Teachers ousted over summer

New tenure system causes campus stir

By J.W. Smith
In November, 1977, several changes were made which substantially altered the tenure system at Bennington College. These changes had remained unexplored until July, 1978, when the Faculty Personnel Committee met and reviewed 33 faculty members who sought contract renewal and/or presumptive tenure. Many of the professors now feel that the new system denies them “adequate consideration” in the review process. Anger and confusion surround the entire system, and students have returned to find canceled classes and chaos within several divisions.

Dean of Faculty Don Brown, reports that the individuals sought five-year contracts but received instead a third three-year contract. Phebe Shih Chao and Reinhard Mayer, from the Literature and Languages Division; and Milford Graves, from the Black Music Division.

Legally, this new system allows the College to keep the staff from “stagnating,” although this pattern of “presumed” tenure has never been broken. The FPC consists of four elected members from the faculty at large, and Don Brown, Chairman and ex officio member. This past semester the members were: Phebe Shih Chao, (Literature and Languages); Alvin Feitzman (Literature and Languages); Richard Blake, (Social Science); and Reinhard H. van der Linde, (Science and Mathematics).

The Faculty Personnel Committee judges each individual in the following areas: professional competence, professional activity and teaching effectiveness. Information is gathered from both the Student Educational Policy Committee and the Faculty Educational Policy Committee in the form of student and faculty evaluations. Various opinions are organized and presented to the Faculty Personnel Committee for a final decision. Usually, there is a period of two weeks in which the individual being reviewed is allowed to meet with the committee and discuss “areas of substantial concern before a decision is reached,” according to Don Brown. Additional testimony can be given during this period by the individual and any other faculty member or student that wishes to make a statement before the committee.

Continued on Page 4

INSIDE
- Editorial urges review of Kensinginer case - page 2.
- A look at what's in fashion this fall - page 5.
- Interview with George Steiner - pages 6-7.
Again, Bennington College has a newspaper. Or, as we would like to think, for the first time. Volume I, Issue 1 is a matter of record — the pushed-back deadlines and last minute frenzies are now a subject for private office jokes and secret grins. But we feel compelled to reduce this typically journalistic secrecy into, at very least, a stage whisper, and occasion this space to give you, our readers, a partial definition of ourselves.

It is this same sense of compulsion we are most conscious of, a sense of duty to ourselves and to you that will surface in many ways. On simplest levels, it is an obligation to report what is going on at Bennington and to write and to you that will surface in many ways. On simplest levels, it is an obligation to report what is going on, or indeed, why something isn't going on, or the who-what-when-where-why-how credo of journalism.

Yet this role goes beyond that of attentive observer, of recorder, and starts to presume a question mark in everything. Why something is going on, or indeed, why something isn't going on, is our inevitable focus. With all the who-what-when-where-why-who credo of journalism, the why seems by far the most important. It seems to be the one word to which everything owes an answer to.

With this in mind, we give an explanation for our name. The idea of being vanguard, of being out in front leading the way, came closest to the idea we wanted to represent. For that is what we see as one of our foremost duties: to lead and to influence, to break things down and challenge, to present a fresh opinion.

And with this comes the ultimate aim of any newspaper: to offer not only a perspective in terms of happenings around you, but to offer an intellectual and emotional perspective. Such a perspective can only be vanguard, for it cannot be one that is especially self-conscious or concerned with images and traditions, as such.

Too much of Bennington is. There is too much that is highhanded and serious, injected with somberness. An awareness of dimensions and importance is one thing; an affected, constantly imposed outlook is another. Our perspective will be one tempered by reality and by a sense of humor; reality because we must remember where we are; we must be aware of our environment, or what we are trying to do; and a sense of humor because it constantly checks us and reminds us of our reality.

For example, we are well aware of the constant grappling for meanings and answers that seems to be the necessary climate of Bennington, and we can see without too much strain the tragedy in, say, not receiving a letter in time, or finding work. To not rehire a teacher is one thing; to smear him professionally is another.

We hope the Personnel Review Committee will review Kensington's case fairly and look at all the material before coming to a decision. We think an honest review can only lead the committee to renew his contract.

Editorials are the majority opinion of the Vanguard Editorial Board and do not in any way reflect the viewpoints of the Bennington College faculty, administration or Board of Trustees. Vanguard invites letters to the editor. All letters must be supported by a mailing address. Names will be withheld upon request. Letters should be placed in the Vanguard box in the mailroom or given to individual editors. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for purposes of brevity and taste.

Thanks

We would like to express debts of gratitude to the following people, without whom publication of our first issue would have been unlikely: Bernie Jeter, Pat Barr, Tyler Resch, H. Bennie Markowitz and Ken Distler.

Barry Weinbaum, Editor in Chief
Mark H. Davis, Business Manager
J. W. Smith, Managing Editor
Perry Adams, Photography Editor
Timothy W. Littlefield, Director of Advertising
Peter Kaplan, Editorial Consultant
Sara Markowitz, Features Editor
Andrea Lasselle
Ken Fowler
S. Perly Norris
Andrea Reitmeyer
Donia Franklin
Laurie Wheeler
Natasha Thomsen
Lee Wulfot
Ellen Shephard
Clay Meyerson
Bill Hagen
Lexey Russell

Vanguard is a private, non-profit organization pending incorporation.
Pet regulations in effect

The Student Council recently passed the new pet regulations now in effect campus wide, and have formed a standing pet committee to handle pet control.

