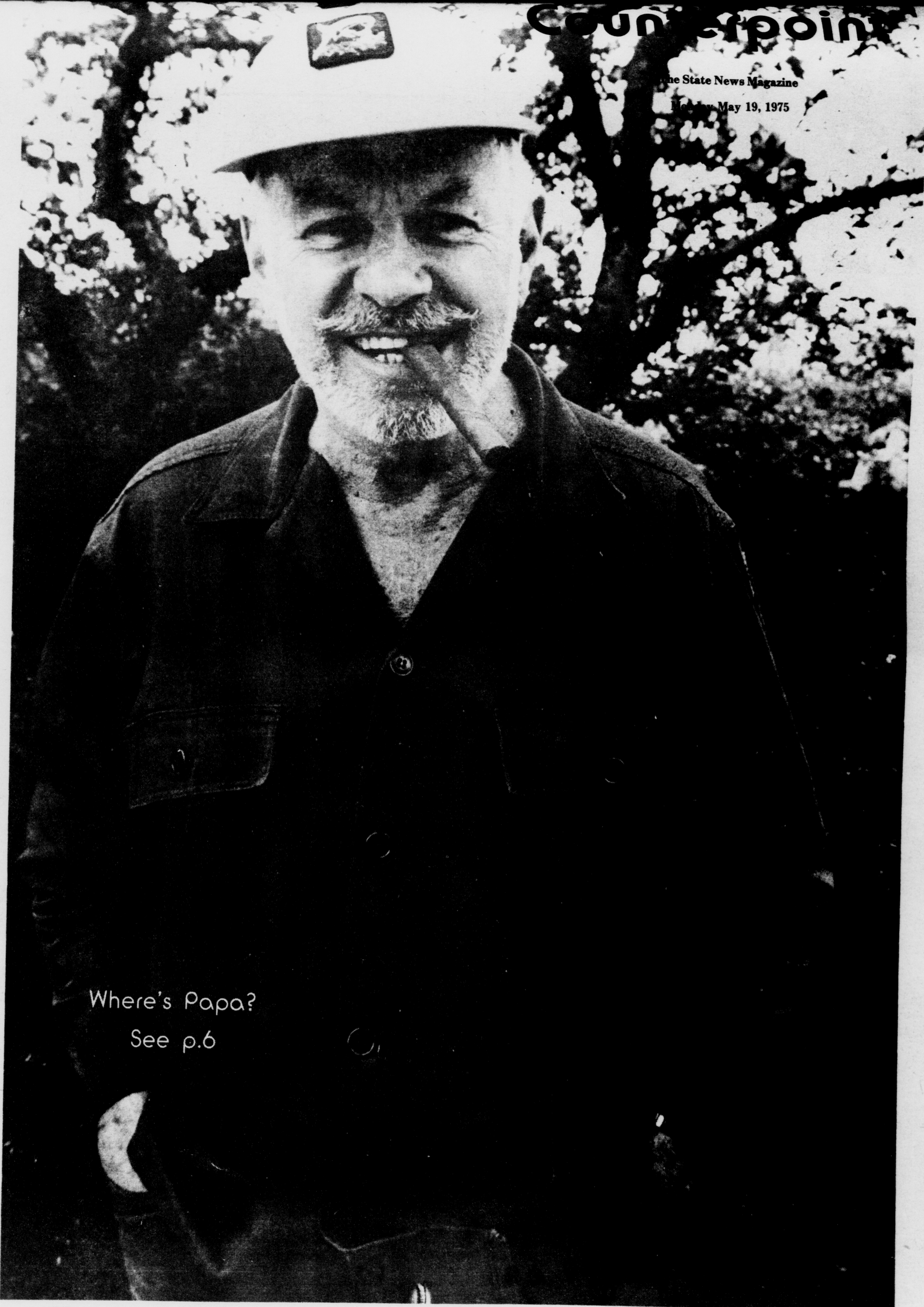


Counterpoint

The State News Magazine

Friday, May 19, 1975



Where's Papa?  
See p.6

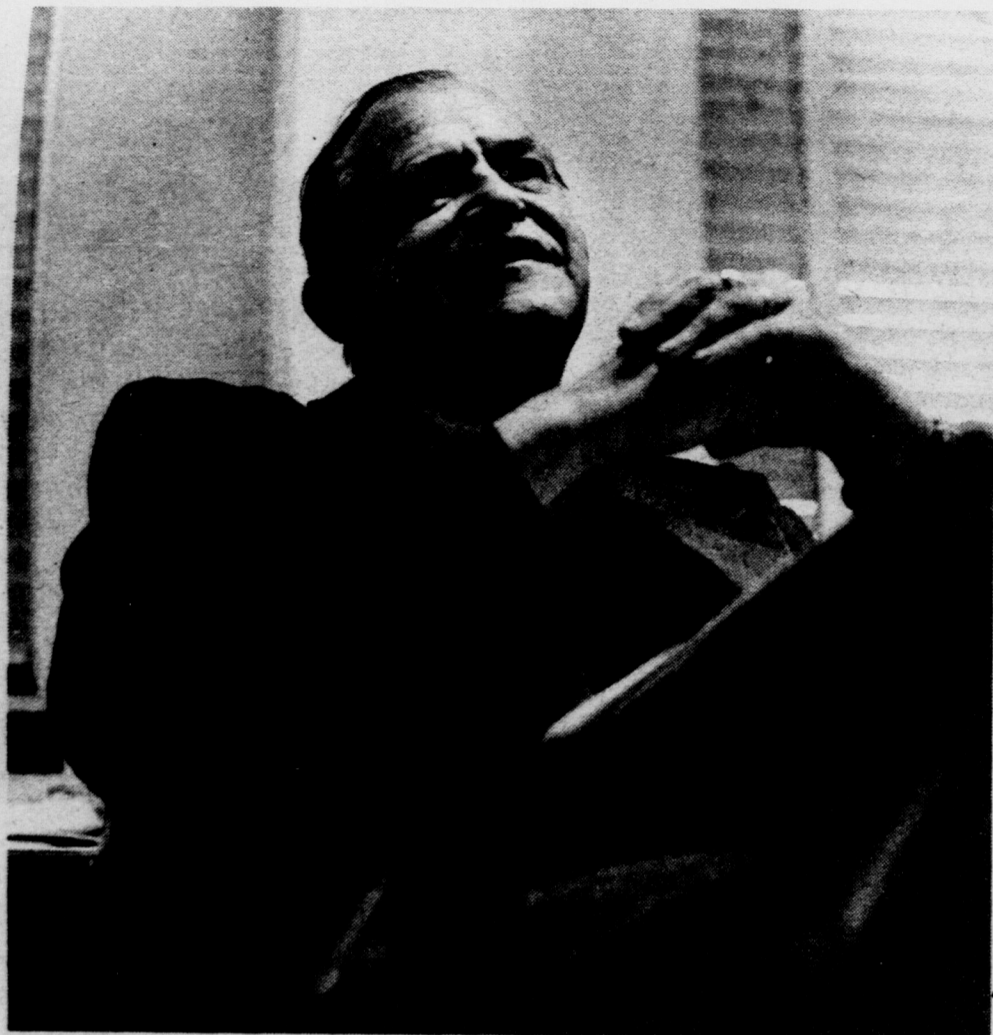


photo by Leo Salinas

# A man who would feed the world

By GREG KRAFT

He's not a pale, plastic, footnote grubbing thinker." — Walter Adams, distinguished professor in the economics Dept.

"There is nobody I know who works harder than he does." — Ralph Smuckler, director of International programs at MSU.

