plane crash, a Hollywood obit, a coup attempt or an environmental piece to assign? You could do worse than Jerry Bowen.

Reagan campaign and the 1991-92 Rodney King/LAPD brutality imbroglio) to frontier ("travelogue" reporting trips to Antarctica and Siberia, among many others).

During Bowen's CBS tenure, correspondents have grown increasingly more specialized in their assignments. Yet all the while he established himself ever more firmly as one of network TV's most solid utility players. Got a plane crash, a Hollywood obit, a coup attempt or an environmental piece to assign? You could do worse than two-time Emmy winner Jerry Bowen.

Bowen and his most faithful viewers (from left): Spencer, Valrae and Nathan.

"He's one of the last true renaissance correspondents," says his former boss, CBS L.A. bureau manager Jennifer Siebens. "Jerry's no superstar, but he should be."

He may be getting his chance. Ironically, he had to leave the Milky Way's most dense concentration of stars to get it. Late last winter, CBS yanked Bowen out of Hollywood and made him a regular contributor to its new prime-time news show, *Street Stories*. The Ed Bradley-hosted series instantly drives up Bowen's viewership by several million. While prime-time news shows — patriarchal ratings monster *60 Minutes* excepted — come and go like, well, like prime-time shows, *Stories* has been renewed for the 1992-93 season.

This, media mavens say — many begrudgingly — is the future of network news *(see commentary, page 31)*. But beyond the inevitability of it all, Bowen knows there's much to like about the switch. His viewers have blown off the work-day tension, wolfed down the Tuna Helper and become one with the recliner. And whereas he's thrown together many a 90-second or two-minute evening news story in a matter of hours, these days he's soaking weeks of research and interview time and sometimes thousands of miles of travel into one 10-minute *Stories* piece.

And after 15 years, his days of jumping on a plane at the ring of a phone are gone.

But on the flip side, his days of jumping on a plane at the ring of a phone are gone.

Huh?

Sure, getting beeped out of a movie theatre to jet off to a devastating Bay Area fire is no fun. But it is the urgency of such a mettle-tester that helped journalism snatch Bowen's heart first as a youth, then as a student at Ames' WOI-TV in the '60s.

"I liken it to a National Geographic," says Bowen. "I used to read my grandmother's [magazines] when I was a kid, stacks and stacks of 'em. The phone rings, you jump on a plane and into one of those magazines."

A part of Bowen laments networks' ebbing away from the Edward R. Murrow school of hard-news, global coverage to *Street Stories* and *Prime Time Live* and *20/20* and whatever magazine Jane Pauley happens to be hosting these days. But another part knows he can bring to bear all his experience — all those *road* stories, if you will — on his current work. Heaven knows he has plenty from which to choose. Herewith are a few:

• Rome, 1978. Thirty-three days after reporting the ascension of Pope John Paul, Bowen, reporting from CBS's Rome bureau, gets a call from his boss: "Jerry, the pope has died. *Again*." With journalists from all over the world pouring in like ants to spilled honey, Bowen squeezes his way into the Vatican. Rushing to get on the air, Bowen and crew spy the closest thing to a sound booth: A confessional. Draping some blankets and running some cords, Protestant Jerry Bowen takes the priest's seat and narrates his piece. *(My dear viewers, how long has it been since you last tuned in?)*

• Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, 1986. Covering "Baby Doc" Duvalier's attempted fleeing of the country, Bowen and crew are arrested at a road block. On a taut, 45-minute car ride, a machine gun poked in his side, the lead Yank makes a feeble attempt at that most American of pastimes: small talk. "I asked Lieutenant So and So if he'd ever been to America," Bowen remembers. "Yes, he'd been to New York. 'Did you have a good time?' He did not have a good time. 'Oh, I'm sorry.' He was there for a relative's funeral but had been held at the airport for failure to carry the proper I.D. The next day he was put on the first flight to Haiti. He said he does not like America very much." Despite his dreadful timing, Bowen spent less than eight hours in stir. He still has the receipt for beer and sandwiches at the city jail.

• Mount Ranier, Washington, 1989. In the northwest shooting film for the kind of environmental piece for which Bowen is known throughout network TV, the crew is listening to radio coverage of Game 3 of the World Series in San Francisco. "Pretty soon," Bowen recounts,

Planning a story: One producer says, "When you've got a crash-and-burn story, you want Jerry."

"[announcer] Jack Buck starts saying the stadium is swinging and people are running out on the field and so on. ... Right then we killed the [environmental] story, got to the Yakima airport and chartered a Lear [jet]. [The] San Francisco [airport] was closed, so we hit for Oakland. I mean, talk about pumped for a story. We flew in and the Marina District was still on fire. We landed and went straight to the [Bay Bridge]. That's where I spent the next two weeks."

• Shanghai, 1989. Within hours of the start of the Tiananmen Square uprising, Bowen grabs some files on China and a copy of Paul Theroux's *Riding the Iron Rooster* and jumps on a plane. A fervent reader of magazines, books and newspapers (and a minimally devoted TV viewer, at best), Bowen tears through the book during the 14-hour flight. In Hong Kong he hooks up with a producer and cuts out for Shanghai. They had only tourist visas, not taking time to await special government permission. "With all the chaos, it took them 10 days to catch up to us and invite us to leave," Bowen says. "But before they did, we saw the crackdown. Chilling. One day, demonstrations, the next day, nothing. Nobody said a word. The little breath of freedom was sucked right out."

There are so many others. Dubbing Marcos family videos in the presidential palace. Hugged as an American "savior" by hopeless Haitians. Lucille Ball's obituary. Iran in the late '70s.

Says producer Roberta Hollander from her L.A. office, "When it hits the fan, it's great to watch Jerry stand back, be cool and make air."

Of course every correspondent makes air. Bad secretaries can find the home row. But not all can bang out 100 wpm. "There should be more [Bowens] out there — this is network, you know," says L.A. bureau producer Quent Neufeld. "But there just aren't."

