

# MIKE DEUPREE



## Political stew kettle simmering already

You couldn't blame a stranger who formed his opinion of our fair state from contemporary news accounts if he got the idea Iowa is a land of too little rainfall and too many politicians. That would be a shame, because it simply isn't true.

Usually we get plenty of rainfall.

Politically speaking, the impression would be difficult to dispute. Things are heating up all the way from the local to the national level.

Locally, it appears there will be some lively races for the Cedar Rapids City Council. Not high-level intellectual debates on the philosophy of government, but lively races. This is something new.

The office of safety commissioner is frequently competitive, but this time around it seems four of the five seats will feature fireworks. The only exception so far is streets and public improvements; for some reason there has been no stampede of applicants to assume responsibility for traffic flow, snow removal and pothole repair.

Finance Commissioner Hal Schaefer faces a challenge from P.T. Larson, who has had a great deal to say, much of it extreme, about the city administration in recent months. Larson announced his candidacy while seated in a rocking chair. He said the idea was to emphasize that he is considerably younger than Schaefer.

Maybe so, but the gimmick also gives him ammunition to use against an allegation made by some of his critics. He now has photographic proof that he's firmly on his rocker.

**THE EASIEST** race to predict is parks commissioner, where incumbent David W. Kramer is challenged by railroad employee David J. Kramer. Barring an upset, David Kramer will win.

Mayor Don Canney hasn't officially announced his intention to run for what would be his 11th or 34th or something term, but if he does, he will face an unusual situation. Canney, who has always claimed to be a political independent, is opposed by Chris Contard, chairman of the Linn County Republican Party. One would thus expect Democrats to rally behind Canney, except that Contard's campaign manager is Connie Clark, an activist among Linn County Democrats.

We won't know until November whether this coalition will end Canney's reign. It has already, however, ended speculation that he's secretly a member of one or the other party. If he is, he must be way, way behind on his dues.

Finally, we get to the race for safety commissioner, an office which in the 16 years I've lived here has been about as stable as

a drunken unicyclist.

We have had five different ones (safety commissioners, that is; nobody counted the drunken unicyclists) in those 16 years, and although the office oversees a number of important city departments, the election always centers on allegations of mismanagement and/or scandal in the Police Department. This year is shaping up as more of the same, as controversial incumbent Bob Jaeger, the Police Department's gift to the local bumper sticker industry, tries to hold off a number of challengers.

There are those who would say you could predict the outcome of the upcoming vote by keeping track of how many bumpers say "I Support Jaeger" and how many say "Dump Jaeger," but I wouldn't take any such survey too seriously. If the number of bumper stickers were a good indicator of political preference, the president of the United States today would be Wall Drug.

**AND THAT** brings us to David Lynch's story about where the members of Iowa's congressional delegation spent their vacations.

Fred Grandy and Dave Nagle went fishing in Minnesota while Jim Lightfoot and Charles Grassley visited Mount Rushmore. I ask you: Are those guys Iowans, or what?

As far as junkies to exotic locales are concerned, our only candidates were Tom Tauke, who visited three days with his sister in Buffalo, N.Y., and Neal Smith, who checked out East Berlin. A couple of real party animals, those two.

Jim Leach spent his vacation worrying, a consequence of being one of the few people in Congress who actually understands the savings and loan crisis.

That leaves Tom Harkin. His staff people refused to say where he spent the two weeks, therefore opening the field for conjecture.

One possibility is that Harkin was in Calcutta helping Mother Teresa comfort lepers, and is too modest to reveal it.

Another possibility is that he was at his vacation home in the Bahamas, and is too politically wise to reveal it.

I hope that isn't the case.

Not because I begrudge him his island retreat. I believe him when he says it isn't all that luxurious, and besides, he and his wife earn a good living. There's no reason they shouldn't be able to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

No, my hope that he didn't spend his vacation there is based on strictly selfish reasons. I don't want to think I am represented in Washington by a man who believes August is a good time to go to the Bahamas.



AP photo

## Fast figuring

A semi-trailer truck drives past a newly erected speeding fines sign on Route 322 near Millerstown, Pa., showing the new increased fines for speeding in Pennsylvania. Signs throughout the state reflect the same fines.

## 2nd van sought in murder case

### Police still seek man seen in store before crime

By Lisa Ann Williamson  
Gazette staff writer

Cedar Rapids police think a second van may have been seen in the area of the Kum & Go store around the time clerk Brian Schappert was stabbed to death early Friday.

The body of Schappert, 22, was found in the store at 2743 Mount Vernon Rd. SE by a cab driver about 3:15 a.m.

