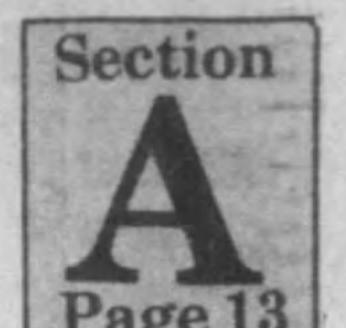
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Who you gonna call? Vernon U of I calls on law professor to solve 'problems'

By Lyle Muller Gazette Johnson County Bureau IOWA CITY — When University of va officials thought Hawkeye athletes were getting an unfair national black eye last March they called David Vernon for help.

The integrity of the athletes' academic studies was being questioned in a celebrated Chicago trial involving sports agents and someone had to answer hard questions.

Vernon was a natural for the job. An often-honored College of Law professor and expert in mediation, Vernon was in a second temporary appointment as the U of I's chief academic officer and

had dealt with athletics before. "I usually get called in when they have a problem that is festering," said the acting vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculties. "The role is, in a sense, to be a mediator. I've enjoyed that."

But as this fall semester draws to an end, the 64-year-old Vernon is ready for change. Peter Nathan, of Rutgers

University, will assume the vice presidency in January, while Vernon will relinquish his caretaking duties and return to teaching.

Identifiable by his white hair, wide grin and trademark-like suspenders, Vernon is a respected scholar whose writings range from serious discussions of faculty ethics to humorous legal papers that seek the difference between fryers and stewing hens.

AS INTERIM academic vice president, he provided institutional stability and experience in the early months of Hunter Rawlings' 16-month-old U of I presidency, something he has provided previous presidents as well.

"He's got a unique style," said Marvin Pomerantz, president of the State Board of Regents. "He's a brilliant man and has helped immeasurably when working out some of the transitional things that occur when a new chief executive officer comes onto the university campus."

Vernon grabbed the reins when

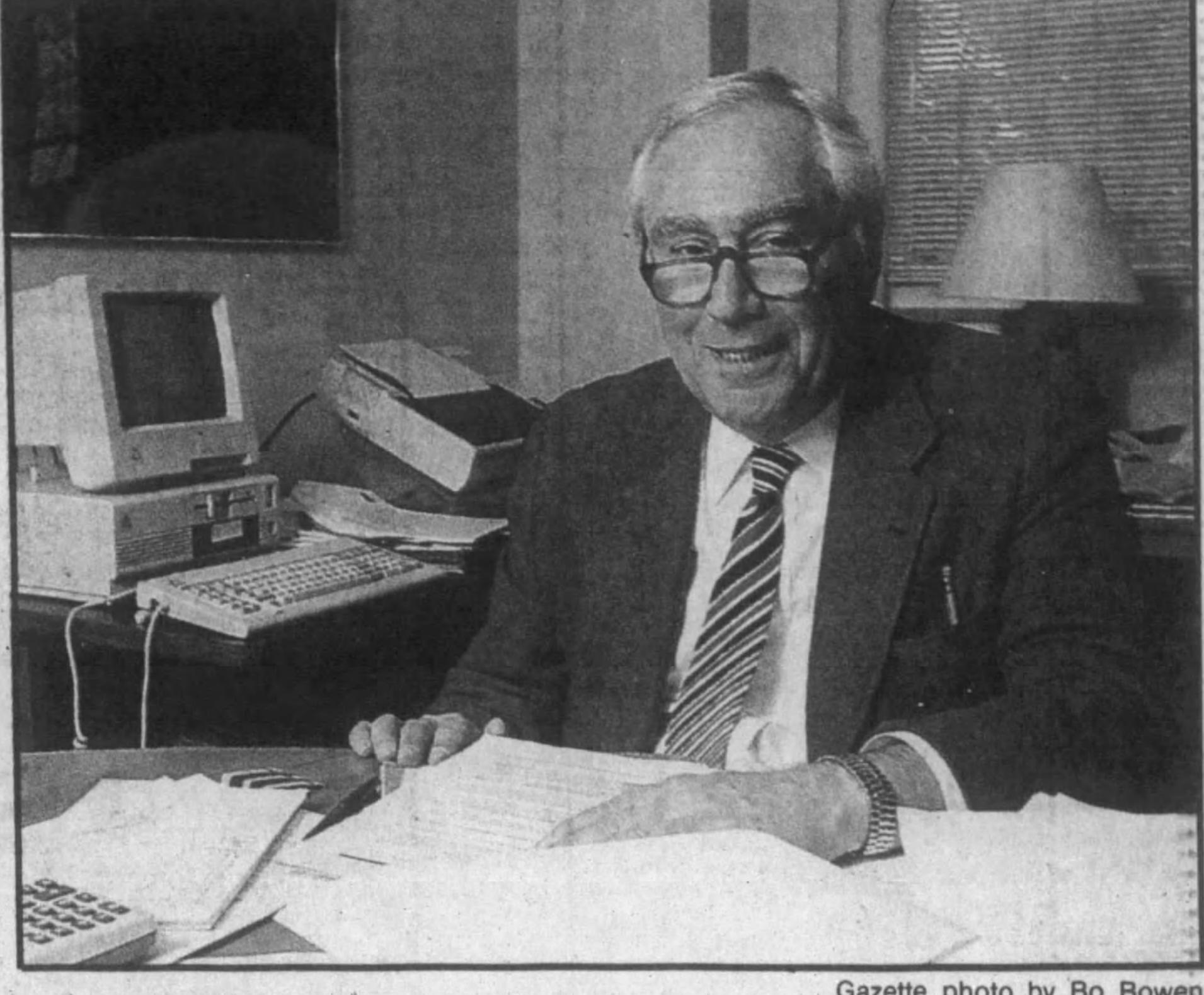
academic standards for the U of I's athletes were challenged in the federal fraud trial of sports agents N and Lloyd Bloom earlier this year.