William Hurt's Tom Grunick from *Broadcast News* and Corky Sherwood-Forrest from CBS' own *Murphy Brown* have taken considerable liberties in presenting TV news' smile-over-substance nature. But Bowen and most colleagues

NETWORK NEWS TUNES IN TO BOTTOM LINE

BY PATRICIA DEAN

As my former Iowa State classmate Jerry Bowen can attest, this is an era of fundamental change at the three major television networks. A bottom-line mentality is driving the corporate culture, lifting the sacred-cow exemption long enjoyed by news. It must now turn a profit.

What a contrast from the late '60s boom years. TV was profitable. Advertisers lined up to sponsor prime-time shows. Instead of being asked to make money, the only pressures on the news division were those of competitive journalism: be first and be best.

What happened? Business-savvy owners took over in the midst of a souring economy, demanding that all divisions — news included — make money. At the same time, viewers were finding more and more ways to put their TVs to work. VCRs created a new generation of TV viewers who could time-shift their favorite shows or rent movies. Cable gave them not just truck pulls and Bogart movies but CNN and 24-hour news. And network news even found itself facing off with its own affiliates. Local news crept earlier and earlier into the afternoon, and satellite technology made it possible for local channels to show video of breaking national and international stories.

Broadcast prof: The news isn't all bad.

Suddenly, audiences demanded more than a recount of the day's events, more than what they *needed* to know. Now viewers insisted on what they *wanted* to know — information relevant to their lives. Unfortunately, this was the very type of labor-intensive story owners were frowning upon.

So as viewers demanded more, ownership axed more. Staffs were reduced, bureaus closed. Technological advances enabled networks to slim down without sacrificing quality, but such capital expenses didn't come cheaply.

So how can networks stay afloat in ever-choppier seas? For one, they're forming partnerships to pool resources. With fewer bureaus overseas, networks are developing video alliances with foreign news-gathering organizations. Gone is the sacred broadcast commandment: Take your own pictures.

Naturally, many journalists question whether the networks can continue adequately covering the news in the face of so much slashing. Will the seasoned reporters — the Jerry Bowens — being asked to run non-stop eventually burn out? Journalists don't step into the profession magically able to produce the tough, thoughtful, pointed reports such as those crafted by Bowen and his dwindling number of peers. It takes years to master the daunting task of capturing an audience's interest while advancing its knowledge.

Audiences still do — and should — expect more than a digest of the day's happenings. News must do more. It must shed light on such crucial issues as the economy, health care and education. It must expose the world's many scoundrels.

But network news survives, albeit with ever-changing features. Despite predictions a few years ago that at least one network would mothball its news division, all still function. In fact, they're expanding — into prime time. Not saddled with the huge contracts of the Ted Dansons and Angela Lansburys, news is cheaper to produce than entertainment. This programming — such as *Street Stories* — allows reporters to craft longer, more in-depth pieces. Amid turbulent times, it's a rare win-win-win situation — for owners, journalists and viewers.

Patricia Dean, a 1968 Iowa State University graduate, is assistant professor of journalism at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She worked almost 20 years — including programming, production and executive positions — at Chicago's three network-owned stations.

Bowen's most critical attributes — voice and writing ability — are the same two that have demarked top broadcast journalists for decades.

allow them some credence. Would Arthur Kent have been a Gulf War star with Charles Kuralt's girth and hairline? "We all know there are people who have been hired for appearance," says thinning-haired, medium-build, wide-jowled Jerry Bowen. "It's part of this image thing, this MTV news. Call me old-school, but that stuff is no service to anybody."

Neufeld, who worked with Bowen at WCCO in Minneapolis in the early '70s, is another who decries the Harry Hairspray insurgence. Call him a dinosaur, too, but amid the satellites, the live-eyes and the stunning graphics, he says Bowen's most critical attributes — voice and writing ability — are the same two that have demarked top broadcast journalists for decades. Both facilities — one largely innate, one arduously attained — have led more than one CBS wag to liken Bowen to a young Kuralt.

He calls them a gift, his pipes. Yes, it's the prerequisite bass you'll find at any of hundreds of TV and radio stations. But it lacks that trumped-up, my-shorts-are-too-tight timbre. It's there not only on air, but also when he calls his youth basketball team — including youngest son, Spencer — into a pre-game huddle. When Bowen voices over just the right picture — a stunning Alaskan sunset, say — viewers must wonder just who received the gift.

"The voice opened doors for me, gave me time to develop the stripes," he says. "But what followed was that I liked to write, I loved journalism. I'd always marveled over Walter Cronkite — Uncle Walter, right? — and Kuralt. I've still never gotten over that — geez, I've worked with these people."

Though a show like *Stories* stresses interviews over pure writing, observers still see Bowen shining. "You go from wars, revolutions, all that kind of stuff, to 10-minute features," says Emmy-winning CBS correspondent Bob McNamara, another former WCCO compatriot. "It's Jerry's story to make happen."

Bowen says it was fate, more than anything else, that made his own story happen. He's known throughout CBS for his dry sense of humor, and why not, with lines like, "I mowed my way into the business." While growing up in Fairfield, his older brother, Bruce, worked as a part-time radio announcer. Jerry earned baseball card money by mowing the station's two-acre lot. By the time his dad's Iowa Highway Commission job took the family to Ames, 16-year-old Jerry was ready to lose the mower for a mike. "This radio thing was exciting," he recalls. "I had this low voice. All I had to do was talk into a microphone."

He once filled in at KASI in a squeeze. In a word, he bombed. In two words, he was canned. But several months later, the station called back. After graduation he headed to Iowa State to study under the legendary Jack Shelley and to work at WOI. A summer job after his junior year took him to Minneapolis, where he decided to stay and finish his degree at the University of Minnesota, in 1971. Then it was to WCCO, before joining CBS's Chicago bureau in 1977. He soon moved to Rome, where he and wife (and 1969 ISU graduate) Valrae Anderson Bowen had their first of two sons, Nathan. Though the foreign stint provided crucial experience, he jumped at the move to L.A. in '79. Now with *Street Stories*, he's splitting time between L.A., CBS in New York and the road.

