

Physicists can paint doors

PATHDAFRELDO was the name of the project: "paint those damned freight elevator doors." It started when Dan J. Zaffarano, chairman at Iowa State, decided that everything but the doors was just fine in the new physics building. The contest he initiated stimulated 85 entries from faculty, students and employees. Six were chosen for the six sets of doors. Lo, one of the winning designs (entered with num-



FISHING DRAGON won first prize for Klaus Ruedenberg and daughter Ursula.



ZAFFARANO AND DAUGHTER made one of six designs that went on doors.



"END ALL WAR" ceramic was first member of a growing sculpture court.



SCRAPBOX SCULPTURE was a surreptitious graduate-student contribution.

bers and not the artists' names) was that of Zaffarano and his junior-high daughter Elisa. Then at a "Slingathon" the designs were transferred to the doors.

First prize went to Klaus Ruedenberg, professor of physics and chemistry, and his daughter Ursula for "Charlie in Minnesota," a fantastic dragon fishing with his tongue in a fantastic fish pool. "Clyde" is a huge psychedelic frog that opens his mouth when the doors open. All other entered designs are now framed and decorate the building hallways.

Not only painted doors are part of the art scene at Ames. A courtyard between old and new parts of the physics building will soon have a new office complex on one of its other sides. It became a sculpture garden and acquired "End All War," a ceramic showing red flames of war rising from a green prairie and reducing civilization to a black cinder. Challenged, some graduate students got busy and surreptitiously put up a rival on dedication morning. "From Chaos

New in nuclear power

"A tiny pellet, small enough to fit into a thimble, can light your home for three years," says a General Electric ad that I hear repeatedly on my favorite station, "the radio station of the *New York Times*." That doesn't sound much like huge cranes handling giant fuel elements, heavy shipping

to Beauty, Symbolizing the Wonderland Trip Toward the PhD" was an abstraction made from the cryogenics scrapbox with some round-the-clock work. Chief solderer, it turned out, was Durkee Richards, now a PhD physicist at 3M Research.

"What is all this about?" I asked Zaffarano. "I always thought you physicists were dedicated specialists quite unable to apply yourselves productively to anything but the subjects of your PhD theses." It seems I've been given the wrong picture.

"Physicists are creative people whose need for expression often transcends even publication in *The Physical Review*," was Zaffarano's answer. "Since our daily working environment seems to consist mostly of blackboards, vacuum pumps, dewars, magnets and racks of modular electronics, we thought it appropriate to observe through our new windows that the worlds of living things, abstract forms and color also provide outlets for research and creativity to intelligent people."

containers to shield against radioactivity and pressure vessels weighing hundreds of tons. You physicists at GE must have come up with something new in the way of tiny fuel pellets.

Somebody somewhere is confusing me, and I hope that the confusion is unintentional. □