Police continue to search for a man seen in the store shortly before the murder.

Lt. Frank Engrav said Wednesday that witnesses reported seeing the man wanted for questioning playing a video game in the store about 2 a.m.

He is described as white, in his mid-20s, approximately 6 feet tall, 170 pounds, with shoulder-length dark brown hair and two to three days' growth of beard. He was wearing a dark sweater and jeans.

**CONFLICTING REPORTS** by witnesses seem to indicate another van may have been in the

parking lot of the convenience store around the time of the murder. The second van is described as white, or light in color, possibly a mid-'70s model, with no back doors, and green carpeting covering the walls and floors.

Police had already been looking for a white van, with no side windows, possibly an early 1970s model.

A team of several detectives has worked to follow leads on more than 400 white vans in Cedar Rapids and the surrounding area.

They also have entered into a statewide law enforcement network with information on the man wanted for questioning and the descriptions of both vans.

"These investigations can sometimes be very hard to solve and they take time," said Engrav. He said he is encouraged by the number of telephone calls from concerned citizens. "The job of the investigators at this time is to follow the leads we receive by telephone and from witnesses,

and put all the information together."

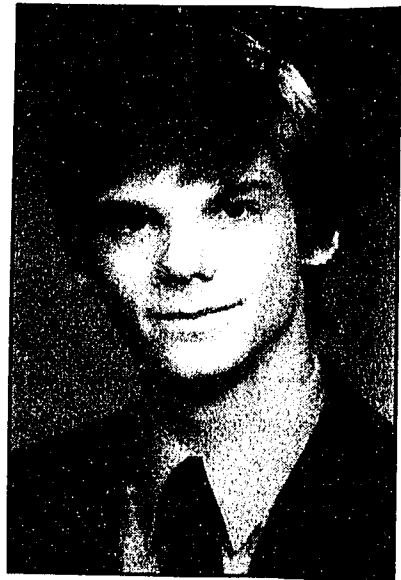
Assistant Police Chief James Barnes agreed, saying, "One bit of information by itself may not lead to the bigger picture, but that bit with a bit from somewhere else could be just the lead we are looking for."

Barnes said telephone calls began pouring in Friday night as detectives canvassed the area surrounding the southeast-side convenience store and began comparing reports from past crimes.

**"WE RELY ON** people coming forward and sharing information. If the subject is not found at the scene, the only way we can put a case together is to get information from other people. Someone usually knows something other than the perpetrator," he added.

Barnes says it is too early to be skeptical about finding a murder suspect, but said, "with each passing 12-to-24-hour period the investigation gets more difficult."

According to police, Schappert, of 1715 Memorial Dr. SE, an



**Brian Schappert**  
Police seek new leads in death

assistant manager at the store, was found lying near the store-room by a cab driver who had stopped for gas. He was pronounced dead at approximately 3:30 a.m. Friday as the result of a slashed throat.

Police believe the motive was robbery. Cash was taken from the cash drawer and the safe in the storeroom.

## Rural population grows though farm numbers drop

WASHINGTON (AP) — More people than ever are living in small towns, distant suburbs and farms that make up rural America, the government reported Wednesday.

About 64.8 million people, or 25 percent of the U.S. population, lived in rural areas in 1988, an increase of more than 900,000 from 1987. The total included approximately 4.95 million living on farms, or 2 percent of the population, a decrease of 35,000 from the previous year.

The report was prepared by the Agriculture and Commerce departments using estimates from the Census Bureau's monthly survey.

Since 1986, when a new system of counting noses in the countryside began, the rural

population has grown more rapidly than the urban population, averaging 2.64 percent, compared with 1.67 percent.

"The 1988 farm population estimate of 4,951,000 is not significantly different from the 1987 estimate, which may reflect a leveling off in the long-term decline in the number of farm residents," the report said.

**ONE OF THE REPORT'S** authors, Judith Kalbacher of the USDA's Economic Research Service, said the rural figures overall have shown significant changes but cautioned that the growth pattern since 1986 may be illusory.

"When the urban areas are redefined after the 1990 census, some of these growing rural

areas will be reclassified as urban," she said in a telephone interview. "Some of the growing areas are going to be taken out of rural groups, and that will make it look like there was less rural growth" than is now being reported.

As used in the report, rural areas include open countryside and place of fewer than 2,500 people that are not in the suburbs of large cities. Large cities and their suburbs, plus places of 2,500 or more, are considered urban.