Bowen and familiar friends: Script and mike.

"It's the most intense work I've ever done," he said this spring, after a week-long trip to the Philippines and another dizzying stretch of 15-hour writing and editing days in New York. As Bowen details this new grind during a follow-up phone conversation, Spencer and friends play street hockey outside the window of their Los Angeles home. With their squeals as background, Bowen's grin is practically audible over the phone; he has been home exactly seven days in the last two months. Realize, this is a man whom McNamara says, "probably more than anybody I know in this business, has gone out of his way for family. I've gone to L.A. for stories so Jerry could go to a Boy Scout meeting." An exaggeration, perhaps. But point taken.

Though he's worked in L.A. — and shared a roof with CBS's stable of soap stars — for a dozen years, Bowen has refused to buy into the glitz. Cruising Wilshire Boulevard late last winter, he stuck out only slightly less amid the profusion that is Beverly Hills than did his rented Nissan Pathfinder amid the Bentleys and Porsches. He had used the four-wheel drive vehicle to climb into the mountains and report on the monumental release of two California condors — a made-for-Bowen story. "It's tough to forget Iowa," he says, shaking his head at a six-figure Rolls pulling away from an intersection. "I've tried to let my boys see that, too."

Nevertheless, Bowen owes his six-figure salary to a business long adept at eating hockey-playing family men for breakfast. This is his future: Life on the *Street*, life on the road. These are curious times for broadcast news, at once exhilarating and unsettling. Like the world it brings into focus, it is buckled in on a hyperspeed evolutionary flight, destination TBA. And Jerry Bowen is doing only what he knows best: He's jumped on for the ride.◐

Break from Tradition

Celia Priebe's pals couldn't figure it. Like swallows, they flocked bent-for-rays to such exotic spring break climes as South Padre Island, Hilton Head and Daytona Beach. She climbed in a cramped car and jostled 900 miles to Williamsburg, Kentucky.

They scattered to the far corners of spring break heaven. She and a handful of veritable strangers set out on a journey to what is, for many, a hell on earth. No surf, no powder, no live MTV coverage. Just a land battered and left for dead. A land that crushes aspirations like dirty cigarette butts. A land of food stamps, illiteracy and 20-something grandparents.

Photos by Paul Hiscocks • Text by Dan Davenport

This is spring break in Appalachia.

"My friends are like, 'How could you stand it there?'" says Priebe, a sophomore early childhood special education major. "I tell them it's better than their spring break. You see another culture. You see life, good and bad."

The bad is palpably predominant: The Whitley County School District had 378 freshmen in 1988; less than half — 176 — graduated in '91. The county's 1989 per capita income was $10,898 (national average: $14,815). Food stamps subsidize one meal in four.

Religion is the common thread for this so-called Friendship Trip, but to see this three-car caravan bounce along is to watch a curious southern migration of swallows, geese and ducks. The March '92 trip included an agronomy professor, a student counseling coordinator, two ISU graduates and seven students.

While spring breakers by the thousands trickled back to campus with darkened skins, this troupe returned with enlightened souls.

This is spring break in Appalachia.

Literally and figuratively, they laid a foundation. "This is a long-run kind of thing," says Charles Jones, who earned Iowa State bachelor's (1950), master's ('57) and doctoral ('72) degrees and in June retired as coordinator of ISU's Student Counseling Center. The '92 travelers built a foundation for an as-yet unfinished home. Such is the nature of their work: Always in progress.

A midday storm makes it a good time for a lunch break in homeowner Cleo White's school bus.

Now that's teamwork: ISU student Leah Solberg passes a block to house co-owner Debbie White.

Before work begins, Theo issues words of thanks and encouragement.

Cleo instructs Dan Bahr and Jerry Archambeau on the art of applying cement.

ISU student Celia Priebe guides tile toward the basement wall.

After some intense gravel shoveling, Rachel Brandy can dig a break.

Cleo wheels a load of gravel through the soon-to-be front door.

Williamsburg neighbor Wayne Millage.

(Left to right) Family friend Tim Rhode, Sam White, Cleopatra White and grandmother Roxie White watch the workers.

Sister Leanne Herda (near window) and Sister Alda Riesgraf at prayer service.

Group contact doesn't end when the day's work is done.

(From foreground) Bahr, ISU student Mark Bodensteiner and Amy Lambert at church service on the first day.

As they draw closer to a new home, Cleo and Debbie have reason to smile.

"If you go down thinking you can develop, say, a new ethic about teen-age pregnancy in a week, you'll be disappointed," says agronomy Professor John Schafer. "But you can give a family a roof *now*, clothe a child *now*."

The trip, coordinated annually by Dan Bahr, '72, MS '79, PhD '90, is no panacea, no magic bullet wiping out penury in seven easy days or your gas money back. It is a sad fact of life in the hollers: Generations of alcoholism, domestic abuse, illiteracy and destitution do not kowtow to the current batch of Altruists of the Week. Says Priebe, "I feel like one little step in a long, long process."

Step by step, March by March, a flock of do-gooders delivers carloads of no-strings-attached goodwill to the downtrodden backwoods of Kentucky.

This is spring break in Appalachia. ◐

For a week, home was where they hung their hats.

ACE OF CLUBS: ISU'S ALUMNI CHAPTERS HAVE LONG HISTORY

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION's chapter program is a long-standing source of pride and accomplishment in the Alumni office. Although it was not formally structured until the 1930s under Executive Secretary Wallace "Red" Barron, the Alumni Association has provided an outreach program to Iowa State graduates for more than 100 years.