The new regulations:
- Majority house approval is needed within each particular house.
- All dogs must be registered in accordance with municipal statutes in the towns of Bennington and North Bennington; dogs under eight months are not allowed.
- Dogs and cats must be registered at the College and tags must be worn.
- All pet owners within a designated pet house must sign a written agreement to share responsibility, both financial and otherwise, for all pets in the house.

"I think they're really good rules, and really necessary ones," said Student Services Director Short Aldrich. "It was a matter of making life livable for everybody, and making things better for the animals."

The new rules have, in the words of one on-campus dog owner, been "stringently enforced."

"You've got to be really careful now, though in all fairness I've got to say the new rules are really good. Last spring I was almost afraid to let my dog out, there were so many dogs on commons lawn." To enforce these new regulations, went into effect October 4, the Student Council established a standing pet committee consisting of five members. This committee is responsible for "all disputes concerning pet control and any judicial proceedings which may occur," according to the official notice.

However, the job of registering the pets will belong to the Student Services office. Money collected for these fees will be kept in an account signed by the office.

One of the most important rules not enforced are "unspayed females are not allowed new," Aldrich said. "We had so many problems last semester we had to lay down the law on this issue."

Aldrich went on to cite housing as another problem which necessitated stricter pet control:

"We have to house students - we can't house pets. What was happening was that we would assign rooms and people couldn't take them because they had pets - the whole housing situation was just chaos." New students cannot have pets on campus for the first semester.

Since the new regulations went into effect, dogs and cats without I.D. tags were taken to the Bennington County Humane Society in Shaftsbury. Other regulations include:

+ All uncaged pets must be with their owners if they are out of their rooms.
+ No dogs or cats in Commons.

Leaves of absence taken by faculty

Six members of the College faculty have taken the fall term off on leaves of absence, another four are on sabbatical and two have gone abroad, according to the Dean of Faculty's office.

Those teachers on sabbatical include: Henry Brant, from the Music Division and Phoebe Chao and Nick Delislongo from the Literature and Languages Division.

Those teachers on leave are Judith Dunn, from the Dance Division; Eduardo Gonzalez and Camillo Paglia, from the Literature and Languages Division; Richard Haas and Isaac Witkin from the Visual Arts Division; and Michael Rock from the Division of Social Science.

In addition, two College teachers are abroad, participating in college programs - Sylvia Wel-Sayre is in Paris and Joanna Kirkpatrick in India.

Faculty members are entitled to a one-term paid sabbatical after the Williams College Center for Environmental Studies.

The course takes place on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. and is open to the public. There is an $18 fee.

Free lance biologist Jerry Jenkins teaches the course.

New teachers join college staff

A former Bennington student is one of 13 new teachers joining the College faculty this fall.

Wendy Perron, Class of 1969, has entered the dance division as a full time instructor. Perron has received many grants, among them from the National Endowment from the Arts and the Mobil Foundation, and is editor of "Concepts in Performance" for the Soho Weekly News in New York.

Teachers joining the Literature and Languages Division include Octavio Armand, Stephen Becker and Nicole Schott-Desroizers. Armand is teaching classes in Spanish and Spanish literature, and is presently editor of "Servicios," the Mexican network.

Becker returns to Bennington to teach several literature classes, tutorials, and a workshop. His latest novel, "The Chinese Bandit," was published in 1973 by Random House, and his next is set for spring.

The Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division has three new teachers: Donna Bedard, from the Norman Division and Elizabeth Sherman.

Sherman was a postdoctoral fellow in zoology and a regular teacher last year, and has been granted fellowships by the National Science Foundation, the University of Vermont, and the University of Rochester.

Derby, a specialist in physics, has received National Science Foundation grants and has his doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Perry Jenkins is presently a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard, and will primarily be teaching biology.

Michael Finekel and Vladimir Hlavsky have joined the Music Division, and Paul Hereman, Charles Stevenson and John Rajchman will be teaching in the Social Sciences Division.

CAPSULES

- Competition

The Bennington College Mounted Posse will have its annual fall competitive trail ride this Saturday at 9 a.m.

There will be two divisions: Pony (all ponies 13.2 hands and under), light weight (rider and tack under 130 pounds), middle weight (rider and tack under 160 pounds) and heavy weight (rider and tack over 160 pounds).

There will be a $3 entry fee, and the ride will leave from the Stanford Elementary School, Route 8, Stanford.

- I.D. Cards

Student I.D. cards are now being replaced at Seiler's Office in the North Suite of Commons. There is a $5 charge for a new card, but cards will be replaced instantly. The charge was made to reduce the confusion of the last system.

- Course

"Fruits, Weeds and Late Flowers" is the title of a course now being offered at the Williams College Center for Environmental Studies.

The course takes place on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. and is open to the public. There is an $18 fee.

Free lance biologist Jerry Jenkins teaches the course.

- Bellydancing

An eight week bellydancing course kicks off tonight in the studio above Svaha.

The fee for the course is $95 and can be paid at this first meeting. Finger cymbals and a veil are suggested for the course.

Those planning to attend should be comfortably with midriffs exposed.
Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes in order to get a newspaper out on time? Well, Vanguard reporter Ken Fowler, in a desperate attempt to write an article he was supposed to have written three weeks ago, penned off the following true-to-life depiction on what it’s like working for us.