The farm population consists of people living on farms in rural areas, but does not include the relatively few who live on farms in urban areas, the report said. A farm is defined as a place that sold agricultural products worth \$1,000 or more in the previous year.

### Commitment to the future

The Gazette promotes agriculture by printing with soybean ink. The Gazette often prints on recycled newsprint and encourages readers to recycle their newspapers.



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Political

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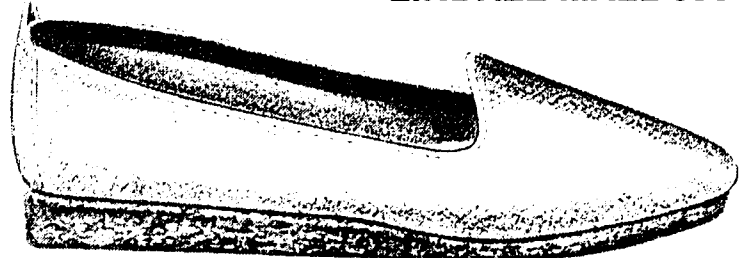
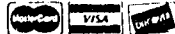
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## OPINION

**The Gazette**

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## GAZETTE EDITORIALS

## Best field in years

This was truly a year in which voters in the Cedar Rapids Community School District wouldn't have lost no matter who won Tuesday's school board election.

The four candidates for the board's at-large seat constituted the best field of candidates in years. Something good could be said about each of them: Ron Olson, Jonathan Rogoff, Douglas DeSmidt, and McKenzly Wilson.

Each of them was qualified, each appeared to be putting thought into the statements they made and the positions they took. This intelligent field may have contributed to this year's slightly healthier voter turnout.

Voters gave the nod to Ron Olson, and he'll likely be an asset to the board. That will especially be true if his connections to various parts of the business and volunteer community, something he stressed in the campaign, bear fruit.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Rogoff and McKenzly Wilson indicated they may make another run for the school board. Let's hope they do.

Rogoff would seem to be the type of board member who would challenge assumptions during board discussions. Administrators may not always appreciate questions, but that's one major reason for having a school board: to air the pros and cons behind a decision. If board members aren't asking questions, why bother having a board?

Wilson is a man who thinks with both sides of his brain. His chemist's training appears to make him comfortable discussing budgets and statistics, yet he also makes a convincing argument for the need for the school district to find new avenues of communicating with various socio-economic groups.

With some luck, the voters won't have to choose between them next time. Let's hope all three of the defeated candidates find ways of contributing to the school system even though they didn't make it to the board. It was *that good* a field.

## Include Congress

THERE CAN BE no compelling reason for Congress to exempt itself from anti-discrimination provisions of the pending Americans with Disabilities Act. No excuse whatever, though guardians of the congressional myth say they fear "constitutional problems" — meaning complications permitting undue interference from the executive branch.

Rubbish.

The ADA proposal, moving ever nearer passage, is an inspired idea. As a principal author, Iowa Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin must be pleased to see the movement. By insisting that Congress also be obligated to abide by its provisions, Iowa Republican Sen. Charles Grassley has improved it. He proposed the amendment that mandates congressional compliance with the measure.

It is unconscionable, as Grassley suggested, for Congress to exempt itself from obeying what everyone concedes is a proper — not to mention overdue — ban on discrimination against disabled Americans. Supporters note that full citizenship rights will be restored to some 43 million people under the measure. That small fraction which is employed by Congress must not be excluded when the bill becomes law. Supporters of Grassley's position must remain vigilant as the measure moves forward.

Congress already holds itself aloof from compliance with a number of civil rights and labor laws. Congressional inclusion in the Americans with Disabilities Act might be the incentive needed to correct those inequities, as well.

It's a goal worth pursuing.

## Inexcusable

ANY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR who wanted to could have arranged for students to watch President Bush's live, televised drug message Tuesday. That so few apparently did should be grounds for parental outrage.

Drugs — illegal, destructive, ugly drugs — are a blight on the nation. Indeed, with alcohol, drugs represent the leading cause of violent and accidental death among children. The message must be hammered home, and that's what the president of the United States was trying to do this week, with a half-hearted show of enthusiasm from the quarter where the message is vitally important.

Feeble excuses about how hard it is to bring a television signal into a brick school building just won't cut it. Ridiculous.

If drug abuse is to be defeated, education is essential, according to most every expert. That any educator would not expend the small amount of energy necessary to expose students to a presidential message addressing that very issue is inexcusable.



Ron Olson  
Will be asset on board

# Fear of AIDS in federal prisons

## News of disease has sobering effects on risk-prone convicts

The author of this article is a convicted bank robber who has written frequently for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He is incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix.

