Kismet *from page A1*

"I saw him (for) the first time of my life; when we glanced at each other, we knew this was it. From that moment, it changed our lives (ever) since."

They dated for three years during college, but sometimes only seeing each other once a month. Both studied hard, however, with Teresa shining as a top hotel-management student and David being honored among the best of 100 top student-candidates from all of Shanghai's universities and colleges.

They had encouraged each other through that period, but their devotion would really be tested when Teresa, at age 20, moved to Hawaii in 1990 to earn a bachelor's degree in travel-industry management from Hawaii Pacific University and then went to New York for a master's in business administration at City University there.

It would become an eight-year separation, with only David's regular letters and their trans-Pacific telephone calls keeping the flame burning.

"He wrote two times a month," says Teresa softly, thinking of her big box full of his letters and faxes. "He never missed a month.

That's how he is, very consistent."

And the telephone bills? "Don't ask," she said with a laugh. "I could buy a house with the money."

In 1996, David quit his job with the Shanghai Agriculture Bureau, where he had worked in import-export, to open his own commodity exchange business.

Then, in 1997, Teresa came to Michigan to study international business at Madonna University in Livonia.

This past May, their long, self-imposed separation ended when David and Teresa were reunited in Farmington Hills. David, seeing the opportunities in the new trade between the United States and China, came here to explore establishing a business in the U.S. that would export U.S. wheat, building materials and other products while importing Chinese souvenirs and toys.

That was when the couple met Arbenowske, who patiently answered David's questions about Farmington Hills' business development, geography and culture and also directed him to Oakland County's Export Assistance Center and its Small Business Development office.

"Mrs. Arbenowske is of great character and reliable," Teresa said, "a great lady and excellent information coordinator. Words cannot express our feelings to her."

David described her helpfulness as "a wonderful experience" and decided to set up his business here.

Maid of honor was Yvonne Macey of Clinton Township, the couple's longtime mutual friend and fellow student from China who is studying pharmacy at Wayne State University.

Best man was Kevin Burch, Yvonne's fiancé, who is an automotive designer and who is exploring with David the importing of exotic reptiles from China for sale as pets in the U.S. Today, most such pets come from Africa or South America.

Arbenowske and Cathy Martin, Hills public information specialist, provided a two-tiered wedding cake for the ceremony.

The newlyweds will have a traditional Chinese wedding back home sometime next year.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Happy: *Teri Arbenowske, assistant to the city manager, helps the bride and groom with their cake following the wedding at Farmington Hills City Hall.*

Register by Oct. 5

If you want to vote in the Nov. 3 general election but have not yet registered, you have until the end of business Monday, Oct. 5, to do so.

☒ ELECTION '98

Registration may be completed at Farmington or Farmington Hills city hall, any Michigan Secretary of State office or with a mail-in form – which must be posted by the deadline – available at the same locations.

Farmington City Hall is at 23600 Liberty. Farmington Hills City Hall is at 31555 11 Mile. The nearest Secretary of State office is at 35576 Grand River.

Applications to vote absentee also are available at both city halls. Voters in both cities who voted absentee in the Aug. 4 primary election received a dual application, one for the August vote and another for the November vote. If you requested an absentee ballot at that time for November, it will come in the mail.

Voters who did not participate in this effort may still vote absentee by obtaining an application from either city clerk's office.

The last day an absentee ballot may be mailed to a voter is 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31.

To reach the Farmington city clerk's office, call 474-5500; Farmington Hills city clerk, 473-9564; Michigan Secretary of State on Grand River, 476-4538.

Celebrate fall; raise money

Celebrate the fall season and help raise money for the Alzheimer's Unit at Botsford Hospital and the American Cancer Society from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Botsford Commons in Farmington Hills.

The afternoon will include live entertainment, hayrides, face painting and pumpkin painting. Bring in any donations you collect for both foundations and enjoy all of the free fun for the whole family. Call Tony Fama at 426-6958.