## ---features-

Battalion/Page 20 February 1 1982

"On the average, a person car

remember four separate items

perhaps as many as seven and

incredible memories maybe

"If a witness is saying, 'I

tation and making

"If a witness is saving, 'I can

## Focus on jury selection United Press International DUBUQUE, Iowa — Trial attorneys who live in fear of biased juries and inaccurate eyewitness testimony can rest easier because of forensic psychology. Psychologists like Thomas Sannito, a Loras College professor, are teaching lawyers how to be more successful in the courtroom by paying close attention to jurors' mental philosophies and behavior. Sannito, 43, is among a handful of psychologists working in the field. Through lectures and workshops, he hopes to show lawyers how to select a favorable jury, discredit the failing memory of an eyewitness and present their case in a sequence easy for jurors to understand. when addressing a jury, how to read non-verbal signs from both witnesses and jurors. Sannito has been in the field of forensic psychology for five years. He said his expertise is most often requested by lawyers in jury selection.

A touch of home

languages major also International Students

Irish and Italian and warmblooded people are best for criminal defense and plaintiffs in civil cases because they are compassionate, warm and under-

standing and would tend to be more lenient. "They felt cold-blooded types, people from Scandina-vian or Germanic backgrounds, making up facts. I teach att neys how to discredit them.

"It isn't that the eyewitness is lying. He is searching his memory. Thinking he has to come up with something, he ends up making up facts. I teach attorneys how to discrepsychologically pleasing ways to dress and talk, where to stand nito

They had long believed that ness gives crisp answers that are confident and definite, that sways jurors more than the content or the circumstances of their observation. 'It isn't that the eyewitness is

Lawyers learn success

lying. He is searching his memremember he had a moustache Thinking he has to come up with something, he ends up making up facts. I teach attor-

"I'm giving attorneys a syste-matic method they can use to can remember he had a moustache, he had a bring out to the jury whether scar,' and delineates 10 this eyewitness is believeable or not. items, we know he is ex-

For example, Sannito tells lawyers to ask eyewitnesses what ceeding his natural limithey did after they saw the crime. They may say they ran across the street to call the things up." Sannito police.

didn't have time to review what he saw," Sannito said. "Without review, the memory will fade rapidly

can distort the memory. 'The

PIPES

ROLLING PAPER CIGARS - IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC

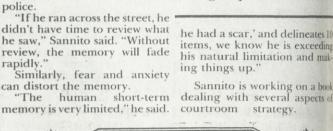
IMPORTED CIGARETTES

CUSTOM BLENDED TOBACCO CANDLES THAT KILL TOBACCO ODO

LIGHTERS/FLUID

SNUFF SPITTONS PIPE RACKS

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would be more hard-nosed and would be good for the criminal prosecution or civil defense; they wouldn't give much money away

jury selection. Using a two-year study, San-o has devised a juror check-ish and the Germans were vir-tually even — half for conviction, half for acquittal. The conviction-prone group was the Irtion, he said in an interview, the ish women. best jurors are women from small families with technical

Sannito said trial lawyers also are concerned about confronting an eyewitness.

"There are several old myths An attorney is very helpless that are supported by old pros in in front of an eyewitness because the field," Sannito said. "One of jurors tend to believe eyewitnesses," Sannito said. "When a wit-



nito has devised a juror check-

jobs.

staff photo by John Ryan

If you're looking for a convic-