"There is not a more dedicated man on earth." — Sylvan Wittwer, director of the MSU Agricultural Station.

of the U.S. role in feeding the hungry of the world. Despite the fact that the United States has gone all out to grow more food, little of it shipped abroad is going to the hungry, according to Borgstrom.

"The United States and other developed nations in Europe and Asia are throwing the most lavish banquet on earth," he said.

Europe and Japan are receiving most of the world's flow of food and feed simply because they

"The United States and other developed nations in Europe and Asia are throwing the most lavish banquet on earth."

Who is this man?

He is MSU's Georg Borgstrom. He is a professor in the department of food science and human nutrition. He is also more than that . . . much more.

In between classes, appointments and meetings Borgstrom somehow finds time to reflect seriously upon the area he knows best.

When discussing topics such as famine, food resources and over population, Borgstrom is quick to exhibit an intensive relationship between his personal feelings and his work. While at one moment he is shrugging his massive shoulders in frustration and despair, at the next he is shaking his stubby fist and leveling criticism in his heavy Swedish accent.

The man who headed two major Food Research Institutes in Sweden is highly skeptical

are in a position to pay for it. Three per cent of the U.S. soybean crop is being used for human food, and 95 per cent of the crop is used for feed to animals, Borgstrom emphasized sourly.

Borgstrom, an internationally recognized authority on world food resources and their utilization, wrote a book entitled "The Hungry Planet — The Modern World at the Edge of Famine." In this book, Borgstrom discusses the causes and implications of world food shortages, and suggests alternatives that might help alleviate the major problems.

According to Borgstrom, modern food shortages and hunger can be largely explained from a historical perspective.

When mass migration from Europe to the U.S. occurred during the mid 19th century the two countries were engaged in extensive trading.

(continued on page 8)

## credits

It's nearing the end of the term. Finals. Research papers. Looking for jobs. A way out of jobs.

It seemed spring would never come and, now, it's as if summer is coming too soon.

However one feels at this time, take a moment — a few moments — and turn to page 5 of this magazine. If the photograph there doesn't tell you anything, it is difficult to imagine what will. There is something — a lot of things — about it that make it difficult to ignore what is going on around you or get too wrapped up in all the crap that seems to devour your life.

The photograph is by Dave Olds, whose work has appeared in Counterpoint before, and sets the tone for this issue — one that hopefully has a little joy in it.

On this page, Greg Kraft

gives credit to one of the University's more distinguished members whose presence has gone too long unnoticed by the general public.

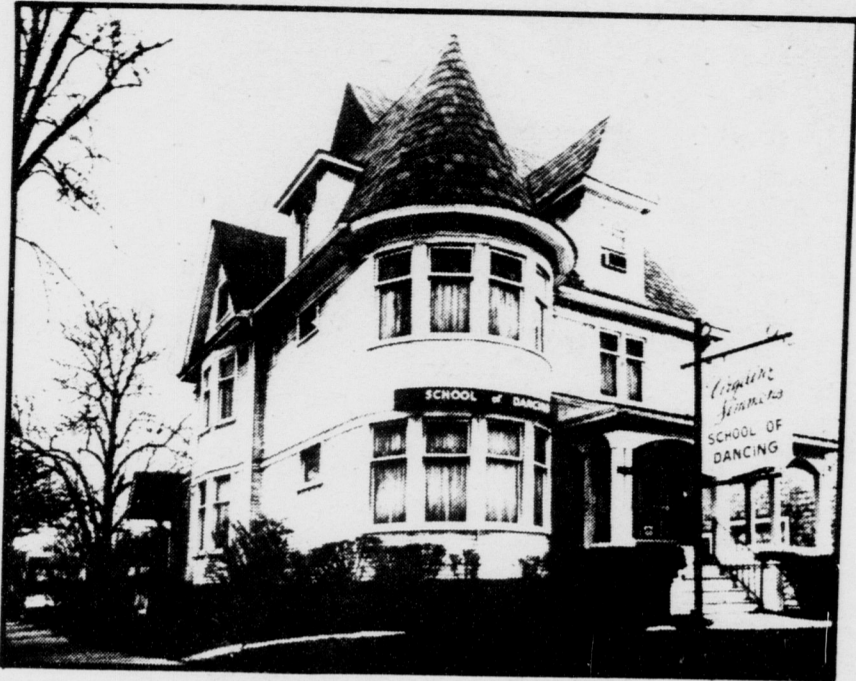
His name is Georg Borgstrom and if you haven't heard it before, don't be surprised. His isn't a household name. On the other hand, it would be if you happened to know any food scientists because his will be one of the first names mentioned in a discussion.

