



SOUTH AFRICA: 'An Explosive Situation'

by Daniel Gwira

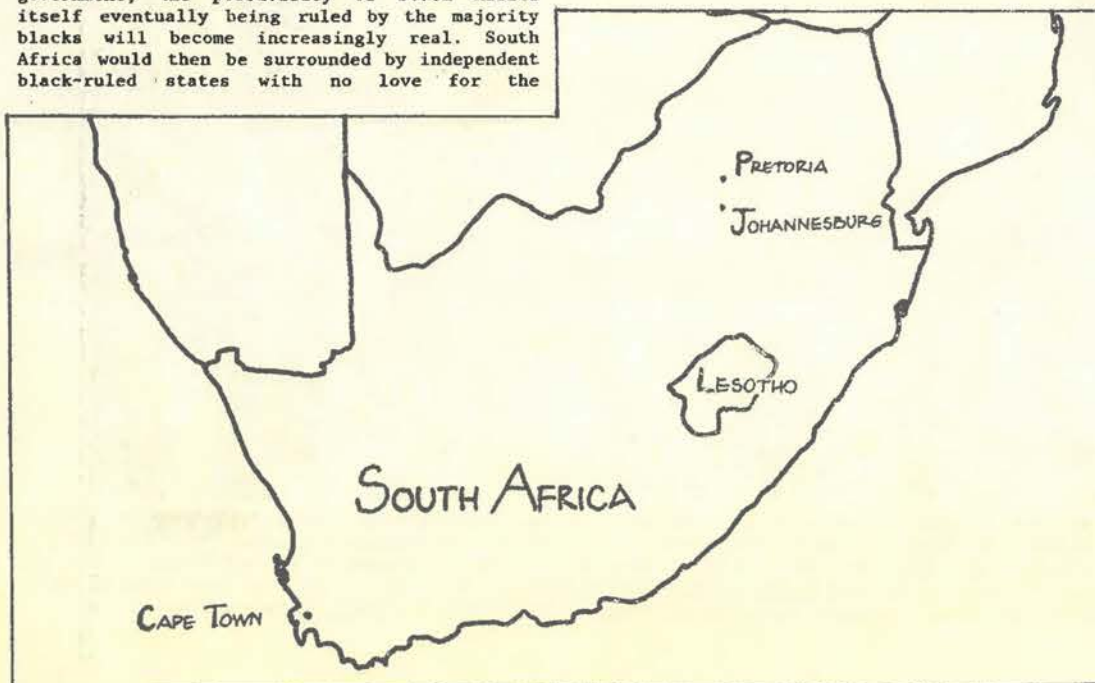
Wrapped up as they are in righteous indignation about American policy in El Salvador, Americans might not like to be reminded that in distant Southern Africa a much more explosive situation is brewing with American encouragement.

Despite periodic announcements from Washington that events in the region are being closely followed with a view to implementing a peace plan for Namibia 'acceptable to both parties,' it is obvious to impartial observers that since the Reagan administration came to office, much ground has been lost. A solution to the Namibian problem must be acceptable to S.W.A.P.O. (South West Africa's People's Organization) and the neighboring black African states without whose support any 'plan' for Namibia is a dead letter from the start. State Department officials admit that South Africa holds the key to Namibian independence by virtue of its illegal military occupation of the country, yet South Africa is being encouraged in its stated policy of intransigence by the fact that the Reagan administration chooses to place the economic, political, and racial problems of the Southern African region on the plane of a greater East-West conflict. In their view S.W.A.P.O. is a Marxist organization, therefore S.W.A.P.O. cannot be permitted to win elections in Namibia. The U. N. in a General Assembly Resolution of 1973, declared that S.W.A.P.O. is the 'sole, legitimate representative of the Namibian people' by reason of the vast support it enjoys among the 700,000 black Namibian population, a fact even South African political analysts recognize. Therefore, the U. N. is biased in favor of S.W.A.P.O. and a U. N. supervised election would give it a propaganda advantage over the 'moderate' white-led D.T.A. (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance) which South Africa claims had widespread support among Namibian blacks. The D.T.A. has about as much support as Bishop Abel Muzerawa had when he was installed by Ian Smith as a 'moderate' prime-minister in former Rhodesia. The reason is that the D.T.A. is wholly funded and largely run from Pretoria.