By DANNIE M. MARTIN

PHOENIX, Ariz. — In a 130-man cell block of the Federal Correctional Institute here, there are usually only three or four "rigs" or "outfits" for injecting drugs.

They are loaned out in return for a fix, or share of the drugs.

These days, the owners of the outfits can sound more like social workers than dealers.

As one of them told me:

"Bleach, man. I bleach this thing before I loan it out, and I bleach it when I get it back. If I'm loaning it to more than one guy, I give them enough bleach to use in between."

AIDS is out in the open these days in federal prisons, and so are the convicts who test positive for exposure to the AIDS virus known as HIV.

The good news is that enough information about the virus has finally seeped behind these walls and fences to have a sobering effect on risk-prone convicts.

Promiscuous behavior, both in needle sharing and sexual activity, has slowed down by an amazing degree in the past few years.

A once-fatalistic attitude among prisoners has given way to a real sense of caution.

There is still a lot of promiscuous behavior among homosexuals in prison, but even among that group, the behavior has been modified by the AIDS threat.

## Narrowing the odds

The lifestyles they have adopted are comparable to those of the free society.

Many who used to exchange partners frequently now settle down with one partner and attempt to remain that way for the duration of their sentences.

They seldom practice safe sex — the Bureau of Prisons has not seen fit to dispense condoms to prisoners — but they do manage to narrow the odds of becoming infected.

Some convicts who would in the past seek out effeminate homosexuals for entertainment and relief are now abstaining completely.

One man said to me:

"Yeah, I used to like to park in the garage now and then and get the car washed often.



But since AIDS came along, I've put the car in the pawn shop, and I don't plan to redeem it until I get out."

Until 1986, HIV-positive prisoners, along with those suffering from AIDS-Related Condition, or ARC, and full-blown AIDS, were confined together in one section of the Federal Prison Hospital at Springfield, Mo.

Those who had shown no symptoms were traumatized by the almost daily deaths of those with AIDS and the agony of the convicts with ARC.

After that practice was changed in 1986 because of a lawsuit, HIV-positive convicts were dispersed to prisons throughout the system and afforded the same privileges as main-line prisoners, though those with symptoms of the disease itself are still confined and segregated at Springfield.

The HIV-positive convicts in federal prison populations live under another shadow, however. Policy No. 5214.3, an operation memorandum that became effective Oct. 9, 1987, states: "The warden shall consider an inmate for controlled housing status when the inmate has been confirmed as testing HIV-positive and when there is reliable evidence indicating that the inmate may engage in conduct posing a health risk to others."

The phrase "controlled housing status," as used in the policy statement, can be read to mean segregation or isolation.

The policy itself is nebulous and open to interpretation by individual wardens, but so far it has not been abused here at Phoenix.

At least one HIV-positive convict who before 1986 would have been removed from the general prison population is happy to be among us.

I'll call him John.

He's in his early 50s. He runs on the track daily, works out with weights and is in excellent shape for a man of his age.

"I tested positive in 1987, but I'm sure I picked up the disease in 1984 in the Tenderloin in San Francisco," he said.

"I was shooting a lot of drugs and wasn't particular about who I shared a needle with."

Although he has tested positive, John says he has not yet developed symptoms or felt any ill effects physically.

## Time bomb in his body

He does admit to a tremendous psychological strain knowing that his body may contain a ticking time bomb but adds that he tries hard not to think about it.

When asked if he is comfortable with that level of treatment, he said he is.

"The doctor told me that's all that can be done, so I guess that's it," he said. "It's working so far."

John has more than the usual reasons for not wanting to think about developing full-blown AIDS, for one of the most sobering elements of the problem in here is the prospect of dying a slow, agonizing death in a prison hospital.

Prison officials don't like to dispense strong pain medicine. Not even to AIDS patients.

Short of hospitalization, however, the situation is improving.

A few years ago, it looked like a sure bet that prisons would become breeding grounds for the AIDS virus.

But the blinders have begun to come off, and from this perspective, it now looks equally certain that it won't happen.

If convicts had access to condoms, the proportion of those in prison with AIDS might well be less than it is outside the walls.

## LETTERS TO THE GAZETTE

## A waste

How much more would it have cost to have had another clerk in the store on the night Brian Schappert was killed?

Never should there be only one clerk for that night shift. At least an additional attendant could have called the police. Is money more important than life?

I did not know Brian, but I'm sure many others feel this was a waste for such a fine young man.