Photographer Leo Salinas provides the character study in a story that isn't easy to do in the limited space here.

Lastly, there is Papa.

Photographed, on the cover and inside by Dale Atkins, Papa shows why he is still treated with respect in local sporting and intellectual circles. And he can tell you about the big ones that didn't get away.

# The art of living (and loving it)



By DAVE OLDS

*Each Day, a classic old house at 1128 East Michigan Avenue in Lansing overflows with music and movement.*

*Inside, at its heart, Virgiline Simmons is still inspiring people with the joy of dance. She has been teaching for over 50 years and says she enjoys it as much as ever.*

*"When I was nine I saw a class-*

*mate of mine dance. I loved the dress she was wearing and I said 'that's what I'm going to do.'"*

*Though she is now midway through her 70's, Miss Simmons shows no sign of slowing down.*

*"You can retire but most people who do that just find themselves waiting for The Grim Reaper."*

*more on page 4*

photos by  
Dave Olds



igh c  
ejects  
o par  
chool

From Wir  
ASHINGTON —  
Monday that st.  
magazines, char  
rary equipment.  
ment to parochial  
also ruled that st  
il therapy and t  
d students who  
or physical handi  
h rulings split th  
ese involving law  
a in 1972 in an  
us financial proble  
entary and high s  
part of Monday's  
id one form of st  
aus: loans of nor  
ruling produced a  
ourt.  
e new decision to  
it had ever gone  
o parochial school  
a result, about th  
hat may be give  
are services the  
udents in public  
sk — that is, t  
ous textbooks, ho  
h services.  
er a series of Sup  
early 80 years, th  
d down the kind  
hical education to  
e court also:  
eared to review th  
pprofit hospitals w  
as unable to pay  
uled 8-1 that state  
not arbitrarily  
hical's rental allowa  
ger in the recipien  
uled 6-3 that a fede  
ntitled to a hearin  
tempt for refusing  
Bled that custom  
er do not have the  
mment-backed S  
ction Corp. to tak  
losses for them.  
Declined to hear ar  
amble Co. on a "pa



*"I just haven't had too much to disrupt my joy."*



er do not have th  
ment-backed S  
tion Corp. to tak  
losses for them.  
declined to hear an  
ible Co. on a "pa  
and local regu  
state detergents.

# Mar

By BOB O  
State News S  
STON — With sign  
o long." "Keep the  
gregate Boston  
d 25,000 desegre  
ed down Boston's  
National Student  
s (NSCAR) Free  
tional coalition c  
a said the particip  
ally were about 80  
think this march h  
at on the politics  
e told the State Ne  
blacks and other  
s, Asians — will  
gion of the rights  
man was one of the