Testimony in that trial identified former Hawkeye football players Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell as men who maintained their eligibility to play football with college courses such as billiards and bowling.

Rawlings asked Vernon to head a threemember committee to study the academic side of being a Hawkeye player. The committee returned with its report in two weeks, giving the athletic department high marks for its attention to academics and making recommendations to prevent cases such as Harmon's and Mitchell's.

Just the year before, when word broke that Harmon accepted payments from Walters and Bloom while still enrolled at Vernon had headed a U of I in-house investigation into possible NCAA rules violations. That committee uncovered that

■ Please turn to 14A: Vernon



Gazette photo by Bo Bowen

David Vernon, University of Iowa acting vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculties, has played many roles for the U of I.



Students in Judy Blum's class at Johnson Elementary learn math with the aid of "manipulatives." Using a specific number of a variety of objects, such

Gazette photo by Bo Bowen as beads, blocks and toothpicks, the students create different designs. Here Peter Hadjis works with red and yellow blocks and the number six.

Teachers also must learn, understand program

By Kurt Rogahn ale Phillips doesn't want teachers to just place manipulatives in front of little children and let them have at it.

"I want teachers to understand why," says Phillips, director of the Developmental Activities Project (DAP) at Grant Wood Area Education Agency.

Now 10 years old, DAP pioneered the recent efforts to put manipulatives in the hands of young Eastern Iowa schoolchildren as a means

of introducing them to math. Phillips says some DAP is in use in 33 of the 39 school districts in the Grant Wood service

But some districts adopted other, similar teaching methods: The Cedar Rapids schools, for

instance, use a method called "Math Their

But even the Cedar Rapids curriculum uses elements of DAP, says Phillips, who served on a committee that advised the district on its new curriculum. Where DAP and Math Their Way differ is in

their approach: In DAP, children work alone with manipulatives and in Math Their Way, children work in small groups.

Also, DAP prescribes a method of questioning that helps the teacher determine the level of understanding in each child. Phillips says she and her husband, Darrell, a professor at the University of Iowa, developed DAP based on research with children.

Kindergarten teacher Mary Airy demonstrates

how her Van Horne Elementary students differ in their level of understanding of numbers: One boy thinks the number of plastic alligators grew when Airy simply spread his

stacks further apart. Yet a girl nearby was able to show Airy that four cubes were four cubes, no matter what kind of design they were arranged in. "This girl is far more advanced," Airy

Turn to 14A: Program



Mary Airy

Math teachers change to more 'show' than 'tell'

By Kurt Rogahn Gazette education writer

he classroom is noisy and busy. This doesn't look like a math lesson. Even the kids say that. But it is math. Seven-year-old David Busha holds up a paper still wet with dabs of white glue.