It’s 2 o’clock in the morning. This article is due at 8 o’clock, six hours from now. My loyal and inspiring editor in chief fell asleep an hour ago, five feet behind my present perch, after telling me to write about “whatever the hell you feel like.” He would then motivate me to action with peppy phrases such as “dynamite” and “go for it!” Fortunately, he neither snores or talks in his sleep.

The topic of this article is at this point not only undecided, but also completely unknown. Originally, I was assigned one article, which was changed to another within two days time, followed by a third the next day, given to me by illegible note in my mailbox the day that the article was due, four hours later, with assurance from my brash editor that “four hours is plenty of time for 1500 words.”

Fortunately, I was able to draw on my experience in writing literature and philosophy papers. A crafty prizefighter, I’ve been in this ring before. My opponent is time, the perennial contender. He’s trained hard for this one - his minute hand is deceptively fast tonight, and the right, his hour hand, is landing with devastating frequency and accuracy. As the middle rounds approach, I realize that I should have trained harder. Too many nights at The Villager and two few afternoons at the library are taking their toll. My sentences lack the zest and string of those early freshman papers and I’m being hit too often. Desperate, I turn to my corner for strategy: my trainer is still asleep.

Fortunately, this is not a title bout; it’s only scheduled to go 600 words, but I’m tiring now - I’m stalling on the ropes for time. My pencil is maintaining a weak defense and the readers know it. Quickly, I recap my career, like the proverbial flashback before death. Ahh, for those stunning victories noted for their arduous preparation, economy and strong late paragraphs! Then it was on the rag, those marginal split decisions against various bums. Finally, in the spring of ’78, I suffered a T.R.C.

It was time to quit, my friends told me. “Drop out, throw in your transcripts, you’re all washed up!” But I was only a freshman; I was too young to quit. I needed a new approach, I said, a new style. So I turned to journalism. Now, at 391 words, I wonder if I should have listened to my friends.

Tenure system causes stir

Continued from Page 1

deliberation.
In the past, the procedure has been either to offer or deny presumptive tenure after two three-year contracts have been completed. Recently, a new alternative has been employed: an offer can now be made of a third three-year contract. Before the FPC met this past July this alternative offer had only been made three times. Don Brown feels that in postponing a “yes or no” decision, the College is simply demonstrating an unwillingness to make a definite judgment on a particular faculty member.

Phoebe Chao, given a third three-year contract this past July, stated in a recent interview that she feels the new alternative illustrates a weakness within the review system. Chao and others, feel that tenure, i.e., professional security, must either be consistently distributed or consistently denied at the time of a third review period.

Chao also notes that only 30 percent of the student evaluations that were distributed last term were returned to the Dean of Faculty’s Office. Chao is appealing the Committee’s decision at this time, and is presently on sabbatical.

According to Kenneth Kensinger, the important period of two-week discussion was shortened to 24 hours during the last review session in July. Kensinger reports being called before the committee at 4:00 in the afternoon, and facing an exhausted committee board that had already heard testimony from 11 other individuals. The fact that the FPC met during a vacation period drastically reduces the opportunity for student involvement in the system, said Kenneth Kensinger. Kensinger plans to appeal the decision of non-reappointment he received from the Committee.
Fashion at Bennington:
Campus clothes in the fall

Micah Morrison and friend on a VAPA balcony, far left; at left, Sidney Tillum makes a point to one of his classes. At right, Sheila Black on her way to drawing class.

Far left, music teacher Bill Dixon. Above, a student strikes a pose for our photographer. Below, Sara Markowitz catches up on some reading amidst the autumn leaves. Above right, John Bertles sports the latest look from Dewey House, while below right, Dan Cameron shows his style.

Photos by Lexey Russel
George Steiner has been called our greatest cultural critic and is acknowledged as one of the world's great literary entities. Born April 23, 1929 in Paris, he came to the United States in 1940. He received his undergraduate education from the University of Chicago, his M.A. from Harvard and his Ph.D from Oxford. His books include "Tolstoy or Dostoevsky," "The Death of Tragedy," "Language and Silence," "In Bluebeard's Castle: Some Notes Toward the Redefinition of Our Culture," and "After Babel: Aspects of Language and Translation." Steiner contributes regularly to "The New Yorker" and "The New York Review of Books" and has given many endowed lectures.

Vanguard had an exclusive interview with Steiner at the home of Robert Boyers in Saratoga, the day after Steiner had visited Bennington to give the inaugural lecture for the annual Ben Belitt Lecture Series.

Q: You said last night that education today is "planned amnesia." Could you clarify this?
A: I think that the training of memory has to begin in the extreme early stages, with a great deal of learning by heart. There are no two ways about this — either a culture does this or it will not be able to overcome a very wide measure of what I would call half-literacy, or sub-literacy. This is a fundamental political decision.

Q: So it goes right back to the entire educational system?
A: Yes. There was a very considerable training of memory. American public schools up until the late 1960's still had super standards, whereas today, there is a very widespread abandonment even of the basic literate skills. No homework is given anymore, no tasks of any kind are imposed.

Q: What do you attribute to this total abandonment of values?
A: It lies, I think, in the tremendous post war prosperity. There came at the same time a leveling, a decision of equality of men, a cultural equality for all which was by no means part of many ethics of American history. There came a period of extreme downward leveling in the name of certain other values, such as spontaneity, doing your own thing, emotional self-fulfillment, generally putting life, the actual quality of life, before any other values. It was certainly connected with the enormous explosion of a consumer prosperity such as no society has ever aimed for.