South Africans see Namibia as a test case. If Namibia 'falls,' that is, winds up in the control of a non-South African-sponsored black government, the possibility of South Africa itself eventually being ruled by the majority blacks will become increasingly real. South Africa would then be surrounded by independent black-ruled states with no love for the

apartheid political system. South African nationalist guerilla activity in South African cities and towns would increase ten-fold. Naturally the South Africans do not want this. They have a stranglehold on the blacks, 'coloreds' and Asians in their country want to keep it that way. The alarming fact is that the American administration does not wish to see power in the hands of the black majority either. South Africa and Namibia are the largest and fourth largest mineral exporters respectively in Africa. They have vast reserves of the 'strategic minerals,' cobalt, manganese, the platinum group, vanadium, chromium, and industrial diamonds, which are indispensable to the continued operation of the great U.S. industrial machine. It is not absolutely certain that a black Namibia would see the imperative need to ensure that American industrial and armament factories continue to work at maximum capacity. With the aid of the Soviet Union all supplies of 'strategic minerals' to the U.S. would be cut off. This is the American thinking and South Africa has done its best to foster it. It is in the South African interest to have an American administration which does not pressure it to implement Security Council Resolution 435 which calls for U. N. supervised elections. Highly placed South African officials privately acknowledge that in free and fair Namibian elections S.W.A.P.O. would sweep the polls, so they ask the U.S., 'Hey, do you guys really want this whole strategic region to be turned into a Communist base? Do you want South West African strategic minerals to fall into the hands of a Marxist organization with headquarters in Moscow?' Of course the U.S., which had been thinking along the very same lines, is seriously alarmed at the possibility so it lets South Africa persuade it that the D.T.A. can be a viable alternative to the S.W.A.P.O. and tacitly acquiesces in the South African policy of bolstering up the D.T.A. internally, whilst stalling in negotiations with the Contact Group (Britain, France, the U.S., and West Germany). Meanwhile the U.S. continues to send out statements that a peaceful solution to the problem will soon be found. However, true feeling in

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FINANCIAL AID CUTS

by Douglas Gerlach

Under the guise of "New Federalism" and "Reaganomics," President Reagan has proposed vast and hard-hitting cuts in Federal student aid programs. These cuts, if implemented, will affect a large portion of the Bennington student population. But most of the students are unaware just how badly the College will be hurt by these reductions in aid if Congress passes Reagan's proposals.

There are four basic aid programs that will be directly affected: The Pell grants (formerly BEOG), SEOG (supplemental grants), CWS (work study), and GSL (student loans). SEOG will be eliminated entirely, a yearly loss of \$278 million in financial aid for truly needy students across the country. Pell grants will be cut by 40%, a loss of \$91.4 million dollars annually. CWS funds will be reduced by 25% (\$44 million). The federal government would hold back millions of dollars of aid to needy students if the cutbacks were implemented.

But what does all of this mean to Bennington students? According to Joan Goodrich in the Financial Aid Office, the impact of any cuts will not be known until May for certain. However, federal allocations to Bennington students will be cut by at least \$135,200 by 1983-84, in grant programs and work study alone (a total loss of over 50% of direct federal aid). Potentially, one-quarter to one-third of those students who receive loans would no longer be eligible. All of these reductions will affect a significant number of Bennington students--according to latest statistics, over 50% of all Bennington students are on financial aid programs.

The College is making efforts to help offset the effects of these cuts throughout the many programs. CWS and regular term employment will be available to most everyone who needs to work, and the College will use its funds to soften the impact of cuts in CWS funds by the government. The College also plans to make loans to students who need but lose federal loans, up to \$2500 at 9% interest. Finally, a ten-month tuition plan will be made available to those who prefer to spread payments over a longer period. Bennington College uses an extraordinarily larger portion of its operating budget for financial aid than do most other private colleges (approximately 25% of Bennington's

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Inside:

*El Salvador Film Commentary**NRT Reviewed**A Poet Speaks**How You Can Help**And more ...*

The 'Collective Objective'

Several weeks ago, a group of interested individuals began meeting in a house living room with an idea of publishing an underground newspaper. A nucleus of ten students evolved, and those people took on various responsibilities to explore and research the many aspects of newspaper publication. Many more meetings in dark living rooms were held, and the central nucleus developed into an Editorial Board with nine members. The decision was made to move the effort above ground, and what had only been an idea, a concept, quickly turned into the reality that you now hold in your hands.

