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Dr. Bruce Gardner, professor in child development at Iowa State, is one of the outstanding men in the field of home economics. With his own son, he often finds knowledge of children helpful.

A "Lone Male"

by Joy Reese, H. JI. 3

Perhaps you have wondered what goes through a man's mind as he opens the door of MacKay Hall. Is he out of his realm? Is he uncomfortable in a "woman's world"? Let's ask him how he feels. (And you can get further information from the male who's seated next to you in one of your home economics classes.)

The man, first of all, protests that he is *not* in a "woman's world." He boasts that courses such as institution management, child development, and applied art prepare him for the positions of restaurant manager, chef, or fashion designer — jobs traditionally belonging to men.

Despite the determination of the faculty members to make men fit into the program, however, there are serious obstacles for males interested in home economics degrees.

The hardest step comes when a man enters a classroom for the first time. Teachers and students look up and seem to ask, "Whatever are *you* doing here!"

"I feel like an ugly duckling."

"Speaking of being out of place . . ."

"It would help if there was a place to hide."

These are some of the comments from "lone men," — men who may be alone in classes dominated by the feminine gender.

Most men in home economics courses realize that they are under scrutiny and feel rather awk-

ward. Gradually, the ice breaks, and before long they decide that an all-girl class does have its advantages.

Perhaps the worst part comes when a man must face the harassment and razzing from his fellow male students. Such teasing remarks as, "Yes, thirteen men and one home economics student live here," show what he must tolerate.

Soon, however, he takes this "static" in stride. And it isn't long before other men want to know more about the courses available. They find out that subject matter like family finance, family relations, and advertising drawing could be of real interest and benefit to them.

Another problem encountered by the "lone male" is the strong competition in home economics classes. The girl very often has a head start in the field through her past participation in 4-H, family activities, and high school training. The man may find the terminology and theory completely new.

Interest in departmental clubs and professional organizations also exists among the men. Here again, however, they need a little courage to get into these activities.

Overcoming the obstacles, men have contributed significantly to home economics. By so doing, they have held the door for both men and women to follow them.