Q: It seems that the sixties parallels this post-war era in many ways. How do you assess the influence of the 60's on the United States?
A: It has left people profoundly empty. We are going to be paying the price for the abandonment of educational criteria for the next several decades. I mean something very specific by that; if you're young, beautiful, and well off, it is amazing how little luggage you need inside yourself. When these gifts of the gods are no longer there, there will be an emptiness inside because of the lack of Ballard — exactly like a ship, which, without Ballard, the moment the water gets choppy, the rolling begins.

One is absolutely struck at the moment by the postwar sadness, the premature emptiness and restlessness of those who went through this non-education. You expect it from life and from a profession the contract of constant happiness, and that contract is not being kept by America, which is now in a very, very severe economic and social recession.

Q: Do you still stand by your gloomy prophecy for the future of the United States as you outlined it in "In Bluebeard's Castle"?
A: No. I am certainly glad to say I overstated. I certainly did not take into account the political realities, the amount of self-correction in the system since Vietnam and Watergate. But the main focus of the book is the component of inhumanity and violence moving ever downward in our ordinary lives. There I am even more pessimistic.

It seems to me that the United States could start overnight the torture camps, the concentration camps, the persecution in dozens of Latin American countries. It is no exaggeration whatsoever to speak of Paraguay and parts of Brazil, and much of Argentina, and much of Chile as comparable in horror to the Nazis. That is not rhetoric. It is mostly run by ex-Nazis and their police systems. We have seen what happened in Nicaragua in these very few last weeks.

These are states which live day-to-day on the charity or active investment of American foreign policy and of American multi-national corporations. The U.S. is not lifting a finger to stop the endemic spread of torture and murder and oppression on its very doorstep.

Q: You said in your lecture last night that theology was inseparable from any discussion of culture. Is the same true with politics?
A: Culture is a political issue and there can be no isolationism of decency. Decency also has to be her export and the staggering thing is this: when we face the world of the gulag, in our rage about Soviet behavior, about dissidents, we forget how immensely more powerful the American position would be if it even cared in cleaning up its own frontyard, but it is not concerned.

Q: Again, to quote from last night's lecture, you commented that America was extremely honest as a country. Do you see this as a self-effacing honesty or —
A: I think it's a very positive honesty. No country has ever been so ready to lay itself naked to itself and its enemies; no other country that we know of has been as rough on itself and has been as ready to gather evidence against itself. I see America as a cross-examiner of itself, constantly putting itself on trial. This is an immense positive: there is, however, one very great danger: the absorption with its immensely passionate and complex problems is bringing on a new kind of isolationism.

We don't have a very good word for it, but the feeling which may be right, that this is where it's at, that what matters is here, the action is here, or the feeling which I would call a new pastoral regionalism; that what you've got to do is in your town or in your county or in your immediate district, invest all your immediate energies, all your genius into getting local things right.

This means that this is now a country far less aware of its world role that it was at certain points. And I flatly agree isolationism isn't the right word for it — domestically is the kind of word I'm struggling for. But this has created a very great vacuum of values and power in the outside world.

Q: Sociologists say that a return to the whole basic institution of family will start to restore values in our youth. Do you agree?
A: On the contrary. I want young Americans to do what for several centuries young Englishman did: to learn a dozen foreign languages and get away from home, go out into the world. The whole point is that so many of you, apart from the student trip, or the vacation, or the occasional year of study abroad, to so many of you,
with George Steiner

everything that really matters is right here in your own neighborhood. And I think America is not exporting talent or exporting involvement or emotional leadership in the way it did in the very great past of its literature. The way we do it now, in terms of sheer gut work, including vast amounts of learning by heart, including tremendous amounts of self-discipline, is enormous.

My case is why have the humanities sold out so cheaply? Why is it that at a time when to get into a good school in physics or biology you must know almost more than any generation before, why is it that we've abolished every prerequisite in the humanities, that we no longer ask any knowledge in the classics or foreign languages, that we don't teach the things I mentioned, prudently and—

Q: Don't you think this might be due to trends in modern literature away from classicism?
A: You could not be more mistaken. Robert Lowell and John Berryman, and T.S. Eliot, and Wallace Stevens and Ezra Pound are people who presumably an enormous classical presence in language. The latest American Poetry Review has a series of letters right on your doorstep, writers who have known closely and been influenced by other masters. We don't need to do nonsense. We can think by very able poets, but very conservative poets. But I think the thing goes more deeply.

I would ask ourselves to what extent our laws in the U.S., the language of our institutions, the languages of our public prayers, Shakespeare and the great masters of the 18th century, I will take just one or two of the absolutely decisive moments in American history, for instance Jefferson's proposals for the University of Virginia. And I would just begin reading very closely, very directly, word by word, sentence by sentence, and try to understand what it presented, what it didn't need to explain and what it thinks we should know; and wherever we would agree that we no longer know it, we would learn to look it up, footnoted in the Bible, the book of common prayer, Shakespeare and the great masters of the 18th century.

I think the thing goes more deeply.

We would ask ourselves to what extent our laws in the U.S., the language of our institutions, the language of our public prayers, Shakespeare and the great masters of the 18th century, I will take just one or two of the absolutely decisive moments in American history, for instance Jefferson's proposals for the University of Virginia. I would just begin reading very, very closely, word by word, sentence by sentence, and try to understand what it presented, what it didn't need to explain and what we think we should know; and wherever we would agree that we no longer know it, we would learn to look it up, footnoted in the Bible, the book of common prayer, Shakespeare and the great masters of the 18th century.