Thus, The Collective was born. Never intending to replace all the other college sanctioned publications (Student News, Job News, College Week, SILO, galleys, etc.), The Collective is designed to bring all these sources of information together in a more developed form, as only a news magazine can. The purposes of this publication basically fall into these categories:

1. Curb student apathy
2. Increase student awareness, illustrate student power
3. Allow outlet for creative expression
4. Improve college/community relations
5. Improve relations between students and faculty/administration
6. Create opportunities for those interested in journalism

These, in essence, define the existence of The Collective. And though critics have called the idea of a newspaper "idealistic" and "unBennington," the Board, and all those who have contributed, have strived to overcome the obstacles and get an issue into print.

The tasks of publication in all its aspects are awesome. The staff has worked hard on editing, reporting, typing, layout, advertising and printing. Most important though, will be the response of the student body. And The Collective welcomes all compliments and criticisms, for student/administrative input is essential to our continued existence. The Board hopes that all persons interested in Bennington College will consider contributing - Join The Collective effort.

- The Board of The Collective

The staff of THE COLLECTIVE would like to thank the following for their help and support during and through the conceptual phases of the newspaper:

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Contributors' names appear with articles. Opinions expressed in The Collective are purely those of the contributor, and do not reflect the views of the Editorial Board, or those of Bennington College, its Board of Trustees, Administration, or Faculty.

The Collective is an independent effort funded solely through advertising revenue, with no direct support from Bennington College. Donations, therefore, are welcomed and appreciated from students, parents, alumni, and all other interested persons. Contact Box 106, Bennington College, Bennington, VT 05201.

El Salvador - Another Vietnam

The film "El Salvador - Another Vietnam" was unquestionably the most masterful piece of propaganda I have seen on any political issue. I do not bestow too much praise upon the film when I say that it is deserving of an Oscar. It is almost impossible to walk away from the film without inwardly screaming about murder, terrorism and other injustices that are so rampant in the tiny Central American nation of less than 5 million people. If that film were more widely distributed throughout our nation, I believe the opposition to U.S. policy toward El Salvador would be more widespread than it is now. The film made men like Jose Napoleon Duarte and General Garcia, President and Commander of the Army of El Salvador, look like parasitic morons who are totally out of touch with realities in their own country; at the same time they insulted our intelligence with their pleas for more support. It did not waste time trying to refute all sorts of accusations from the 'Al Haigs' who say that the revolution in El Salvador started in the Kremlin. Perhaps one of the best and most revealing shots was that of a soldier placing a rifle next to a body of a dead man lying in the street. That action, to me, seemed to symbolize U.S. foreign policy toward the Third World under the present administration. There were many other moments in the film that would appall even the most cynical of people.

What ruined the whole atmosphere was Robert Ostertag, the representative from C.I.S.P.E.S. (Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador). I can only hope that Mr. Ostertag was not representative of the organization to which he belongs, because he certainly does not represent the thought of most Americans, or even of most Bennington students. He was preaching military victory and not a negotiated settlement, not only which is against the pacific viewpoints of many here at Bennington, but also which is impossible. Ostertag said several times that victory was at hand, and soon. That, let me say bluntly, is absolute rubbish. The strength of the guerilla forces is estimated at four to six thousand soldiers - totally inadequate, when you consider that the army, with at least four times the manpower, U.S. backed and well equipped, has failed to maintain control over the 4.8 million people of El Salvador. Well, Mr. Ostertag, you have the right to preach whatever you like in a society which permits freedom of speech, but your solution

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The Arms Race: The Race Without A Winner

Limited nuclear warfare-President Reagan has made fleeting remarks about its possibility in at least one of his speeches. In Cambridge, Mass., February 1980, a series of meetings sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility concluded that the chances of "limited" nuclear war are highly unlikely. The world leaders must be brought to their senses. These inventions of genocide must be dismantled in order to avoid deadly consequences. We must put an end to this seemingly eternal arms race.

The atomic bomb which exploded in Hiroshima, in August 1945, is estimated to have killed 75,000 people, and to have left countless others deformed and crippled. Bombs fifty times more powerful are considered small on the scale of our contemporary weaponry.