"It looks like a pitchfork," he explains, pointing to a design he has made with toothpicks. "I'm using six. I can only use six."

The idea, David says, is to see how many designs he can make with sets of six toothpicks. He points to James Sasek, 6, nearby in this Johnson School classroom. "He has to see how many different shapes he can make with four toothpicks."

Says James, "Everybody thinks it's play, but it's actually working."

Says David, "Our teacher calls it our 'math tubs." Says James again, "It looks like play,

but it's actually work, because math is work." All around teacher Judy Blum's combination first-second grade "Family School" classroom, students are handling objects: beads, beans, little wooden blocks, and so on. Sometimes they glue the objects down, as David and James have done, and sometimes they draw pictures of the patterns they have made.

The scene is being Donna Spellman

repeated in other classrooms around Eastern Iowa as elementary teachers begin to change their approach to teaching mathematics. Over the past several years, more teachers have made more use of "manipulatives," objects children can hold and group and re-group to build a basic understanding of numbers and patterns.

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS have always made some use of solid objects when teaching math, Blum admits. "Very few primary teachers taught math without some of these things. But we tended to not do enough with them. We skimmed over them too fast, or used them only with kids who had problems with math."

Consequently, most adults learned their math through memorizing facts, tables, and processes without really understanding what they were doing with numbers on paper, or why.

Memorizing is still part of the picture, says Donna Spellman, program facilitator for math

■ Please turn to 14A: Math

Art museum gift will give Cone collection a home

Daniel Galleries will display artist's works

Robert O. Daniel, a Cedar Rapids attorney, and J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art in Washington; D.C., will be

among those sharing the spotlight when the new Cedar Rapids Museum of Art is dedicated and opened to the public Dec. 9.

A major gift by Daniel will endow a permanent home for works by Cedar Rapids artist Marvin D. Cone. The funds will be used to support and maintain the Robert O. Daniel Galleries.

Brown will be the speaker for the noon



J. Carter Brown

dedication ceremony. Joseph S. Czestochowski, executive director of the museum, said that for stace reasons attendance at the ceremony will

be limited to 250 donors and guests. Other speakers will include Gov. Terry' Branstad, Mayor Donald E. Canney and D.

board of trustees.

The museum will be opened to the public at 2 p.m. that day.

William Coppock, president of the museum's

THE ROBERT O. Daniel Galleries will exhibit Cone's works from his student days in 1909 at Cedar Rapids Washington High School up into the 1960s. Cone is one of six artists to be featured in permanent exhibitions in the new

\$10 million museum. "These works include some of Cone's barns, doors, clouds, landscapes and abstractions, all of which have recently undergone extensive

conservation work," said Czestochowski. "Most of them have not been displayed previously."

Soft violet and gold are the colors used on the walls in the Daniel Galleries. Reminiscent of the two summers Cone worked with Grant Wood at the Stone City Art Colony and School, Stone City limestone has been used as a border accent in the flooring in the galleries. Additionally, in the center of a joint Cone-Grant Wood gallery

■ Please turn to 14A: Cone Cone and family.



1989 Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

Artist Marvin Cone's 1942 painting "lowa Landscape" was a gift to the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art from Winnifred

Vernon: Author of famous 'what is chicken' case

From page 13A

Mitchell also had received payments from Walters and Bloom while at Iowa.

"I think we've made progress on the academic side of the athletic program. I think it's always been reasonably good," Vernon said.

"There have been some slips. The Harmon stuff involving the agents was not something you can control. You can try to educate, and they did. And when you find out about it you stop it."

A recreational tennis player who plays "with some vigor, if not with some skill," Vernon came to the U of I in 1966 as professor and dean of the College of Law. He wanted to be dean only five years and, in 1971, fulfilled that promise and left the college's front office.

He was born in Boston, Mass., and earned degrees at Harvard University, Harvard Law School and New York University Law School. He also holds an honorary degree from the University of Durham in England.

He started teaching in 1953 at the New York University Law School. After his deanship at the U of I, he was appointed to first the Iowa Law School Foundation professorship and then, in 1986, as an Allan D. Vestal Professor of Law.

