

IOWA CITY

EYE ON IOWA CITY Trial of agents reveals how athletes 'marketed'

OWA CITY — The celebrated trial in which former University of Iowa football players Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell revealed their dismal college grades is giving lowans a chance to see how intensely agents compete for the right to represent a professional athlete.

Sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom are being tried in federal court in Chicago for fraud.

College athletes, including those at the U of I, become more valuable to agents when featured frequently and prominently in the public and media, said Paul Papak, a U of I professor of law who teaches a course in sports law.

Headlines and daily television coverage basically provide free advertising for the athletes' name and athletic skills, Papak said.



LYLE MULLER Gazette bureau chief

City plans riverside trail additions New segments will replace dirt paths

By Scott Hauser Gazette correspondent IOWA CITY - People will soon be able to stroll and pedal from Coralville to Iowa City as

area commissions work to complete the next segments of a long-planned river trail.

The trail along the Iowa River will add a new section this summer and another next year.

"It's part of the benefits of Iowa City that we have this river," Iowa City Riverfront Commission Chair Robert Wachal said.

"And we can take advantage of it — seeing it, using it, enjoying it."

The trail is a 15-year dream of the Riverfront Commission to build a river corridor trail from the Coralville Reservoir to the Hills Access Recreation Area. The dream will take a few steps closer to realization later this year and next, if everything goes as planned.



Both of the new segments currently exist, but are only worn dirt paths which the Riverfront Commission would like to see become paved and lighted walkways.

The trail will be big enough for both bicyclists and pedestrians, officials said.

"It's not strictly a sidewalk and it's not strictly a bike path," Jeff Davidson, transportation director of the Johnson County Council of Goverments, said, adding that bicyclists will be encouraged to use the trail rather than ride on Riverside Drive.

While the city and university portions of the trail may take as long as year to complete, Coralville and Project Green hope to finish a connection between CRANDIC Park and First Avenue this summer.

The Coralville segment will connect with Iowa City's path and go to First Avenue, south of Clear Creek, said George Mather, a member of Project Green's steering committe.

Mather said the funding for the segment has been approved, but final plans have yet to be drawn.

The proposed segments "provide another nature trail, another place togo, another piece of greenery to look at," he said. Even though area groups would like to eventually extend the trail farther south and north, they will have to work in segments for a while, Wachal said. In some areas the land along the river isnt' developed and in others, the city would have to acquire land to build a trail, he said. Parts of the trail will have to rely on sidewalks, although the commissions hopes to put the trail as close to the river as possible, he said.

"That makes them real attractive to people who want to market them," he said.

Athletes are different from people in other walks of life because "generally speaking, people who get hired for jobs do not need agents," Papak said. Even if people use an employment agency to get a job, they seek out the agency and not vice versa, as happens when agents seek out athletes, he said.

University officials must be aware of all this. "We certainly have, in every sport, people who are likely to be drafted and play professionally," Papak said. "That inevitably attracts agents."

The trial of Walters and Bloom also has taken the regulation of sports agents on college campuses into a new arena, Papak said. "This is one of the first attempts that I have seen to regulate it through criminal law."

Debate hits home

As can be expected, this home to a major university attracts people of all cultures and nationalities.

That it does has been quite evident in recent weeks with first-hand debate of international issues such as whether author Salman Rushdie should be killed, as ordered by the Ayatollah Khomeini.

An observer on the outside, let's say an Iowan whose contact with other cultures is limited by lack of opportunity, may determine that all Muslims will follow Khoemini's pronouncement and carry out the death sentence.

At the U of I recently, Iowans got a first-hand look at how such an issue has aroused the passion of Muslims around the world, as well as in this state. The setting was a public reading of some of Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" and a panel discussion of the impact the book has had on Muslims.

The panel discussion happened after news deadlines on a Friday night, so it went unreported. But anyone who was there could see that questions from Rushdie's controversial novel is about as simple to resolve as determining if Jesus Christ would overcome a sexual fantasy while hanging on the cross before or after actually having the fantasy, as depicted in the movie "The Last Temptation of Christ."

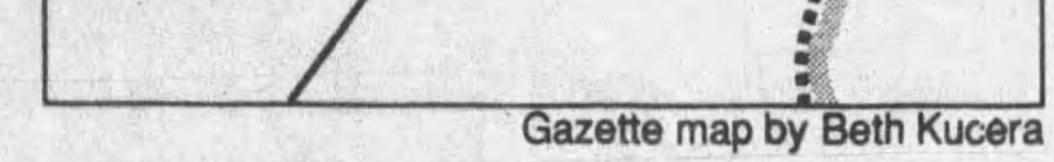
Mahmoud Rizig, president of the Islamic Society at the U of I, said Islamic law dictates that "The Satanic Verses" should not be read in Muslim nations because it makes references to prostitution and the legitimacy of Muslim teachings that blaspheme the prophet Mohammed.