J. Edith O'Neal  
1401 Mount Vernon Rd. SE

## Slow learners

Your Sept. 9 editorial on the public's attitude toward education was interesting but not surprising. A society that finds virtue in gambling, drug use (legal and illegal), contaminating food, water and air for profit and has trouble keeping its athletic heroes out of jail, cannot be expected to have its head screwed on straight about education. Montaigne wrote excellent essays about public attitudes 400 years ago. We are slow learners.

John A. White  
Sigourney

## March coverage

Superb coverage by Dale Kueter of the NAACP Silent March on Washington. The phone calls and many personal contacts since our return from Washington prompted me to write this letter. Everyone that contacted us on the article said "excellent, superb coverage." The credit belongs to Mr. Kueter. He endured the long bus ride to and from Washington and accompanied us on the march. We will never forget Mr. Gazette, as he was amiably dubbed. Keep up the good work.

McKenzly Wilson  
6329 Langdon Ave. SW

## Successful sesquicentennial

Marion's recent Sesquicentennial weekend was a resounding success. Literally thousands of Marion residents, as well as folks from neighboring communities and visitors from outlying areas, participated in the many events. We were gratified by the magnificent outpouring of friendship and goodwill during our celebration.

This successful weekend would not have been possible without the tremendous support and assistance of the many individuals and businesses who volunteered their time, energy, goods and services. The list of names is too numerous to mention in this space but we want them all to know that we sincerely appreciate their contributions.

To all those who took part in the Marion's Sesquicentennial celebrations — from volunteer workers to spectators in the parade — thank you for making this weekend such a special occasion. You have once again demonstrated why Marion is such a wonderful place to live, work and do business.

Victor L. Klopfenstein, mayor  
Gregory O. Hapgood, chairman  
Sesquicentennial Committee

## A gun is safer than ham sandwich

The news media would have us believe otherwise, but consider these statistics from the National Safety Council's "Accident Facts 1988 Edition." In the United States during the last 20 years: the population has increased 23 percent; the number of firearms has increased over 66 percent; the number of accidental firearms deaths has decreased 52 percent.

Between 1977 and 1987, the firearms accident rate dropped 33 percent. Between 1986 and 1987, the firearms accident rate dropped 14 percent. During 1987, the accidental death rates (per 100,000) ranked as follows:

(1) Motor vehicle accidents, 20.0 (48,700); (2) falls, 4.6 (11,300); (3) poisonings, 2.2 (5,400); (4) drownings, 2.2 (5,300); fires and burns, 2.0 (4,800); suffocation and choking, 1.3 (3,200); (7) firearms, 0.6 (1,400).

In other words, approximately:

35 times more die in car accidents; eight times more die from falls; four times more die from drownings; four times more die from poisonings; three and one-half times more die from fires and burns; and two times more die from choking and suffocation than from firearms accidents.

We are safer now with firearms than ever before, dating back to 1903, when the rate was 3.1 per 100,000 population as compared to the current rate of 0.6 per 100,000 population.

You can thank the National Rifle Association and local clubs like the Izaak Walton League for the firearms safety we enjoy.

Liberal efforts to save us from ourselves would be more productive if they pushed for bans on autos, stairs, Lysol, swimming, matches and ham sandwiches.

Ed Dolan  
Central City

## Seeks justice

Many people think sex discrimination is a thing of the past. While women are guaranteed "equal rights under the law," sex discrimination exists in covert forms everywhere, especially in employment.

Women theoretically have the same opportunity for advancement as men. However, women are expected to act in ways men are not. An assertive woman is viewed as a radical feminist. Strength of opinion is viewed as an imposition of personality upon others. Vocalization of opinions contrary to her boss' runs the risk of being chastised. . . .

In short, the characteristics valuable to advancement (assertiveness, strength of opinion, ability to form and vocalize arguments) are frowned upon by the men in control who perceive professionalism for women as being demure to higher authority, passive to injustice and receptive to unjust criticism.

I reject that mindset. While sensitive to others' beliefs and feelings, I do not believe it is my responsibility to act in such a way that allows others to feel comfortable in their self-appointed roles. I am an independent and autonomous person who happens to be a woman.

I demand the right to speak and to have my opinions taken seriously. I demand to be promoted if I am qualified to do the job at hand. I demand that women be viewed as individuals, not as typing or phoning robots. That is the justice I seek. When we all can view women as people, perhaps the relationships between men and women can expand to encompass the full potential of both.

Rachel Kindred  
133 Forestview, Iowa City



Elvira Stumpberg takes up the president's suggestion to chase away drug dealers. Memorial services next Tuesday.