



Office of College Relations
Smith College
Northampton, Massachusetts 01063

March 19, 1990

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CECILY MORROW, (413) 586-4243

Debra Bradley
News Director
(413) 585-2190

Smith Student Helps Documentary Glide onto Airwaves

Northampton, MA — A television documentary about figure skating, based on a manuscript by Smith College senior Cecily Morrow, will be featured on the Public Broadcasting Service next month. *Gustave Lussi: The Man Who Changed Skating*, is scheduled to be aired nationwide on Thursday, April 5, and locally on Saturday, April 7.

The documentary profiles Gustave Lussi, one of the foremost figure-skating teachers who has coached students to 23 World Championships, six Olympic gold medals, and numerous national and regional titles. A Swiss native, Lussi turned to skating in 1920 after an accident cut short a ski-jumping career. The success of his innovative and widely influential teaching method, which combines elements of music, art and physics, is documented in newsreels and other archival footage. Bearing witness to Lussi's impact are testimonials from many of his champion skaters, such as Dorothy Hamill, Eileen Stiegh, Tenley Albright and Dick Button, who recall how their former teacher's determination and demands for perfection affected their performances and won their lasting respect.

Morrow, an Ada Comstock Scholar at Smith, studied under Lussi for several years in the early 1970s before becoming a figure-skating coach herself.

-over-

Smith College News

An aspiring writer, Morrow began work in 1984 on a technical manual that she hoped would explain many of Lussi's techniques and capture the spirit of the man who had created them. After working on the manual for a year, she decided to develop it into a documentary, and she contacted a producer at WCFE-TV in Plattsburgh, New York. She was consultant and associate producer for the documentary.

-30-

NOTE: National broadcast of the documentary is scheduled for April 5, at 8:30 p.m. Channel 57, the PBS affiliate in the Springfield/Northampton area, will air the documentary on Saturday, April 7, at 8 a.m.