Q: Who are some contemporary writers who speak to us in this way?
A: I think we are in a very, very interesting and important period of poetry. I don't want to do catalogues of names. You in Bennington are particularly privileged because you still have a great scaffold around the building, and the scaffold stays up.
Punk rock examined
Trouble at the contemporary dinner table

By Alison Davies

There are a few qualities inherent in the punk-rock/new wave onslaught of the McDonalds-Leavitt-to-Beaver-Fest-Vietnam sentiment that well illuminate the sentiment of the 70s. To elucidate fully the phenomena of punk would be futile. One cannot always put one's finger on all the vegetables of the cultural stew one is in. I read an article in what's left of one New York newspaper. It went up to centerfold on punk. There was a mention of the generation that eroded from the 60's children: those of us whose consciousnesses at ages eight, nine and ten dreamed of Jeanie, Lesbian-Leaver and Gilgillia Island, whose parents professed no other information about Haight-Ashbury other than 'roll up your windows and lock your doors.' I empathized with this as I had long ago foreseen the fact that I had missed something and had thought more of Jack-In-The-Box than I did of Nixon's Inaugural Post-Vietnam sensibility that well illustrates the sentiment of the 70s. It was the beginning of the film who the killer is and excruciating sensation that we know all closely controlled by Director Irvin S. Krause. The juxtaposition of bed? Why did he wait until the end to.

The album's title track, 'Who Are You' written by Townsend after meeting Sex Pistols Steve Jones and Paul Cook, is unquestionably the album's best song, and the obvious choice for the single. The album version suffers somewhat compared to the single (N2 on the Villager Lunchbox) because it goes on too long.

Townshend's best lyrics on the album are in "Guitar and Pen," which like most of the rest of the album is concerned with his somewhat defensive reaction to Punk. The song reincarnates everything the Who once stood for, and have moved beyond.

"You smash you guitar on
day, wreck innownerable
three bottles of cognac a
which allowed him to drink
which is reminiscent of a
Keith Moon's death is hard
to believe. It was always
likely, considering his
lifestyle, but he seemed
to have some special grace
which allowed him to drink
three bottles of cognac a
day, wreck innownerable
cars and still bounce up
laughing hysterically and
playing drums louder and
faster than any human being
could possibly.

The album contains only
two classic Who rocker,
'Pick of the Light' (written
by Entwhistle) which opens
with crashing power charg
ing and the patented Moon-
Entwhistle bottom-end
explosion.

"Who Are You" is
dominated by synthesizers,
used very well on Ent-
whistle 's "965," which is
reminiscent of Brian Eno
and the 861, and very badly
on "Love is Coming Down,"
which is reminiscent of a
Donovan hit of the same year.

The audience searches for
a reason but there is none.
"Eyes" exploits the synthesis between punk-rock realism and
a kind of kinky, and looks good, too. Style in punk can be
to be aggressive change. Amidst all the disparity of
in tight black pants, black shirts, hair standing straight
and all like new mown grass, with a modest nonchalance
that does not condone violence, is, if not beautiful, at least
striking. And, in the end, maybe what we admire is not the
appearance at all, but the nerve. But it is all so easy to
reject as unexplainable irregularity. Why
in the woods or in
murder in the middle of the night. Who is "Eyes"
exploits the synthesis between punk-rock realism and
a kind of kinky, and looks good, too. Style in punk can be
to be aggressive change. Amidst all the disparity of
in tight black pants, black shirts, hair standing straight
and all like new mown grass, with a modest nonchalance
that does not condone violence, is, if not beautiful, at least
striking. And, in the end, maybe what we admire is not the
appearance at all, but the nerve. But it is all so easy to
reject as unexplainable irregularity. Why
in the woods or in
murder in the middle of the night. Who is "Eyes"
exploits the synthesis between punk-rock realism and
a kind of kinky, and looks good, too. Style in punk can be
to be aggressive change. Amidst all the disparity of
in tight black pants, black shirts, hair standing straight
and all like new mown grass, with a modest nonchalance
that does not condone violence, is, if not beautiful, at least
striking. And, in the end, maybe what we admire is not the
appearance at all, but the nerve. But it is all so easy to
reject as unexplainable irregularity. Why
in the woods or in
murder in the middle of the night. Who is "Eyes"
exploits the synthesis between punk-rock realism and
a kind of kinky, and looks good, too. Style in punk can be
to be aggressive change. Amidst all the disparity of
in tight black pants, black shirts, hair standing straight
and all like new mown grass, with a modest nonchalance
that does not condone violence, is, if not beautiful, at least
striking. And, in the end, maybe what we admire is not the
appearance at all, but the nerve. But it is all so easy to
reject as unexplainable irregularity. Why
in the woods or in
murder in the middle of the night. Who is "Eyes"
exploits the synthesis between punk-rock realism and
a kind of kinky, and looks good, too. Style in punk can be
to be aggressive change. Amidst all the disparity of
in tight black pants, black shirts, hair standing straight
and all like new mown grass, with a modest nonchalance
that does not condone violence, is, if not beautiful, at least
striking. And, in the end, maybe what we admire is not the
appearance at all, but the nerve. But it is all so easy to
reject as unexplainable irregularity. Why
in the woods or in
murder in the middle of the night. Who is "Eyes"
exploits the synthesis between punk-rock realism and
a kind of kinky, and looks good, too. Style in punk can be
to be aggressive change. Amidst all the disparity of
in tight black pants, black shirts, hair standing straight
and all like new mown grass, with a modest nonchalance
that does not condone violence, is, if not beautiful, at least
striking. And, in the end, maybe what we admire is not the
appearance at all, but the nerve. But it is all so easy to
reject as unexplainable irregularity. Why
Council budget hopes stricken

By Andrea Loselle

Hopes were high last spring when Student Council President Micah Morrison proposed to increase the Student Council budget for the school year, 1978-79. Morrison proposed that the budget be doubled from $15,000 to $30,000. These hopes were shattered recently when Student Council received an increase of only $500, giving it a working budget of $15,000.