Parts of the trail are now in place, including a path through City Park and along Rocky Shore Drive to CRANDIC park.

The trail follows city sidewalks along Park Road and Manor Drive between Rocky Shore Drive and City Park and follows University of Iowa sidewalks along the river between Park Road and the U of I Art Museum.

At its March 7 meeting, the Iowa City **Council approved the Riverfront Commission's** request for \$6,400 so the commission can apply for a state grant to build the next segment of the trail, between Burlington Street and Iowa Avenue, along Riverside Drive.

The money is 25 percent of the estimated \$25,600 cost of the segment. Of that toal, 75



This map shows the proposed additions to the lowa River corridor trail in lowa City.

percent would be paid by a state grant, of building an 8-foot wide sidewalk along **Riverside** Drive.

In addition, the commission hopes that private environmental groups can raise the money needed to connect the trail between the Art Museum and Iowa Avenue across U of I property.

Because the U of I is a state agency, it is prohibited from participating in the grant project, Wachal said.

Mather said the new segments are small steps in a long-range plan.

"We tend to take a long-range view of the whole river corridor concept," Mather said. "This is just one small step. Hopefully, in the next umpteen years, it can be extended."

'The Anti-Warrior' 1st book in new U of I Press series

nervous young men dressed in illfitting blue suits, wearing berets, and carrying identical black valises were given tickets for an American Export Lines ship and told to act as ordinary tourists.

They were volunteers for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, a group of political activists and American communists traveling the French underground to join in the fight against Francisco Franco and fascism.

Among them was Milt Felsen, a young New Yorker and radical anti-war activist on the University of lowa campus who was vehemently opposed to fascism. Felsen tells his story beginning

Law school

on benefits

Building.

specialists.

offers course

The course, "What the Iowa

Law Dean Thomas Senneff.

underlying federal policy.

to more experienced practitioners

mountains through his many battles and adventures in "The Anti-Warrior: A Memoir," the first book in a series of autobiographies released by the University of Iowa Press in April.

The memoir is an account of Felsen's involvement in two decades of battle.

After the Spanish Civil War, the U.S. government asked Felsen to help organize the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA, because of his expertise in battling fascism.

In World War II, he was captured behind the lines in North Africa and became a prisoner of

IOWA CITY — In 1937, 36 with a march across the Pyrenees After a year and a half in a union of script girls and assistant German prison camp, he escaped during a 1,200-mile prisoner-ofwar march and drove out of Nazi Germany in a Mercedes-Benz.

He returned to the United States more convinced than ever of war's insanity and its extreme human cost.

Felsen recently traveled to Barcelona for the unveiling of a monument in honor of the men who volunteered for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

BESIDES BEING a peace activist and a war hero, Felsen was also a labor organizer and filmmaker.

directors.

He later became an independent movie producer whose credits include "Saturday Night Fever" and "The Bell Jar."

Today Felsen serves on the boards of the Directors Guild of America, the Asolo Performing Arts Center in Sarasota, Fla., and the Governor's Council for Film, Television and Sound in Florida.

His book is available from the University of Iowa Press Order Department, University of Iowa, Iowa City 52242 at a cost of \$24.95 (hardback) or \$9.95 (paperback).

"The Western freedom of expression includes pornography; we don't," Rizig said. Still, people in the Western world should read writings that explain Islamic faith, he said.

"You have to understand Islam, to read the Koran, to read Islamic history, to read Islamic books that are written about Islam," he said. "But believing that Muslims are terrorists and believing that Islam is teaching terrorism, that's not true."

Mansour Bonakdarian, an Iranian who is a graduate student at the U of I, said Khomeini's death sentence had nothing to do with religion, and everything to do with politics.

"Ruling factions in Iran have been increasingly engaged in a power struggle among themselves," said Bonakdarian, who also said he is a non-practicing Muslim. "In this struggle, a major controversy has been whether or not to allow for the improvement of diplomatic and economic ties with the Western powers, in order to undertake the peace under construction.

"Shortly before Khomeini's call for Rushdie's death, riots had broken out in India and Pakistan, in which the outraged mob attacked British and American embassies. In his ingenious way, recognizing the possible political implications of the Rushdie case, Khomeini realized the advantage of publicly denouncing Rushdie, who happens to be a British citizen."