At this moment, 50,000 reported nuclear warheads are deployed. Enough warheads are aimed at the United States to level every major city. A war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union would involve a total expenditure of five to ten thousand megatons of nuclear weaponry. One-fifteenth of a megaton was used on Hiroshima. The large scale of the site degradation, injection of particulate aerosols (dust particles of oxides, nitrogen, and radioactive material), and destruction of both the biosphere and its genetic material, creates a geospheric, atmospheric and biospheric recovery time-span that makes the episode in Hiroshima seem relatively negligible.

Our world leaders have not sufficiently realized the consequences of nuclear war, hence they still regard it as a 'viable option' in the conduct of international affairs. Each year they use more and more money to continue the arms-race. On any given day of the year, they spend over one billion dollars to feed the arms-race. Simultaneously, 50,000 to 80,000 people die from hunger or malnutrition.

It is time for humanism to overcome militarism. The people on this earth must bind together for a common goal of avoiding nuclear war. We must insist that the world leaders make effective agreements on ceasing the arms-race, on disarming, and on banning the military as a means of solving international disagreements. It is time for each of us to speak out vehemently against nuclear war, and to do all in our power to expedite its stoppage. There will be a rally in New York City on June 12th, that would be a good start. Or you could write your elected officials. Let's band together and do something NOW!

by Jennifer Hansel



As part of the nationwide furor over American intervention in El Salvador, Bennington College students journeyed to Washington, D.C. to help stage a protest march against the present American policy regarding the tiny Central American country. According to B. J. McNelis, "The march was a cause worth Bennington College participation. Like it or not, it does concern the youth of today...because the youth of today is draft bait." (Photo by Anna Bretell)

Does Anybody Know What's Really Going On?

The Background of the Present Israeli West Bank Crisis, by B. Gordon

Isolated as we are at Bennington College, most of us have probably heard that there are violent clashes taking place in the Israeli occupied West Bank. Few of us know why these particular clashes are going on, or what started them, and only a small number has any knowledge of the historical and present political situation in Israel. But since Israel is such a young country, it shouldn't take long to remedy that by recapping her thirty-three year old history leading up to the reasons for the present crisis.

In 1948, the U. N. passed what is now known as the "Partition Pact," which partitioned British-controlled Palestine into a Jewish half and an Arab half, with Jerusalem, the most disputed point between the Arabs and the Jews. Jerusalem was planned to be the first "International City". Neither the Arabs nor the Jews were happy with the partition. Both regions were without defense and wanted complete control of Jerusalem. The moment the British pulled out of Palestine, a guerrilla war started between the Arabs and the Jews. One day later, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the existence of the State of Israel and several hours after that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon declared war on the new state. This situation is still legally in effect with the nations listed above and all the Arab nations (except Egypt).

In that Israeli war, known as the "War of Independence," Israel expanded on her U. N. designated borders, up to where the present "occupied territories" start. Israel also took all of Jerusalem except the ancient city--the part most sacred to all three major Western religions. Of the Arab Palestine which remained, Jordan took the West Bank of the Jordan River, Egypt took the Gaza Strip and Sinai, and Syria took the Golan Heights. All of

this land was to have been, according to the U. N., the Palestinians' homeland, and those three Arab nations claimed it after the war. They said they were going to manage it temporarily, and eventually when Israel had been pushed into the sea, return it to their "Palestinian brothers." This never occurred, nor were there indications of it being likely to take place.

In 1967 Israel attacked the surrounding Arab nations after they had declared war on her a second time. The war took six days, and Israel took the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Golan. These areas were still populated mostly by Palestinians, but those on the West Bank had Jordanian passports. All the others were completely without a nation.

In an effort to merge the West Bank with the rest of Israel, Israel has imposed military courts and military laws. The West Bank is not nearly as well off as Israel proper in terms of hospitals, schools and general standard of living, but it is better off than many Arab nations. It is also wealthier than it was under Jordanian rule between 1948 and 1967. Nonetheless, the people have no identity as a nation and are restricted in their human rights of free speech and the right to assembly. They are ruled, they perceive, by conquerors. The Western countries pushed them out of their homeland at the pressure of a small number of important Jews. They have been forgotten. Many of them who refused to leave their homes during the War of Independence live in refugee camps.