Asked why the Council was allocated such a meagre sum in comparison to their original request, Short Aldrich stated emphatically, “The money isn’t there.”

Alumna wins contest

Bennington College graduate Anne MacKinnon was awarded the New England Poetry Club’s John Holmes Award during the club’s recent meeting dinner. MacKinnon, Class of 1978, was awarded the award for her poem, “My Brother’s Letter.”

The New England Poetry Club, founded in 1915, is the country’s oldest poetry society. Among the club’s membership are many of New England’s noted poets. MacKinnon, a resident of Arlington, Virginia, received her Bennington degree in literature.

Morrison also said that the budget increase, the funds would have been divided into three parts. The Recruitment Committee and the Film Committee each would have received $10,000, and the rest would have been set aside for three major purposes: to produce more funds to strengthen the effectiveness of the S.E.P.C., to set up an experimental Special Events Committee and to tighten the relationship between the faculty and student body.

The S.E.P.C., Morrison claims, feels that it has been ignored in its capacity to assist with faculty policy decisions, particularly with respect to the faculty review system. Additional funds from Student Council would have enabled S.E.P.C. to form stronger and more efficient programs that would have extended beyond S.E.P.C.’s primary function of compiling and submitting class evaluations to the faculty.

Morrison’s experimental Special Events Committee entailed allocating funds for special speakers and workshops which would have the involvement of Bennington’s educational divisions. Morrison also said that the Council would have helped provide funds when any one of the divisions needed it.

Morrison’s third aim, to develop a closer relationship between the faculty and student body, was based on his opinion that “there is a lot of mystery here... We (the students) don’t know what’s going on.”

The Williams College social scene has been neglected in recent years and is a very good alternative to facing one more Friday night party here at Bennington. Though all the things you have heard about Williams students are true, (they do tend to drink a lot and play an inordinate amount of team sports), anyone who has spent any time at all at Bennington is equipped to handle a few eccentricities. Many things go on at Williams on weekends, besides a number of house-sponsored parties, and there are a couple of cafes that regularly present a variety of live musical entertainments.

Generally there are parties on both Friday and Saturday nights, but if they just won a football game you can expect there will be partying all throughout the week as well. Freshmen and large dorms, which tend to throw extravagant affairs with free hot dogs, whistles and hats, can be avoided. The old name “house” gives excellent parties though; however, Dodd House, the “ole Williams Inn” notoriously has the best. While you are usually requested to give a few dollars at the door, the cover entitles you to an open bar and, if not a live band, a good choice of tapes to dance to. The notice board in the entry way of the Williams library has posted all the pertinent information about the parties well in advance, so if interested check there.

The Rathskellar, located in the basement of Baxter Hall, (the building that looks like a show boat), is a coffee house on Saturday nights. Starting at 9 p.m., students open the house up with their own original music and then banjos and guitars to perhaps sing a ballad, a little blues and maybe even a few sea songs. The entertainment is always free.

The Log, an unobtrusive, quaint New England tavern located at the lower end of Spring Street, is owned by the college and managed by recent graduates. Once you find the little sign hanging from the porch, you must pass the front desk and sign in as a guest of a Williams student. It doesn’t matter who, and it is a formality practiced because of the tavern’s liquor license and its restrictions, but Bennington students are certainly welcome. Inside you will discover college life as you always thought it would be. An open bar which has been captured by some industrious student on faculty day, drapes the mantel, and hanging from the beams above are banners, assorted team pictures, revolutionary drums, mysterious looking bones and other assorted booty collected from the last rival game against Amherst. Imported and Domestic beers are served on tap at the bar; while it is true that only beer is served here, you get it in great two-litered mugs and pitchers and is enough to have a superb game of “drink the goat and bang your neighbors’ knuckles” which everyone plays at “the Log” with abandon. Saturday night at the Log offers excellent jazz music.
The new shopping center in Bennington, scheduled to open in early March, is expected to create nearly 200 jobs for the Bennington community. The bulk of the construction is planned for the upcoming month, as foremen at the site struggle to complete the job before the cold weather sets in.

Shopping center underway

Construction is now underway for a new shopping center at the corner of Northside Drive and Route 67, in Bennington. The center, scheduled to open March 8, will feature more than a half dozen stores, including a K Mart and a J.C. Penny’s.

More than 75 men are working at the site, according to Frank Ruosteja, Assistant Superintendent of Construction for Seppale and Abo, a New Hampshire-based firm contracted to do the building.

“It’s a really good location and I think things will work out really well,” Ruosteja said. “We had a few snags in the beginning, but they were mostly in the organizational phases.”