the Day Hicks  
der of anti-busin  
the, addresses

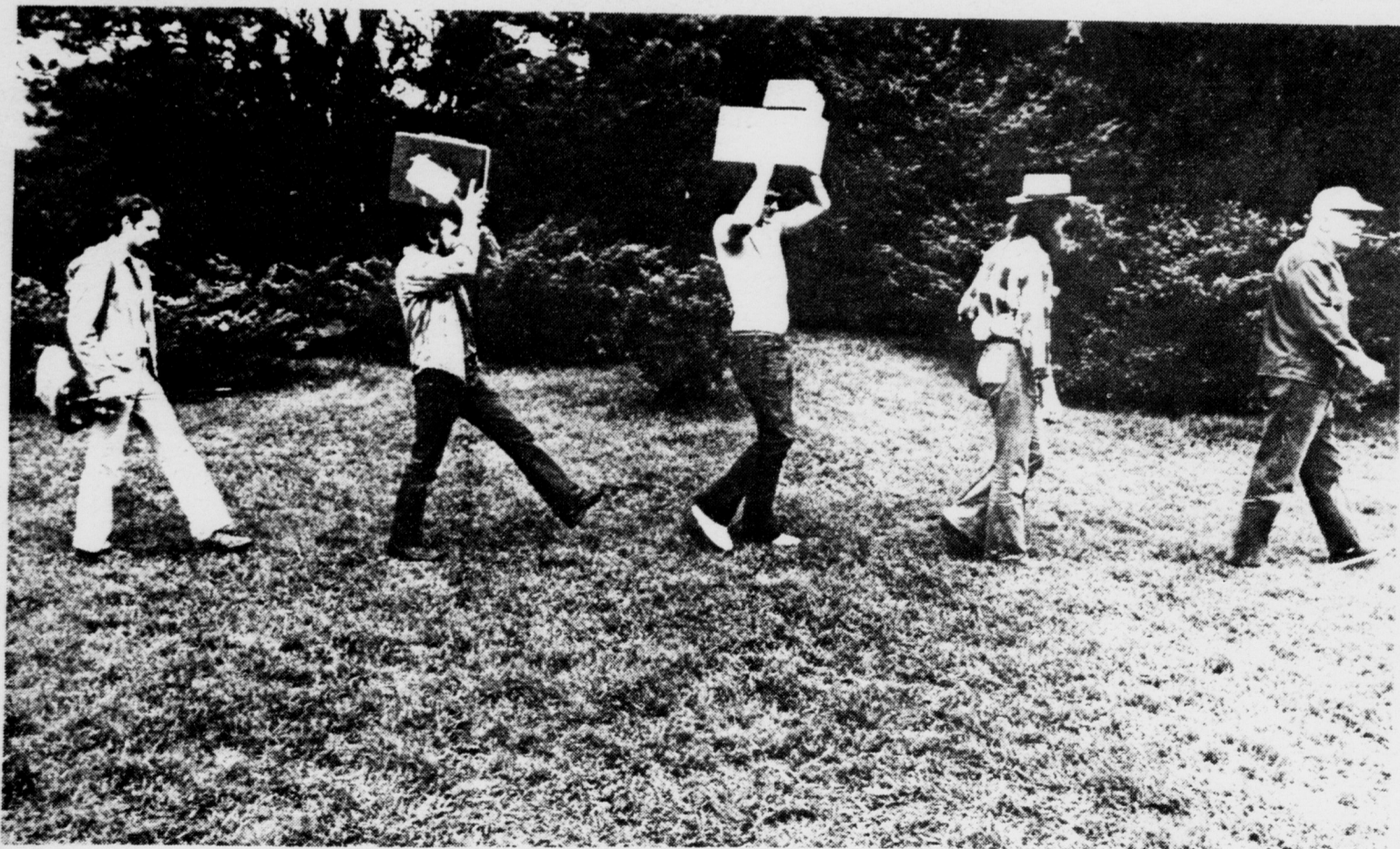
For Miss Simmons, her life is her work.  
"Love your work or get out if you want to be happy — happiness is worth a lot more than money. It lasts longer these days, that's for sure."  
One of the greatest rewards of her work has been her experience with children.  
"It's so wonderful to work with children and see the joy they feel in expressing themselves."  
She has her own special brand of youthful exuberance and it has helped her remain open to the diverse forms of dance.  
Miss Simmons is one of the founders of the Cecchetti method of ballet in this country and is currently president of the Cecchetti Council of America.  
"Ballet has discipline, but it's a joyful discipline and a wonderful vehicle for using your imagination."  
Although her first love is ballet, she sees great potential in modern dance movements.  
"The romantic ballets are still very good, like Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty, but these are all idealistic and modern dance encounters more relevant, material ideas."  
New techniques mean more work, but Miss Simmons has been able to meet the demands and, through it all, retain an ability many people can never master — to enjoy life.  
"I love my work. I love people. You get a feeling of joy from those that you're working with and from yourself."  
"What is there to life? Everyone is striving to be joyful and happy. I just haven't had too much to disrupt my joy."