The treaty with Egypt specified a gradual turn toward Palestinian self-determination and autonomy, and Israel has interpreted that treaty and acted accordingly by slowly pulling out the military and instituting a set of committees voted in office by the local population. The committees' function is to improve the quality of life in the territories. They have no actual governing power, but Israel's stated hope is that they will form the basis for the government of an autonomous West Bank. It is planned that they will eventually have most of the powers of a government, except for the right to have its own military force.

The PLO and many Palestinian Arabs spoke out against the committees, saying that the members were in cahoots with Israel and would eventually be a force working toward annexation of the West Bank. They are, say some Arabs, a poor substitute for what the Palestinians really want: a state of their own.

Two Arab leaders, the mayors of El Biran and Ramallah, declared publicly their solidarity with the PLO. They condemned Israel, who is their employer, for the institution of the committees. Israel then fired them, and has fired six more public officials since.

These firings started demonstrations and tire-burnings, both of which are illegal under military law. Palestinian nationalist slogans, as well as the Palestinian flag or a picture of it, are also illegal. These demonstrations are much more forceful than usual, and involve rock-throwing and reported grenade-throwing. The Arabs are also angry about the closure of their two main universities by the Israeli government because the Israelis believed that there was a great deal of pro-PLO sentiment being engendered there.

Israel is politically divided about how to handle the situation. Menachem Begin, who is no longer in control of the government, has stated on several occasions that he will annex the West Bank. The Labor Party is not for annexation, but both sides agree that a Palestinian state fifty miles from Tel Aviv and surrounding Jerusalem is not an option. As long as the PLO remains an avowed terrorist organization, Israel will not negotiate with it. There is no other representative of the Palestinian people, nor any way for them to choose such a representative.

This writer believes that, as far as military occupations of foreign lands go, this has been one of the most benevolent in history; it is the only military occupation in history in which the "occupees" standard of living has actually increased during the occupation. However, that is as much comfort as saying, "This fifty-five foot saber-toothed dragon doesn't breathe fire." Any denial of human rights, right up to the "luxury" rights of freedom of speech and assembly, is immoral. And any denial of a people to a homeland and self-determination is likewise immoral and abominable, especially for a country which prides itself on its idealism. Before Jews both inside and outside of Israel can maintain their respect in their identities as Jews, this persecution must stop. One would think that the Jews would be the last people on earth to persecute others.