Other stores to open at the center include a P & C Supermarket, a Fayva Shoe Store, a CVS Drug Store, and a Trustworthy Hardware Store. However, Ruosteja feels that K Mart and Penny’s will be the big draws.

“Overall, the center will create a lot more jobs for area residents, and I think there’s definitely a market for something of this stature,” he added.

Tom Saari, Superintendent of the project, agrees:

“It’s definitely a growing part of the country, and I think this new shopping center will blend right in, and it will create a couple hundred jobs. I don’t think a lot of the local merchants will like it, but that’s normal.”

Groundbreaking for the shopping center, slated for March 8, is not necessarily when the shops will open — some may open prematurely.

“We don’t anticipate any problems,” Saari says. “We won’t be burdened by snow because by the time any snow is on the ground, we’ll have finished the exterior and we’ll be working on the interior.”

Seppale and Abo operates out of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, and has worked in Bennington before, having been contracted to build the Bennington Nursing Home six years ago.

Bennington tops list as most expensive

Bennington is the most expensive school in the country, according to a recent Vanguard survey.

Despite conflicting reports in a number of newspaper and magazine articles around the country, a telephone survey of admissions offices around the country revealed that the following are the nation’s five most expensive schools:

Bennington College heads the list, with a total cost of $8,500, followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a cost of $8,350. Yale University was third with a comprehensive fee of $8,300, then Brown University, at $7,455, and Harvard University, at $7,432.

Tom Fels of the Bennington College Admissions Office associates the college’s high cost with its number of endowments and inflation. According to Fels, because Bennington is a relatively young school, the number of alumni contributors is considerably less than that of larger, older institutions with comparable tuition fees.

The College Entrance

Bennington tops list as most expensive

Bennington is the most expensive school in the country, according to a recent Vanguard survey.

Despite conflicting reports in a number of newspaper and magazine articles around the country, a telephone survey of admissions offices around the country revealed that the following are the nation’s five most expensive schools:

Bennington College heads the list, with a total cost of $8,500, followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a cost of $8,350. Yale University was third with a comprehensive fee of $8,300, then Brown University, at $7,455, and Harvard University, at $7,432.

Tom Fels of the Bennington College Admissions Office associates the college’s high cost with its number of endowments and inflation. According to Fels, because Bennington is a relatively young school, the number of alumni contributors is considerably less than that of larger, older institutions with comparable tuition fees.

The College Entrance
Softball season survives in hot stove league

The Bennington College softball team, in the words of player-coach Shadwell Nuisance (remember Frank Robinson?) simply suffered from "a lack of players from public schools who at least knew their butt from third base."

Nuisance goes on: "I mean, hell, I ain't no marxist or nothin', I can't even spell them words - but softball's a working man's game. Look at how the Villager beat us."

And he poetically summarizes the matter with: "A lacrosse paddle or raquet or whatever them things are called just ain't a Louisville."

Nuisance is haggard – okay, he's not sober. The lines on his face bleed of those years chopping trees and picking potatoes. He must now empathize with Yaz and Zimmer.

"It was the preppies that did it to us. Now, Farley was okay but didn't drink enough. That four year hitch in the Guard ruined Fowler - he ain't no Ted Williams. And Noah Rosen, Cwist, ya'd think he wus fuwm Brooklyn or somethun; but he's classier than Littlefield.

Nuisance paused here to order another turkey and wipe some early tears.

"And Weinbaum, no arms, no stick, no woman, no cry."

But it was a good season. All the old drunks sitting in the dying light of day guarding the keg at every game, talking baseball and always getting off the track, but always getting back to baseball. And then like pigeons on extended wings, they'd crash the North Gate in Ryan's car (cough, cough) and go to the Villager. More drinks, pinball, bowling, more drinks, re crash the North Gate, a couple for the road, and sure enough, to the all night study to do a little bookin'.

Now if this all sounds romantic, it is because it was a thumb twirling the pinkies on the nose, to Benny U. Softball has all the virtues of punk rock, only with more class - it requires more skill and intelligence, and wasn't bogged down with the sin of being New Yorkish. Anybody can be a punk rocker, but how many can tag a softball? Going, going, gone! Softball is... is so wonderfully American. God Bless the flag! Long live Rick Monday!"

In fall season action, the College softball team dropped two games to The Villager.

Hindered by the absence of last years self-appointed captain, John Ryan, who has gone off for greener grass, the team showed an unusual flair for making even the easiest plays look hard. Comments Nuisance:

"I just couldn't believe it was my boys out there. We had some schmuck in centerfield and Clatk was at second, so right there you know we were hurtin'. And then Kenny Fowler missed about seven in a row and we had to ship him off to the outfield, where Littlefield was fighting with Weinbaum the whole damn time."

Between turkeys, Nuisance went on:

"And speaking of Weinbaum, I don't think I've ever seen a worse..."

Records & Tapes at Super Discount Prices

428 MAIN STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

Vermont Country Sports, Inc.
201 South Street
Bennington, Vt.
410-5000
10% Off With Student I.D.

WANTED
- Poetry
- Prose • Art
- Photography
Manuscripts should be turned over to any staff member at Early Harvest, the student literary magazine.

Check Commons For
Weekly Specials

10% Student discount with I.D.
Buy 2 Maxwell tapes, get one free

LAFAYETTE
105 SOUTH STREET, BENNINGTON, VERMONT - 802-447-0652

Welcome back to school!