Jim Hopson

Early records indicate that William M. Beardshear (Iowa State's fifth president, 1891-1902) often met with alumni in conjunction with his rail travels to destinations such as Chicago, Denver, Kansas City and St. Louis. Few alumni lived in those cities around the turn of the century, so the odds were good that Beardshear knew them all personally.

By 1936, when Charles E. Friley (Iowa State's ninth president, '36-53) took office, Barron had in place an actual "chapter" program that still made use of the passenger railway system. Barron and/or Friley often accompanied either the wrestling, football or basketball team to major cities, conducting alumni meetings in conjunction with sports events.

Thirty years later, when W. Robert Parks was installed as Iowa State's 11th president, the Alumni Association held about 50 annual alumni meetings. By then, University Flight Service enabled the president and other campus personnel to travel to virtually any destination in the Midwest and return to Ames the same evening.

In 1967, the Alumni Association, still under Barron's leadership, made a serious commitment to the chapter program: It hired the first director of field activities, Robert L. Crom, '50. Crom went on to succeed Barron as alumni director, and later served as dean of University Extension.

From that point on, the chapter program, now formally organized into Iowa State University Clubs, flourished under the leadership of Jerry Sholes, '66; Arnie Gaarde, '56, MS '66; Rick Ridnour, '69, MS '70, PhD '85; Rich Emerson, '69; Phyllis Lepke, '69, MS '74, PhD '91; Scott Hale, '76; Rhonda Fulcher Coon, '77; Steve Arbuckle, '77, MS '82; Scott Fountain, '82, and Ronda Cox, '64, MS '88.

Today, as Iowa State's current president, Martin C. Jischke, completes his first year in office, Iowa State University Clubs are stronger than ever. President Jischke has personally addressed more than 3,000 alumni in 40 locations in the past 12 months. Now under the direction of Liz Venner, '79, Iowa State's club program allows more than 10,000 Iowa Staters in 150 locations to have personal contact with Iowa State each year. But I'm afraid we've gotten a little too big to afford President Jischke the ability to personally know every club member!

The Alumni Association is indeed fortunate to have more than 500 alumni in chapter leadership roles in more than 100 locations in the United States and abroad. Below, we are proud to acknowledge outstanding chapters with "Honor Club" status —earned through a point system based on club activities and organization — as well as outstanding individuals receiving the Service Key awards.

The Iowa State University Club program — it works for a lifetime.

Jim Hopson

Jim Hopson
Executive Director

For information about chapters in your area, contact Liz Venner, director of field services, ISU Alumni Association, Alumni Suite, Memorial Union, Ames, Iowa 50010-7164; (515) 294-6525

CLUB HONOR ROLL

Recipients of 1991-92 Service Key Awards for club members providing "community service which reflects honor on the university":

Richard C. Carlson, ISU Club of Hamilton County; Jack Frus, ISU Club of Plymouth County; Willard J. Latham, ISU Club of Franklin County and Michael J. Stineman, ISU Club of Clay-Dickinson Counties.

Recipients of 1991-92 Honor Club status:

- **Small county and small out-of-state club: ISU Club of Central Indiana;**
- **Large county and small metropolitan: ISU Club of Black Hawk County, ISU Club of Boston;**
- **Large in-state and out-of-state: ISU Club of Greater Des Moines, ISU Club of Kansas City, ISU Club of St. Louis, ISU Club of Washington, D.C.**

YOU'LL FALL FOR THESE ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

IF IT'S SUMMER, THAT MUST mean the ISU Alumni Association is knee-deep in planning its marquee fall events:

• Parents Weekend is scheduled for Sept. 18-20. Included in this three-day mother (and father) and child reunion are college receptions, a tailgate before the Sept. 19 Tulane-Iowa State football game, Casino Night and a Sunday-morning brunch.

• Fall wouldn't be fall without Homecoming, and this year's edition is centered around the Oct. 17 Kansas football game. Also included are a pep rally and bonfire, an alumni "Reunion at the Union" and the alumni tailgate before the game.

• The Alumni Association also takes its act on the road, of course, and will do so for three away football games this fall: Oklahoma, Oct. 3; Oklahoma State, Oct. 24; and Colorado, Nov. 21.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The ISU Student Alumni Association program has spawned some of the university's most innovative and productive young alumni. VISIONS catches up with an SAA alum in each issue.

Barbara Dawson

Senior Class President, 1985

Age: 29

ISU major, grad year: Psychology and speech communication, 1985.

Hometown: Sioux City

Job title: Associate attorney in commercial litigation, Snell & Wilmer, Phoenix, Ariz.

What I like most about my job: Lawyers work within a very rigid structure, but a lot of people don't realize there's a real challenge to use creativity to resolve disputes. I never do the same thing twice. The facts, parties and law change from case to case.

EDWARD McCAIN

Most prized legal accomplishment: Along with an associate, I started the legal clinic for HIV-positive people in Maricopa County. For that work I received 1991 Volunteer Attorney of the Year from the Maricopa County Bar Association.

If I won the lottery I'd: Have a pretty incredible party, then travel, then come back and not change much about my life.

Favorite ISU class: Social and cultural history.

Favorite ISU professor: History Professor Hamilton Cravens.

Most prized ISU accomplishment: Receiving the Wallace E. Barron Senior Award.

If I learned one thing at Iowa State it was: Persistence makes up for a lot of deficiencies.

What I miss most about Iowa State: The friendly environment and sense of community.

What I like most about Phoenix: There are many Iowans and Midwesterners, but almost a total absence of bad weather.

Person I admire most: Mother Teresa.

Last book read: *The Prehistory of the Far Side*, by Gary Larson.

Hobbies: Antique shopping, traveling, wine tasting.

EVERYTHING GOES IN CYCLES

RAGBRAI XX IS UPON US. The wheels are turning for the ISU Alumni Association's participation in The Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) July 18-25. For the third consecutive year, Iowa State's alumni staff is teaming up with members of the alumni associations from the Universities of Iowa and Northern Iowa to promote the state's Regents institutions throughout the marvelously popular bike ride across the state.