photos by  
Dave Olds



# The little half-hearted river



The trip had been a long one, maybe three — four days. The carriers were restless but Papa kept them with us, promising them a share of the ivory he was going to bring back.

"It was back in '38 on the docks at Tripoli," Papa tells a story. "There was Big Jim and me and Kurtz. It was late and we'd killed a case of ouzo when this ex-boxer from Kankakee walks in with this bullion and says he wants to get in our game."

"After a few hands, Carnera — what was his name — is losing heavy and reaches into his pocket. Kurtz and me dropped him right there. He was goin' for a cigarette but you never can tell."

Papa laughs. His stomach is like hard jelly and his teeth bounce off the astonished faces of the carriers.

We come to the river. It is late winter and the current peels away parts of the embankment, making the water unclear. The trout will be up high, looking for insects that got washed in.

Papa unloads a reel and hands it to me.

"Here," he says. "Ford Madox Ford gave that to me when we were billeting in Zanzibar. It's not much, Muddy never knew two cents about fishing, but it's expensive."

I take the rod from his butcher's hands. It seems heavy in mine. "Anyways, it's a damn sight better than what you got," he says, biting the nub off a cigar and lighting up.

Gloria has come along for this trip. She is wild about Papa and his stories and begged me to let her come. She lights his cigar for him and hands me a pack of gum.

"Papa says you need it when the 'Big Ones' hits — it will keep you from breaking your teeth."

The Big One has never really come close to being landed. A merchant from the ivory coast had him once, back in the 20's, and went down at the end of his line. The natives say the man's skeleton still rides at the end of the Big One's mouth.

In '47, a Polish fishing vessel, went down in a tidal wave. An old captain Papa knew says it was the Big One jumping for low flying birds.

I tear off a piece of the gum. Touch Gloria's hand as it rests on my shoulder and settle back. The sun is hot on my neck and the water bugs fly low, just out of reach. They settle at the end of my rod as I doze off . . .

. . . A faint jerking. I must have slept all day, Papa says it is not good to rest when you fish, it numbs the muscles and makes you unprepared for the fight. He is right. I feel the line shred my fingers as it races out over the water. A simple bend back on the rod tells me what I feared to know. The Big One is on the other end.

"Take 'er steady, boy," Papa tells me. "He knows what's down there and you don't."

I feel the hot smoke of Papa's cigar on the back of my sunburned neck. His hand grabs my shoulder momentarily. And with a fatherly squeeze, he is gone.

"Gonna leave it with ya, podner," he says with a hearty laugh. "Do me a favor and don't land him till I get back."

The muscles in my arms regenerate at Papa's touch. They always have and they always will. When I was a boy, Papa tried to

sail and I wasn't strong enough to manage the rudder. He laughed each time the stubborn tide flipped me over the edge of the boat and dove in after me when the sharks came, slapping one that got too near on the nose with his open palm.

"You're gonna handle this rig, boy," he said to me, grabbing my arm and yanking me back into the boat.

And I did.

photos by

Dale Atkins

The little half-hearted river



# The banquet is over

(continued from page 2)

Europe had been experiencing overpopulation and a faltering economy and turned to America for help.

"The trade that developed was intended to feed the homeland," Borgstrom said. "Eventually, our whole trade was going to Europe."