Over the summer we have introduced Sherwood to go along with J-V-C, Sharp, Hitachi, Rotel and Sony.

10% Student discount with I.D.

BIRD'S INC.
113 South Street Bennington

Auto-Master
Foreign Car Service

We are in the process of relocating and hope to continue serving our college friends. Look for upcoming ads in this paper.

Barnes, Country Outfitters Benefit the Rutland Vermont

DANSKINS FOR DANCING

Donskin's "Free Style" Leotard/Swimsuit knit of shimmery Milliskin nylon and spandex is uniquely designed for multi-purposes: Dance, Gymnastics, Swimming, Exercise. These "Free Style" leotards look great for Casual Wear as well as Evening Wear. Truly exciting leotards made by Donskin - the body people.

Penn Birds Shop, Inc.
North Country Outfitters
Bennington & Rutland Vermont

10% Off - With Student I.D.

Frontier Country Sports, Inc.
113 South Street, Bennington, Vermont - 802-447-0652

Welcome back to school!

Over the summer we have introduced Sherwood to go along with J-V-C, Sharp, Hitachi, Rotel and Sony.

10% Student discount with I.D.

Buy 2 Maxwell tapes, get one free
Undefeated team: teamwork the key

“We’ve just been playing an outstanding game every time we go out there,” says Mark Tratten, captain of the undefeated College soccer team.

“Everyone is working really well together and things just seem to be falling into place,” Tratten adds.

The squad defeated Green Mountain College, 7-2, in its season opener, and followed it up with consecutive shutouts of 7-0 and 2-0, against Marlboro and Simon's Rock, respectively.

The opener saw Tam Stewart and Nat Scrimshaw "playing superbly," according to Tratten, who played for two years on the Franconia College soccer team before coming to Bennington.

"The second game was a team effort in all respects," he said, "but our shutout against Simon's Rock was dominated by Kevin Farley.

Farley scored both goals in the game with low, hard outside shots.

The soccer team was originally funded by Student Services, which donated the money for soccer balls. However, Tratten says that the team will eventually pay the school back.

"At this point, we're self-sufficient by necessity, and only by necessity," Tratten stresses. "We're desperately looking for funding of any kind.

The team paid for its uniforms with the profits from a Friday night party it hosted above Svaha.

We're desperate for funding of any kind.

— Mark Tratten

Girls' tennis still winless; coach hopeful for future

Four returning players highlight this year's girls' tennis team, looking for its first win this Saturday against Hampshire College.

Graciela Garcia-Moliner, Ann Howitt, Connie Humphrey and Dana Hanley have returned and form the nucleus of this year's team, according to coach Dave Finnegan.

"We have a good young team that's going to be really competitive," Finnegan says. "Our two losses came against a really tough Williams College team, and the one game we were rained out of (against Green Mountain) was a sure win for us."

Other players on the team include:

Patricia Ackerman, Beth Barsky, Francesca Brenner, Claire Burkert, Beatrice Dohrn, Megan Kamponann, Katarina Billman and Leah Rosenblatt.

The game this Saturday will be at home. The team plays and practices at the college courts, which have a clay playing surface. However, Finnegan says that this has not created any unusual problems:

"It takes some getting used to, and if it's been raining or it's really damp it's tough to play on, but we like it."

Finnegan goes on: "And since not all of our players are experienced — we do have a few beginners — they're learning the game for the first time on clay, which helps."

Men

We Have It!

• Coordinated Sportswear
• Pendleton
• Shirts and Jeans

Women

Adams Clothes Shop

Downtown Bennington

Vogue and Vanity

351 Main Street Bennington

Girls' tennis still winless; coach hopeful for future

Four returning players highlight this year's girls' tennis team, looking for its first win this Saturday against Hampshire College.

Graciela Garcia-Moliner, Ann Howitt, Connie Humphrey and Dana Hanley have returned and form the nucleus of this year's team, according to coach Dave Finnegan.

"We have a good young team that's going to be really competitive," Finnegan says. "Our two losses came against a really tough Williams College team, and the one game we were rained out of (against Green Mountain) was a sure win for us."

Other players on the team include:

Patricia Ackerman, Beth Barsky, Francesca Brenner, Claire Burkert, Beatrice Dohrn, Megan Kamponann, Katarina Billman and Leah Rosenblatt.

The game this Saturday will be at home. The team plays and practices at the college courts, which have a clay playing surface. However, Finnegan says that this has not created any unusual problems:

"It takes some getting used to, and if it's been raining or it's really damp it's tough to play on, but we like it."

Finnegan goes on: "And since not all of our players are experienced — we do have a few beginners — they're learning the game for the first time on clay, which helps."

Men

We Have It!

• Coordinated Sportswear
• Pendleton
• Shirts and Jeans

Women

Adams Clothes Shop

Downtown Bennington

Vogue and Vanity

351 Main Street Bennington

Estee Lauder weaves a rich new tapestry of GREAT-CASTLE COLORS for Fall '78

Estee Lauder brings you a face for this season with THE GREAT-CASTLE COLORS. A palace-palette taken from the mists of our hooked greens. The grey-cooled shadows of muted roses. The green-and-glow of heaths and heathers. The warm-nape radiance of autumn berries, and a past-and-perts eel presence with this fall's new heathery-soft fashions. There are 26 shades in powders, pencils, sticks, reams. Come visit cast leland at the Estee Lauder counter and see them, try them now.

Vogue and Vanity

351 Main Street Bennington