In addition to setting up booths in the overnight towns listed below, the associations also will be out on the road, providing water and encouragement to the weary bikers.

Peddling higher education on RAGBRAI XIX.

RAGBRAI XX will overnight in:

Glenwood, July 18; Shenandoah, July 19; Bedford, July 20; Osceola, July 21; Des Moines, July 22; Oskaloosa, July 23 and Mt. Pleasant, July 24.

This year's ride – a total of 494 miles – will meet the Mississippi River on July 25 in Keokuk.

ASSOCIATION

THE ISU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — IT WORKS FOR A LIFETIME!

The ISU Alumni Association welcomes the following new lifetime members who joined during the months of January, February and March. If you would like to convert your membership from annual to lifetime, and receive a complimentary gift, call (515) 294-6525 for more information.

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Suzanne W. Adams
Lori L. Adolph
Jeffrey S. and Renee L. Agan
Kevin W. Agnew
Jon R. Allen
Lina E. Allen
Patricia E. Allen
Dale A. Amunson
Carol L. Anderson
Mark L. Anderson
Scott L. and Victoria A. Anderson
Warren Anderson
William A. Anderson
Philip J. Anglin
Colleen M. Armstrong
Jeffrey A. Arnold
David G. and Candace J. Arp
Edward H. Arp
Keri Holmes Asp
Isabelle M. Asserny
Mohd M. Bachh
Bruce A. Baier
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Gina M. Balbi
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Edwin M. and Thelma L. Billings
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Ritu Boehlje
William H. and Susan Bogue
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Valerie L. Campbell
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David R. and Elizabeth Cheers
Wei-Ju Chen
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Kuh-ho Yang
Man-Yuen Yeung
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Michael S. and Carolyn R. Young
Robert E. Young
Kevin J. Youngers
Marvin L. Yount
Deaven R. Yuska

Horsing Around

50 YEARS AGO, THE COLLEGE COSSACKS WERE HELL ON HOOVES

WHAT HAS 24 LEGS, 18 ears, a dozen hooves and more horse sense than common sense?

Unless you were on the Iowa State College campus in the 1930s, you probably haven't a clue. Obscure though they may be, there's no arguing that the rough-and-tumble College Cossacks burrowed out a unique alcove in university history. They were part equestrian, part gymnastic, part lunatic. Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) men would climb onto the backs of one, two or three galloping horses, then run through any number of daredevil stunts. Their *pièce de résistance* (and answer to the above riddle): The three-horse, six-man pyramid. "I wouldn't say it was so difficult," says 1940 cossacks captain Karl Winkler, a retired architect living in Tucson, Ariz. "More like foolhardy."

PHOTO COURTESY PARKS LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Before World War II marked their demise, members of the College Cossacks stood tall.

Their name borrowed from members of the Russian czarist army, the cossacks were believed to be the only such outfit in the country. They practiced weekly for two annual shows in the sand- and sawdust-floored Armory. The would-be soldiers put the soft surface to work when they started pulling stunts before packed houses of oohing and aahing thrill-seekers. Should 1939 captain Richard Wyeth ever forget his hard-knock experience, a not-so-subtle reminder is never farther away than his rickety knee. One heady afternoon, Wyeth decided to impress an ROTC colonel and some onlooking coeds with an unadvised trick: Standing up on his horse as it cleared a three-bar jump. "I thought, 'What the hell, one for the girls,'" 81-year-old Wyeth remembers now from his Tucson home. But his horse clipped the top bar, launching him high into the Armory atmosphere. Upon landing he caught his foot in a divot and, as he remembers, "tore the living hell out of my knee." After limping through the last half century, he harbors no regrets: "I had no money, no fraternity," says Wyeth. "But I had [the cossacks]. That was enough."

It meant enough to bring the once-legendary Movie-Tone News to Ames. And it *almost* meant enough to warrant the group a visit to the renowned International Livestock Expo in Chicago. But prior to departure, the Expo pulled a political stunt of its own. Remember, this was the late '30s. And remember from where the group obtained its name. Can you say communist sympathizer? "Everybody was getting trumped up about Russia then," says Winkler. "All of a sudden they felt it wasn't good politics."

The snub marked the beginning of the end. Several years later, when scores of Iowa State men left for World War II, new technological warfare kept the horses at home. By war's end, horses in ROTC — like so many threads in the weave of early 20th century life — became akin to abaci in the IBM accounting department.

So out to pasture went the College Cossacks. But not until they had enjoyed one thrilling ride. ◐

What are your favorite memories of life at Iowa State? Write: VISIONS Editor, Alumni Suite, Memorial Union, 2229 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010-7164.

WRAP YOURSELF IN ISU SPIRIT!

Showcase your loyalty to Iowa State with this exclusive Amana stadium blanket. It's richly custom-woven with cardinal and gold thread in the Nordic design. This beautiful blanket is made in the tradition of Old World craftsmanship at the Amana Woolen Mill in Amana, Iowa. It's the perfect way to keep warm while cheering on the Cyclones at the game or at home! The blanket is:

- 100 percent wool
- 56 inches x 72 inches
- discounted for ISU Alumni Association members
- available only through the ISU Alumni Association.

Just complete the accompanying form and return it with your full payment to ISU Alumni Association, Alumni Suite, Memorial Union, 2229 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010-7164.