As the U.S. grew in size and strength, it colonized areas in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The resources found in these regions added strength to the existing stockpile of wealth the U.S. was obtaining in trade with Europe.

Today, these regions must import most of their resources. As the process of colonization continued, North America, Australia and New Zealand emerged as the only net exporting regions in the world.

Today, Borgstrom said, technology, urbanization and industrialization are important factors when considering the current status of the rich nations.

The industrialized world continues to place usable land under asphalt and cement, showing very little regard as to how future generations are going to raise their food, said Borgstrom.

He is not so naive to believe hunger is a problem to be tackled only by food scientists and his own one-man army draws on many disciplines.

In the geographical field, Borgstrom's studies cover various aspects of the balance between population and resources with particular emphasis on key evaluation of population densities, and the role of trades and fisheries in world feeding. It should come as no surprise that Borgstrom also has an appointment in the geography department.

And, he conducted a seminar winter term that dealt with various aspects of food science and hunger problems, with emphasis on the course being open to the public.

His basement is jammed with books and more books — monuments to his patience in attempting to correlate all the



*"We must first use our food resources to feed the malnourished and then they can concentrate on industrial development."*

available material he has on food science.

While appreciative of the acclaim he's received, Borgstrom does not pretend to have all the answers to the world's problems. Because of the respect he's received, however, his suggestions are listened to closely.

High on his list of priorities is the containment of population increases. The urbanization drive must be brought under control, said Borgstrom.

"The modern world should not allow a privileged minority less than one third of mankind to consume two-thirds to three-fourths of what world agriculture and fisheries yield. Food crops for human consumption must gradually replace feed crops for animals," he said.



photos by Leo Salinas

*"The modern world should not allow a privileged minority less than one-third of mankind to consume two-thirds to three-fourths of what world agriculture and fisheries yield."*

To accomplish this, Borgstrom said, animal production must be achieved through a system of waste recycling. Feed products can then be channelled to direct human consumption.

Borgstrom also believes it is important to work out a method to control the losses and spoilages that occur both before and after harvests, and to achieve better utilization of milk, fish, oilseeds and bean plant protein.

"Less capital and energy demanding techniques and procedures must be introduced in agriculture and fisheries, as well as in food processing and distribution," Borgstrom said.

"When technology is invested to increase the use of resources such as food, it will be placed where it is most important, at the source."

This means further exploitation of foreign lands, or that poorer regions of the world must learn to use technology and industrialization on their own, he said.

"However, we must first use our food resources to feed the malnourished and then they can concentrate on industrial development," Borgstrom said.

To develop these nations, Borgstrom said that concessionary sales arrangements can be made. These are long-term, low interest sales of food products to needy nations.

Though it may seem like selling out to the average American consumer, Borgstrom's colleagues worldwide have been arriving at similar conclusions and have asked him to appear at numerous conferences and universities.

His stops have included Argentina, Chile, Japan, Poland, Mexico, India and the Soviet Union. He has appeared frequently on radio and television in Scandinavia, Canada and the United States.

In 1966 Borgstrom was elected a fellow of the 300-member World Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a fellow of some 25 scientific and technical academies and professional organizations in the United States and other countries.

In April 1974 the Royal Swedish Society of Anthropology and Geography presented to Borgstrom the Wahlberg Gold Medal in recognition of his "lifelong extensive research as to world feeding, as well as his efforts to arouse world opinion to a greater awareness about the basic prerequisites for human survival."

While Borgstrom's work primarily confines him to academia, his sense of reality is never distorted. He knows what it means to enjoy the fruits of prosperous living, and he wants others to do that too.

In 1974, the American agricultural output was plagued by droughts and floods. The first break in the sequence of favorable years took the human household almost unprepared, Borgstrom said. What bothers him the most about this situation was the way the affluent world responded.

They responded only by stockpiling and eating more food, a habit Borgstrom said is going to have fatal implications unless some definite changes are made.