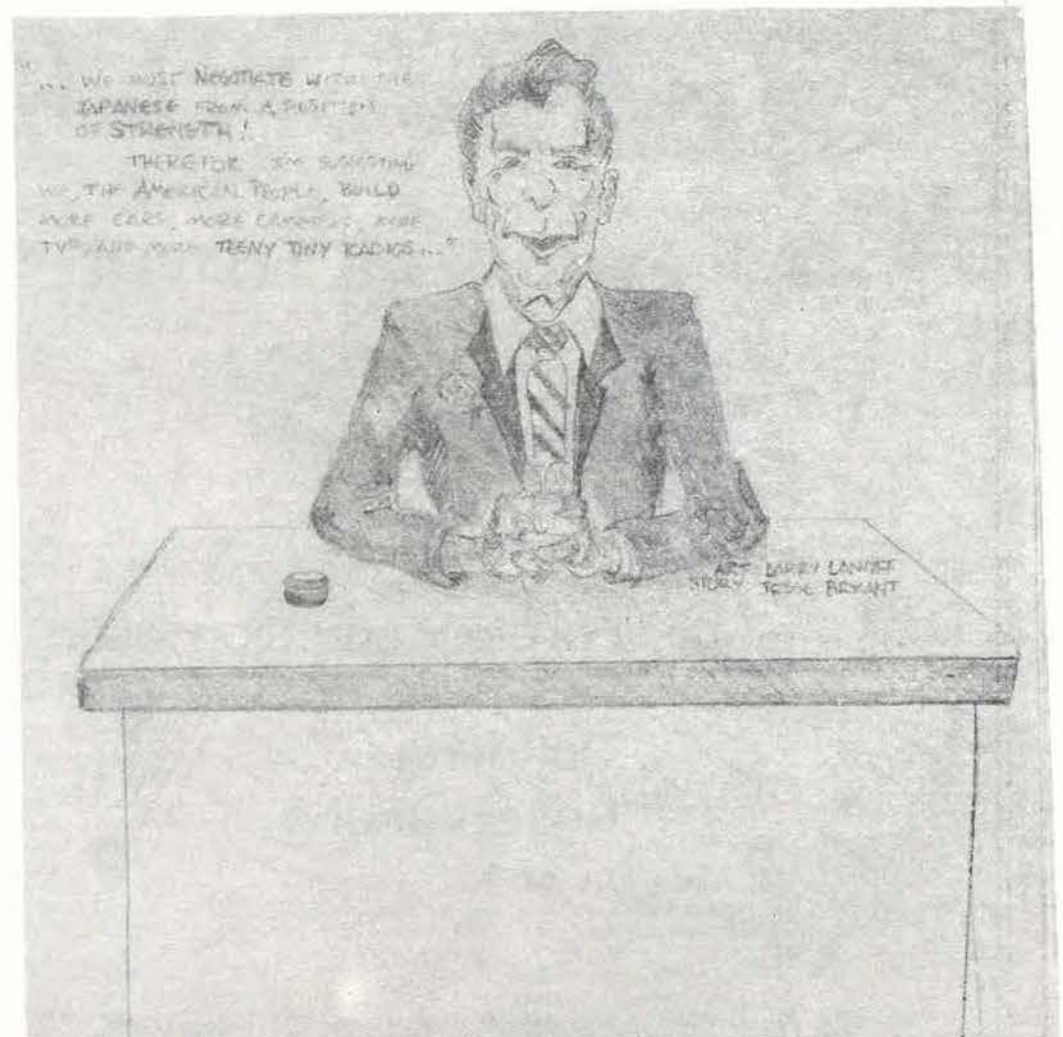
STATE HOUSE PROTEST

Following President Reagan's announcement that he planned massive budget cuts in Federal student aid plans, the national college community voiced a loud and resounding cry of protest. Students are steadfastly opposed to Reagan's proposed changes, and wonder if they will be able to finish their college educations. Fortunately, students have been utilizing many forms of action to let Reagan, Congress, and the nation know exactly where higher education in America will stand (or fall) if Reagan's proposals become realities.

One organized protest brought together hundreds of students from nearly every college in Vermont. In late March, the Vermont State House and Senate Education committees held a joint hearing where student after student told the lawmakers how the cuts would affect their school, as well as how the cuts would affect their own futures. Bennington College was represented at the assembly by a contingency including Larry Lanoff, Jody Marcus, Douglas Gerlach, Lynn Makinen, Dorothy Held, and Financial Aid Officer Joan Goodrich. Marcus and Lanoff offered testimony to the committees, explaining how severely the most expensive college in the country would be affected by cuts in financial aid. "The cuts will absolutely affect us," said Lanoff. "We don't want education to be limited to the elite." Since half of all students here at Bennington depend on some form of financial aid, the College may again become an elite liberal arts school, if the budget cuts are enacted. Lanoff's concluding statement, aimed at the Reagan administration, drew a round of applause from the crowd: "Those who do not feel pain seldom think it is felt."

Protest against the proposals to cut aid has also been organized as letter campaigns to Senators, Representatives, and Reagan himself. As Ronald Iverson, Executive Director of the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, explains, "The U.S. Congress has not yet voted on the President's proposals to reduce student financial programs. Before the President's proposals can become law Congress must pass his proposals. Therefore, whether you agree or disagree with the President's proposals, we urge you to write (your Senators and Representatives) to let them know your views on these proposed

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NRT-Not Really Terrific?

"When placing 600 students in short-term jobs throughout the United States, there are always a few problems." This is quoted from "The Non-Resident Term Procedure" information paper. This, in my own humble opinion, may very well be the understatement of the year. I think that "a few problems per student" would be a bit more accurate.