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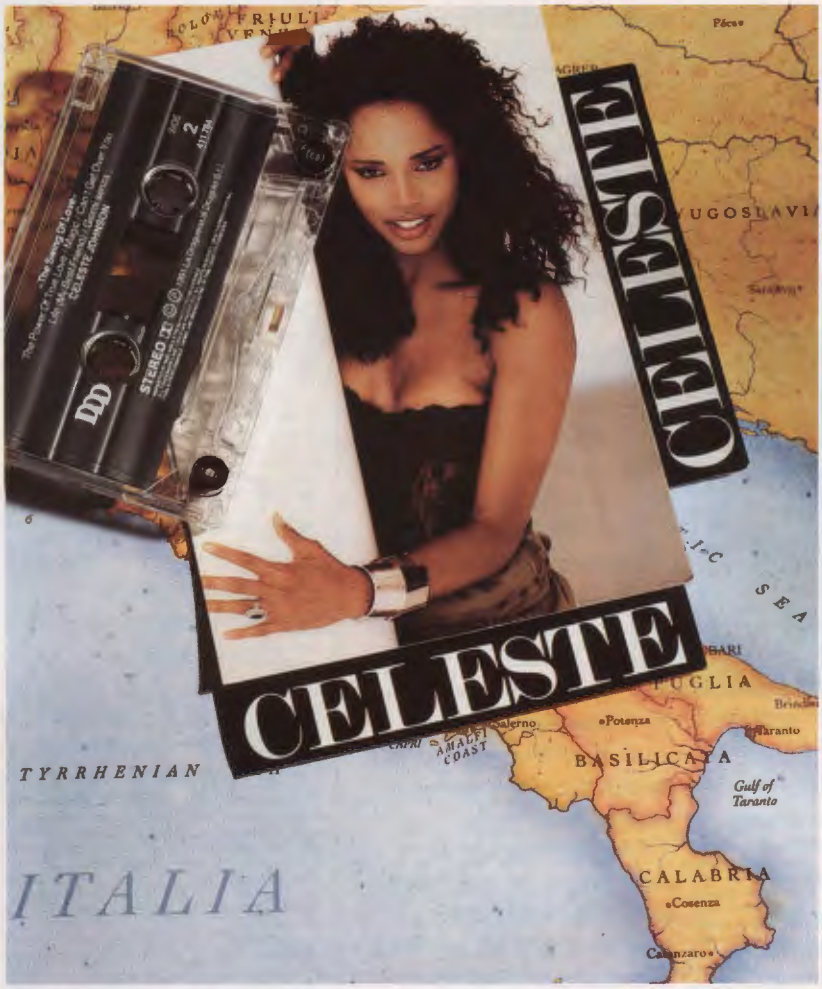
Fast Tracks



Though Celeste Johnson learned Italian after moving to Italy, she performs almost exclusively in English.

ALUM SAYS *CIAO* TO ATHLETICS, BUT CONTINUES MAKING RECORDS OF NOTE

At Iowa State University in the late 1970s, Celeste Johnson ran and jumped her way to an unprecedented track career. Fifteen years later she's sprinting toward another zenith in another career on another continent.

At a sleek 6-foot-2½, she's still performing with the striking verve and versatility of her record-breaking long-jump and sprinting days. But now she's cutting records of a different type. After working as a model and TV celebrity in Milan, she's now a rising singing star. She plans a new album as early as this fall, after her latest CD, "The Swing of Love," sold 50,000 copies and placed a single on Italy's answer to the Billboard Top 10.

"Before all this started, I wanted to run every day," the six-time Big Eight Conference champion says during a short trip to her hometown Chicago this spring. "Now that I've discovered [singing], it's the same thing. Performing is performing, I guess. Once you get on the stage, it's the same as when I got on the track: The doubts disappear and I just let it go."

When she lets it go, Johnson's style is part Madonna and part Whitney Houston, but also reveals glimpses of an early appreciation for such varied artists as Dionne Warwick, Stevie Wonder and Aretha Franklin. A regular entertainment decathlete, she recently took up the saxophone. In typical high-energy style, she describes her music thusly: "It's danceable it's fun it's young." Her singing — like her running — is not conducive to commas.

"It's frightening to think I'm at this level," she continues. "I'm still studying, still learning basics. I'm no Whitney Houston. But I must have something."

Impeccable timing, for one. She left ISU in 1978 with a journalism degree and an eye on a broadcasting career. But while she was working at a Miami station, an agent talked her into a modeling tryout. She was an instant hit, and snapped up the chance to work in Milan. Once there, she snagged an audition at *Canale 5*, one of Italy's TV networks. She did the theme song, or *sigla*, for a Saturday-night variety show, then went on to land prominent spots on three other series, including *Premiatissima* and *Risatissima* — two of Italy's most popular shows. Though the ensuing recordings have helped establish name recognition, it is concert-like performances in Italy's pop festivals that have proven most lucrative.

Though she was instantly smitten with Europe, Johnson always has dreamed of fashioning a career back in the U.S. She plans to follow that dream next year, when she travels to Los Angeles to "see if I can stand up to the big guys. You know what they say, if you're a hit in [the U.S.], you can make it big all over the world."

With a world of talent, Celeste Johnson just might pull it off.

LEN RIZZI

Karen Olmsted

As an architect, her job is history

KAREN AUTENRIETH OLMSTED was a child of the 1950s, that decade as devoid of female architects as it was replete with poodle skirts. She longed to be an architect like her father, but instead climbed aboard the closest thing her era had to a woman's career track: Liberal arts degree (history, Iowa State, '62), marriage, motherhood.

Thirty years later, Olmsted puts her ISU degree — and her love for architecture — to work in a U.S. city where the two disciplines converge like no other: Washington, D.C. Olmsted works in the office of the Architect of the Capitol. From its non-descript brick building several blocks south of the Capitol, the department oversees architecture not just in the Capitol but in the Library of Congress, the House and Senate office buildings and a whole collection of buildings fairly stuffed with 200 years of heritage. For a person so smitten by history, the office's responsibilities are awesome: "Preserving and maintaining the buildings," she says, "while, in small but important ways, bringing them into modern times."

That means computerizing the Library of Congress without damaging marble flooring and mosaic tiles. Helping Supreme Court justices find storage for a library that is growing, Olmsted says, at the rate of 6,000 books per year. Establishing a Capitol Building visitors' center.

Heady work for a woman who avoided the male-dominated field 30 years ago because she was "too young and too shy and too intimidated." But by the time she and her husband, Jerauld Olmsted, '61, divorced, she saw that architecture as a male bastion was starting to crumble. She earned her master's degree from the University of Virginia in 1985, and in 1989 found her place as a watchdog of D.C. history.