In 1973 and 1974, he served as special assistant for academic affairs to the president, which is what the vice presidency he has held on an acting basis was called then. When former academic Vice President Richard Remington resigned to resume teaching last year, Vernon stepped in again.

Of the other vice presidents, Duane Spriestersbach was trying to retire as head of research and Philip Hubbard, heading the U of I's minority recruitment effort, was preparing for a pending retirement.

"I thought I could bridge the gap between the old and the new," Vernon said. "It really was just to help out."

VERNON EDITS the Journal of Legal Education, in which he once wrote an article titled, "A Week to Remember: Of Pregnant Cows, Slipped Horses, Sterile Bulls, Chickens, Heifers, and the Human Animal."

He explained that first-year classes on property law tend to begin with cases involving wild animals, such as: When someone shoots a fox, the fox staggers across a property line, and someone else shoots again and kills the fox, whose fox is it?

"I was just calling on contracts

Cone

From page 13A

the limestone has been used for decorative flooring.

Daniel, a trustee of the Cedar Rapids Art Association for more than 17 years and a member of the endowment committee of the museum, is a senior partner with the law firm of Shuttleworth and Ingersoll.

A native of Norfolk, Neb., he graduated from Coe College in 1936 and earned his law degree at the University of Iowa and did additional study at the Yale Law School. Admitted to the lowa bar in 1939, he is a member of Linn County, Iowa State and the American Bar Associations.

J. Carter Brown has directed the National Gallery for 20 years. Significant exhibitions during his tenure include "Treasures of Tutankhamen," "Rodin Rediscovered," "Henri Matisse in Nice," and the Georgia O'Keeffe retrospective.

Brown is chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C., treasurer of the White House Historical Association, and is a trustee of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the American Federation of Arts, and others.

He has been knighted by the governments of France, Norway, Spain, and has been honored by Egypt, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria and Sweden. He has an M.B.A. degree from Harvard and M.A. from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University.

Illinois Lotto has too many winners

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The minimum grand prize for Illinois' Lotto game has been \$1 million lower the past few weeks, the result of lower interest rates and fewer players, lottery officials said Friday.

"This is partly a seasonal thing," said Kathy Rem, a spokeswoman for the Illinois State Lottery.

Instead of the minimum \$6 million jackpots the state has offered every Saturday night since last year, the minimum in the past three weeks has been \$5 million.

That means a minimum guarantee of \$250,000 each year for 20 years, instead of \$300,000 a year. On Friday, the Lotto jackpot for

this week was boosted to \$12

million.

Vernon on presidents: 'I liked them all'

By Lyle Muller Gazette Johnson County Bureau IOWA CITY — David Vernon has advised every University of lowa president since 1966, either formally or informally.

"I've liked them all very much, personally, which is a big help," Vernon says. "None of them have asked me, in my role as a lawyer, how to do things I didn't think they should do."

These are his thumbnail sketches of each president:

Howard Bowen (1964-69) — "Mr. Bowen was in the good fortune to have Sandy Boyd (eventually the U of I president) as his academic vice president.

"Mr. Bowen was a very bright, fine human being who tended to like to think about educational philosophy and the economics of education. He was sort of above the everyday fray and Sandy executed a lot of

"Mr. Bowen inspired us, in a sense, to be as good as we can

Willard "Sandy" Boyd Jr. (1969-81) — "He was a very thoughtful fellow and had ideas about where the university might go.

"But his ideas tended to be somewhat more pragmatic (than those of Bowen), that is he would think of not only the idea of where he'd like to go but he'd think of how to get there.

"Then he would try to do

James O. Freedman (1982-87) - "Jim was more like Howard than he was like Sandy. He tended to be an educational

teachers — I teach contracts — to

organize to get a similar group of

cases so that we could compete

with the property teachers as we

"I've got the chicken case.

There was a sale of chickens by an

American vendor to a German

buyer and the contract called for

chickens of a certain size. And the

seller sent over stewing hens of

buyer, said, 'No, the agreement

was for fryers and boilers, not

stewing hens.' And the court

started out the case with the

half serious" about his call for

animal stories, but said humor is

Vernon admitted he was "only

BURLINGTON (AP) — The

very popular, very chic tapestry

Burlington, Iowa."

bags carry something unusual

Their tags read, "Made by the

The fast-selling bags are earn-

ing big profits for this old Burling-

ton company, according to Mc-

"It's very exciting and it's

different than a regular luggage

design," he said. "It's much short-

er lived, you really have to be on

McConnell made leather harness-

es and bridles for horses. In the

1960's, they started manufactur-

Last year, they entered the

world of quality fashion accesso-

ries with a line of smaller tapestry

bags. "The idea is not new. They

made carpet bags after the Civil

War," he said. "But these are just

a newly-popular version of them."