It's a festival

Iowa City's connection with the U of I also has given the city a rich base in the arts — so rich that the first-ever 'Iowa Festival" is being planned for June 10 to 25 here.

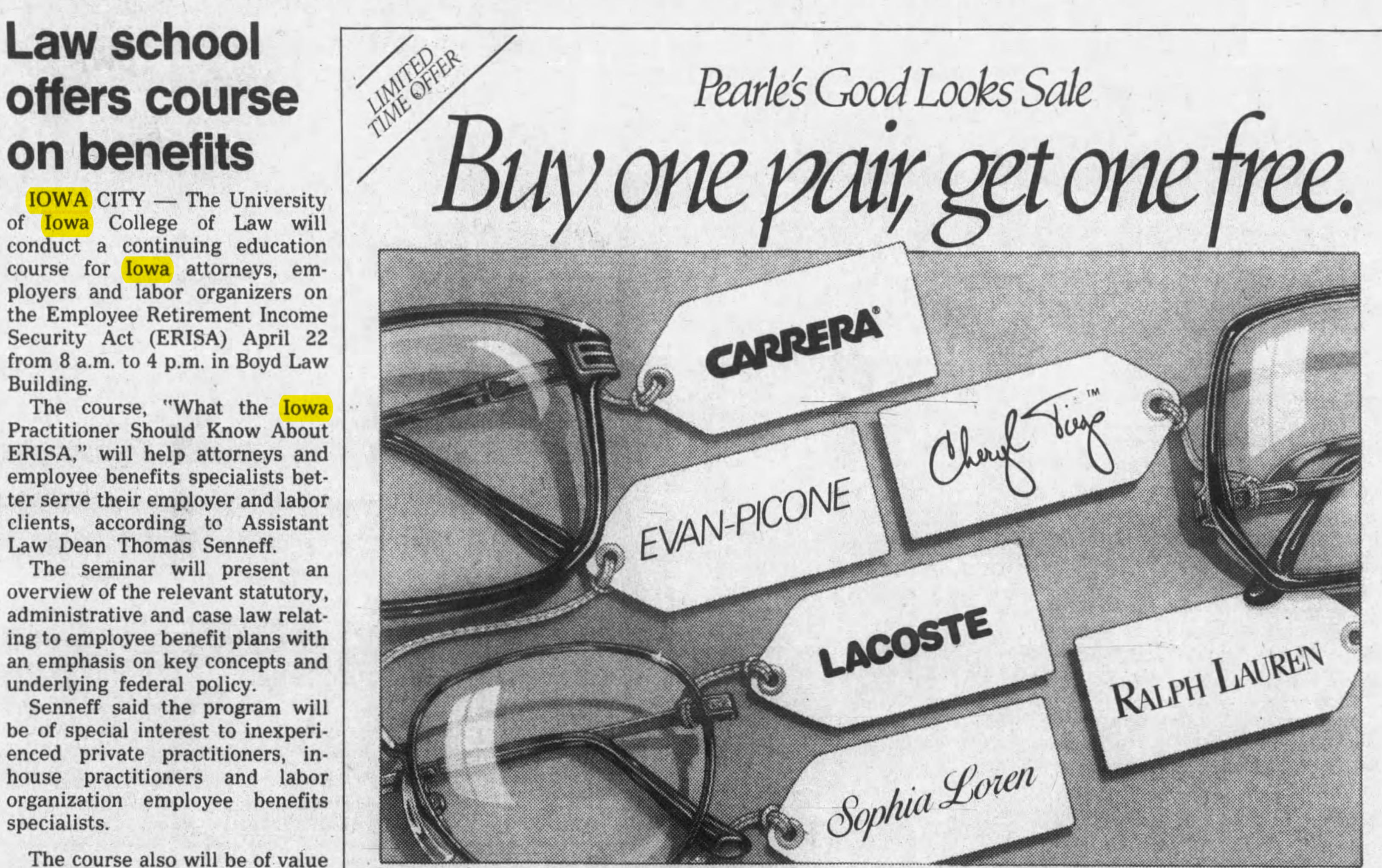
The Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the event, which is to showcase local arts organizations and their members' talents.

The chamber's arts committee has hired Cathryn Wilkinson to be the festival's arts coordinator. Wilkinson has been performing arts coordinator for U of I Hospitals' Project Art program and a teaching assistant at the U of I School of Music.

Programs planned for June include theater performances

war.

He was head of Local 161, the



You're looking at just some of the famous brand names you'll find at Pearle. And now when you present