"I've always loved architecture," she says. "I'm thoroughly amazed at this city, all the history it's seen. It's an incredible combination."

One that requires plenty of architectural skills, to be sure. And the rest is history.

30 years of monkeying around at United States' most popular zoo

IF CHICAGO'S LINCOLN PARK Zoo is indeed "Gorilla Town, U.S.A.," then for 30 years Director Lester Fisher certainly has qualified as nothing less than its mayor.

Fisher, the recently retired 1943 Iowa State veterinary graduate, got his start in this zoo-y business from one of its giants — human giants, that is: The late Marlin Perkins of *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* fame. And though Fisher's April 1 retirement left behind a veritable laundry list of accomplishments, none are more renowned than his work with his "big kids."

Lincoln Park's 33 gorilla births since 1970 are the most in the U.S. over that period. Its gorilla collection also is the largest in the country and regarded by many as the world's finest. "There's something awesome about these 500-pound specimens," Fisher says. "They're so strong, so powerful, but they're truly gentle."

Fisher, one of the first veterinarians in the zoo business, came of age at Lincoln Park during nothing short of a revolutionary period. During the first half of the century, zoos were little more than collections of animals. Not coincidentally, Fisher's tenure was contiguous with an era of terrific progress in the areas of education, conservation and research worldwide. He still serves as director of the U.S. Lowland Gorilla Species Survival Plan Committee.

In Chicago, he reigned over the country's oldest (124 years) and most popular (4.3 million annual visitors) zoos. Lincoln Park is also one of just a few remaining free-admission zoos.

Not bad for a self-professed "class anachronism" during vet school at Iowa State. Upon graduation the city kid returned home to "do the usual cat and dog work,"

PHOTO COURTESY LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Lester Fisher

but was recruited by Perkins for part-time zoo work. When Mr. *Wild Kingdom* left in '62, Fisher stepped in. He's been going ape ever since.

"I'll miss all the animals, but really the gorillas," Fisher says. "I've delivered them, treated them and buried them. They're like my extended family."

Blazing Paddles

JIM BOUNDS

Curt Bader, shown here before the U.S. Olympic trials in Raleigh, N.C., finished seventh in the 500-meter event. The top 10 placewinners will compete in Spain.

WHEN IT CAME TO THE 1992 OLYMPICS, ISU ALUM WASN'T ABOUT TO MISS THE BOAT

CURT BADER WOULD HAVE paddled to Barcelona if he had to.

"Being in the Olympics, being on the water, competing against the best in the world — it's all I dream about," says the 1984 Iowa State graduate. "When you train three times a day all year, you'll do whatever it takes to get there."

Not that the amazingly fit 31 year old probably couldn't kayak the salty Atlantic's 3,000-odd miles. But in April, Bader opted for the more conventional route — during the Olympic trials in Raleigh, N.C., he earned one of 10 spots on the U.S. kayak team. Now he can fly over the Atlantic — kayak and paddle in tow, of course — to churn through 1,000 of the most vital flatwater meters of his life.

Bader admits his is a peculiar story. A kayaker with roots stretching to landlocked Bloomfield, Iowa? What's next, a giant slalom ace from Kansas? Bader got interested in all things paddle-propelled as a youngster in Explorer Scouts. He canoed lakes and rivers in southeast Iowa as a teen-ager, and while competing in a canoe marathon more than 10 years ago he became acquainted with a U.S. kayak coach. The spray in his face and the tremendous physical challenge of being a world-class racer snatched his curiosity; soon, the sport would dominate his every fiber. By the mid-'80s he was training with the U.S. team, and in '88 he made the Seoul Olympic squad.

"Like most kayakers, Curt is in this sport because he wants to see how fast his muscles can make him go," says U.S. kayak coach Paul Podgorski, a former member of the Polish kayak team. "All humans seem to want to know that. Some of them do it running on a track. We choose to do it on the water in a kayak."

Though kayaking originated in North America centuries ago as a staple of Eskimo life, only recently has it returned to the continent as an athletic pursuit. Many European governments have long funded kayak and canoe teams simply to pursue gold medals. Spend a few minutes trying to remember the last American kayaker you saw on a Wheaties box and you'll realize the sport is woefully obscure here. Podgorski admits it hardly rivals track or basketball as a glamour sport. Recruiting young American athletes on board the cigar-shaped vessel, he knows, always will be a challenge. But Curt Bader, never one to chase the lights, anyway, needed no prodding.

"I used to love paddling on Lake Fisher and Lake Wapello near Bloomfield," says the former ISU forestry major, adding that he never once took a canoe on Lake LaVerne. "And when you get to this level, the physical challenge is so incredible."

Indeed, when Bader competes in Barcelona, he'll be part of a four-man team that will paddle furiously for less than four minutes. But like a track sprinter, he will have poured in hundreds of hours of intense training for every second of race time.

Kayakers' training is not unlike that of cyclists or cross country skiers. The sport places a premium on cardiovascular efficiency, which can be attained only through grueling, repetitive workouts. So enormous are the training requirements, Podgorski says, that kayakers mow through an average of

nearly 6,000 calories per day.

Given those requirements, it's no wonder Bader's lifestyle borders on the monastic. With no time to work a real job, he relies on funding from the U.S. Olympic Committee and his father, Wendell Bader, a Bloomfield farmer and feed salesman. "I've never really had jobs," says Bader, who, like most at his level, is single. "There's just no room for anything but training."

"What they do," Podgorski says, "is train and eat, train and eat."