The bags come in a range of

Metro-lowa News Desk

For about a hundred years,

top of the markets."

ing quality luggage.

Connell's owner, Buzz Ahrold.

question, 'What is chicken?' "

"And the buyer, the German

the right size.

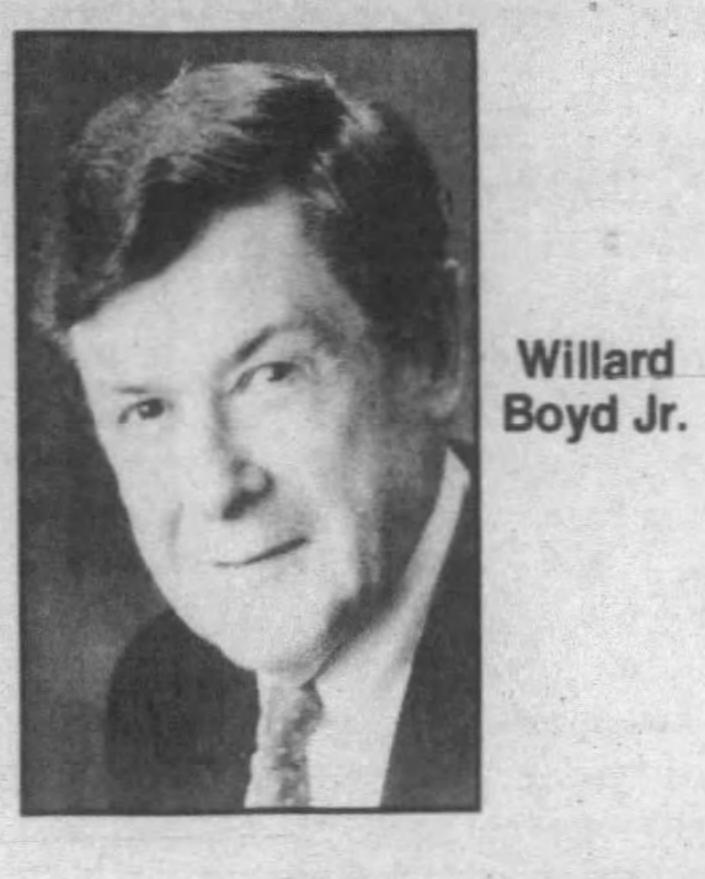
taught our cases," Vernon said.



James

Freedman

Howard Bowen





philosopher and tended to have tive with the public at all levels, Dick Remington (academic vice as well as with the faculty. He's president and later acting presia very good public figure. dent) do the day-to-day stuff,

"He doesn't have the eloquence that Jim Freedman had. Jim Freedman was really very eloquent and literary in his solutions as he spoke.

"Hunter Rawlings is much more down to earth in the things he talks about and says. Both are effective, but I think Mr. Rawlings gets to a wider audience."

"Mr. Rawlings is very effec-

own calendar. As an administrator "I try to make the points in a

way in which there's some humor involved," he said. "I think students learn in an environment in which they do not feel pressure. They cannot learn through fear." WHEN IT comes to problem

the day-to-day policy setting.

"Jim set an intellectual tone,

as did Mr. Bowen, that was very

helpful to us, this tone that we

can be better. That was a key

Hunter R. Rawlings III (1988-

current) - "A mix of Sandy

Boyd and Jim Freedman.

an important teaching tool.

for us at that time."

solving, Vernon said his goal is to avoid problems instead of assessing blame or penalizing people. He still is trying to settle disputes over who should lead the student government body, the Collegiate Associations Council.

But he is eager to go back to teaching, which he has had to give up while being vice president.

"I really like the classroom and like research. I like to set my

Burlington company's bags a big hit

sizes, but most are bigger than a

purse and not quite as large as a

The new line has been such a

success that the 15-employee firm

satisfy customer demand. The

company sells the bags in 35

"Sales have been great," Ahrold

Most of their bags sell in

said. "This market is very hot."

specialty and gift shops, he said,

but they also sell goods to mail-

order houses such as Horchow

Because McConnell's bags cost

from \$70 to \$150, they will

shoppers. Ahrold said the typical

customer for the tapestry line is

female, over 25 and fashion con-

Because what is 'in" changes

almost as frequently as the weath-

er, Ahrold now reads every mail

order catalogue and fashion maga-

Before settling on a design,

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zine that is sent his way.

probably not appeal to budget

suitcase or overnight bag.

states and Australia.

and Spiegel.

you really don't control your own time very well."

Vernon will teach next spring and fall at the U of I and then go on leave to visit Washington and Lee University, where former U of finance Vice President Randy Bezanson is dean. Then he plans to return to Iowa.

He has a book on legal conflicts due to a publisher in February and has no thoughts about retiring. Still, he has thought about how he would like to be remembered:

"I think mainly that he was a hell of a good teacher, and he wrote a few things that were Interesting and he was always available to help out in a pinch."

McConnell's staff makes proto-

types from a variety of fabrics.

The bags are "designed from the

bottom up," by the people who

make them, Ahrold said.

Math: Seeing 'patterns'

From page 13A

curriculum in the Cedar Rapids Community Schools. Students still have to learn their multiplication tables.

However, Spellman continues, today teachers "try to 'show,' rather than just 'tell' . . . they'll remember this picture longer than they'll remember the words.

"We're making math class an active learning experience, rather than passive," Spellman says.

But what good does it do to experiment with blocks, buttons, beads, even the set of bones Blum has in her classroom?

Our whole number system is based on patterns, Blum replies. 'Eight is always after seven. Six and two always equals 8. If we can get kids to see this is happening, that it happens again and again, it makes sense to them. And if kids see patterns in math, they begin to see patterns in places other than math."

In the earlier grades, the idea is to work with concrete objects (manipulatives) to provide a basis for eventually moving on to the abstract (paper and pencil problems with numbers). However, teachers vary in the teaching methods they employ and the degree to which they use manipulatives.

As the students get older, many teachers introduce a manipulative that is more abstract: The "powers of 10 blocks," in which little wooden or plastic cubes serve as single units, stacks of 10 cubes or wooden rods serve as 10s, and square tiles equal in size to 10 rods or stacks serve as hundreds. Patty Ostrander uses home-

made wooden powers of 10 blocks in her fourth grade classroom at Pius X School in Cedar Rapids. She is among other teachers in Catholic schools who have taken the same kind of training as their public school counterparts.

She and her students use the blocks to show what happens when you take 333 from 500. And as with other manipulatives, these blocks show the patterns in numbers, Ostrander says. "It's not just addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We make lists and tables, we find the patterns. We make them see they can use this in life, not just in

Manipulatives can be used even in high school math, but Spellman says the use tapers off in middle

Still, adults Blum and Ostrander say their work with manipulatives helps them better understand math concepts they have taught for years.

Among children, results are already starting to be seen.

"Kids are enjoying math," Spellman says. "They think it's fun. And the kids are really understanding math."

Robert Ziomek, director of research and evaluation for the Cedar Rapids schools, says standardized test scores are starting to improve. But on a districtdeveloped test of elementary students using manipulatives, between 80 percent to 85 percent of the students were mastering the concepts being tested, a high score indeed.

Program: Stresses logical thinking

From page 13A

up to the level of the girl's?

"That's not my job," Airy responds. One child may be ready to walk at age nine months, while another may take until 16 months to walk. "Well, has the one who walked at 16 months failed walking at nine months? No. So in my kindergarten class, I have a wide

However, she does ask questions to help a child move to the next level of understanding.

Before DAP, Airy says, "It was all workbooks and presentations with kids sitting down at the carpet. The kids who were great

says. So how does she get the at following directions would all boy's understanding of numbers get stars." But it didn't mean her students understood the numbers.

> Darrell Phillips last April presented a paper to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in which he asserted, based on a three-year study, that the development of logical thinking can be measurably improved in the primary grades. He also asserted males and

> females develop logical thinking at the same speed and age, and that programs such as DAP can not only help youngsters develop logical thinking, but improve mathematics performance in some areas as measured by tests.



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