As is the wont of most Olympians, Bader isn't pondering his career after these Games. On the contrary, these days, Barcelona *is* his career. "Right now I'm living the Olympic dream," he says. "All I know is I love being on the water, training to compete against the best in the world."●

OLYMPIC BRIEFS

PHOTO COURTESY ARIZONA STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

AMES BY BARCELONA Before Bobby Douglas *(above)* enters his first season as ISU's wrestling coach, he's got one small matter to attend to: Coaching the '92 U.S. Olympic team. Douglas, who was named in April to replace Jim Gibbons, comes to ISU after a celebrated, 18-year tenure at Arizona State. His 1988 squad won the NCAA title. "[ISU] has a class program, with all the ingredients necessary to build a champion," the 50-year-old Douglas said upon his introduction to Iowa media. "I'm excited about being here, because this is the heartland of wrestling. That's where I want to be. I want to be close to the fire." Douglas, an Ohio native and former Oklahoma State wrestler, was an ISU assistant under Harold Nichols in 1969-70 and 1972-73. He also was an assistant on each of the last four U.S. Olympic teams.

KEV'S REVVED Dial Kevin Jackson's Ames telephone later this month, and you'll be treated to a pleasant, almost soothing, recording that ends with a most halcyonic sign-off: *Take care. Peace.* But while you're answering the beep, the beepee might well be waging all-out war against a Russian or a Turk or an Iranian on a bloodied battleground an ocean away. Jackson, a native of Lansing, Mich., will be one of Douglas' charges at the Barcelona Games. The 1991 world freestyle champ defended his No. 1 seeding at 180.5 ponds in the U.S. trials in June, after steadily climbing the ranks of American wrestling following a runner-up NCAA finish at ISU in 1987. Given his '91 world title and solid year of training, he figures to be the heavy favorite for Olympic gold later this month. "It's been hard for me to reap the rewards of [the world championship] because the Olympics come right after it," Jackson says. "The Olympics and the worlds are both the same — the best in the world are there — but the Olympics are ... well, it's the Olympics. It's magnified 100-fold."

TALENT IN BLUMS As we told you in the Winter '92 issue *(And to the Republic ...)*, Cyclone decathlete Ron Blums is in line to compete for the now-independent republic of Latvia next month. The junior business major leads his country in the grueling, 10-sport event; in Barcelona, he hopes to be one of the first athletes to compete under Latvia's maroon-and-white flag in decades.

VISIONS

1-800-METERS ... Former ISU 800-meter star Edith Nakiyingi *(VISIONS, Summer '90)* will represent Uganda in that event in the '92 Games. Nakiyingi *(left)*, a two-time NCAA indoor champion and 11-time Big Eight champ, is Uganda's top entrant in the half-mile race.

OUT OF AFRICA Another ex-Cyclone from Africa, distance ace Yobes Ondieki, is gunning for an Olympic medal. The 1985 Iowa State graduate won the 5,000 meters in last year's World Championships in Tokyo, and will represent Kenya in that event next month. Ondieki won four Big Eight titles while competing for ISU from 1982-85. His wife, Australian Lisa Ondieki, figures to be in the hunt for an Olympic medal in the women's 10K.

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Plow Under the Agrarian Calendar

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN EBERT

By William K. Poston

William K. Poston Jr. is associate professor and section leader of educational administration in Iowa State's Department of Professional Studies.

WHEN FARM FAMILIES FORMED THE BASIC economic unit in frontier Iowa, children were an integral part of the work and productivity of the farm. Without them, farmers would have been hard pressed to complete all the chores and manual labor. As a result, schooling was squeezed in around the busy season — and the agrarian school calendar was born.

It was a satisfactory arrangement at that time in our country's history. Children weren't expected to go much beyond fourth or fifth grade, and the abbreviated nine-month school year suited farm needs. Now, in a highly technical and fiercely competitive international marketplace, perhaps our traditional school calendar has outlived its usefulness. It's time we carefully considered shifting to Year-Round Schools (YRS).

Children in America are in school about 180 days per year. When compared to many European children (220 days) and Japanese (240), an American child can be *as much as a full year or more behind* their international cohorts by the end of the sixth grade.

Given this discrepancy, the potential impact on our ability to survive in the international marketplace is astounding. Human progress is intertwined with technological expertise; our outmoded calendar may be putting our children — and thus our future ability to compete globally — at a severe disadvantage.

It's interesting to note that technology has invaded the farm as much as any other enterprise, and that advanced educational attainment significantly contributes to the improvement of agriculture. We no longer need children to support farm work, but we do need them to become highly literate not only in basic skills of communication and computation, but in technological applications, as well.

Nothing is learned without time and effort. Time is a powerful factor in the improvement of learning, both qualitatively and quantitatively. It's like saying, "The longer you stay out in the rain the wetter you are going to get." The more time you spend in school, the more you are going to learn.

Benefits of YRS that accrue to children and communities include:

- Year-round schools are cheaper to operate.
- Classroom space is more efficiently used.
- Student achievement is increased.
- Instructional options expand and increase.
- In-depth mastery of content is enhanced.

Despite its obvious benefits, year-round education is frequently opposed in the planning and development stages. Concerns include the disruption of family schedules and vacations, the stressing of children and the complication of sibling relationships. However, experience shows that once the program gets underway, parent satisfaction becomes as high as it was before the change.

One beneficial type of YRS is the five-quarter plan, in which students attend school in five instructional blocks totalling 220 days per year. Each block contains nine weeks, more or less — depending upon holidays — and student vacations total seven weeks per year. In this configuration, the capacity of the school is increased about 25 percent, course credit is retained, teachers may teach as few as four of the blocks to enable advanced study, and summer and traditional winter vacations are preserved.

Schools are only as good as their communities allow them to be. Any innovation in schooling has to grow from the needs and desires of our communities. Less time in school, even with increased productivity, can only be a disadvantage for any community's children.

Year-round schools are gaining wide acceptance in Florida, California, Arizona, Utah and other states. There's little question that our culture has moved from an agrarian era, through an industrial era, into a technological age. We have much to do to ensure a sound future for our children. At the top of the list of considerations should be how to use time. Shouldn't American schools try an idea whose time has come? ◐

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