Do you remember the green cover sheets we had to fill out? The final question on the sheet, "What suggestions do you have for improving NRT?" interested me very much. The following is my response:

"NRT is incredibly expensive. I think it's totally unfair that we pay so much money to attend Bennington, and not one cent of that money is spent on individual NRT's. NRT is one of the best aspects of this school, but only if one can afford it. I happened to be very fortunate this term, but without the money, I would have had to wait tables or sack groceries, etc. to earn a wage. My housing alone cost more money than I earned during the two months. I think it's rather ridiculous to have this program when the school and the NRT office won't lift a single financial finger for our NRT experience. We can't even contact our employers through the school switchboard, and cross-country communication over a pay telephone in a dorm is neither convenient nor cheap! I feel it's not fair the NRT program requires a certain number of hours, rules out certain types of jobs and demands the students to make up hours in order to graduate if their NRT's don't satisfy the standards. Well, if I may be a bit hostile, some of us have to take what we can get, and the present NRT system doesn't seem to comply with that. Granted, I had a successful NRT (because I could afford it)--but what about next NRT, and the next? And what about the people who have worked at a simple wage-earning job because they couldn't afford not to? Is that the kind of stimulating fulfillment that NRT was designed to provide? NRT is a part of this school, it's required for graduation, so why doesn't tuition cover at least some of the expense?

In the booklet, "Bennington College: A Working Experiment," NRT is described as "an essential part of the academic program." It also states that, "The Office of Students and

Student Placement is enormously helpful to students in securing employment for the winter period." In another NRT hand-out entitled, "Bennington Non-Resident Term," NRT is described as "a practical way to accomplish projects without long-term staffing commitments."

Three words in the two previous quotes puzzle me. They are: "enormously," "securing," and "practical." Did you get an enormous amount of help? Did you feel secure with the job you had for the entire term? Do you think that NRT was practical as far as the amount of money involved? Or, do you feel that NRT was "practical" only in the sense of a job?...

The Non-Resident Term Policy in the "NRT Planning Packet" explains what "an essential part of the academic program" means. Rule #1: "A total of four NRT's are required for graduation (transfers and leaves excepted)." Rule #2: "A NRT job includes 9 weeks of work, with a minimum of 30 hours per week. Students may not reduce the weeks of work by substantially increasing the hours worked per week. The NRT is considered a 'total' experience." How about it folks, a "total" experience or a total expense?

In another hand-out entitled, "Facts About Funding" it is pointed out that 6 grants (5 from Xerox and 1 from the Catherine Osgood Foster Grant) are available for NRT. O.K. O.K. They help 1 in 100 students: Woop-de-doo. It wasn't me, was it you? How do you feel? I would love to hear your responses, if you have the time. Whose money is it after all?!

Betsy Trousdale
Box 633

The staff of The Collective wishes to extend their special thanks to Majid Azimi for sharing his office with us.

To our advertisers:

Due to circumstances which were not completely under our control, the publication of our first issue was delayed. We are working to eliminate the problems we have had in bringing you this issue on time. We apologize for any inconvenience our tardiness may have caused you.

NRT- Facts

According to Jean Kristinat, Assistant Director of the Office of Students and Student Placement, there is good news for the future of the NRT program. The Office of Student Placement has announced that they are considering the following changes to the program:

1. A housing coordinator position will be created to devote more time and effort to the NRT housing problem. This position will be filled next fall.
2. Although students might see the number of jobs reduced, the quality of more jobs should increase. In 1976 the Office provided only jobs in selected cities. The first step to improve the program was to increase the number of jobs nation-wide. The problem was that with the increased number of jobs, problems with "quality control" also increased. Ms. Kristinat stated the program is entering "a second stage: to refine the program." The Placement Office will attempt to provide "more clarity in job descriptions and a more realistic picture painted by the employer."
3. Students and faculty will work together more in developing NRTs. Upperclassmen will assist lowerclassmen, and a collective NRT orientation will be provided for all students. The Office is currently studying how well NRT works for Juniors and Seniors as it applies to their majors.

4. Over 150 College Work Study NRT jobs (Paid with 80% federal funds and 20% employer funds) have been eliminated within the last two years. In addition, the internal guidelines for the work-study jobs have changed so that the funds may only be used during the resident terms and not during NRT. To compensate for this loss, the Office will increase efforts to obtain grants from corporations and foundations.

When asked how students could improve their NRTs, Ms. Kristinat shared the following observations:

"The students with the most successful NRTs were those who were sure of what they wanted and took incentive to get it. If you are told to type labels and file, do it. But be curious about what is going on around you. What happens in the office down the hall? Something you'd like to do? Tell your employer. Make your own experience meaningful.

"If you can't find a job through the NRT Office, make your own opportunities. If you want to do something, go to the place you'd like to work and ask them to hire you. Don't wait for the employer to find you. Take a chance: Students who take the initiative have the best results."

by Pati Hull

The Benningway

I am one of the 23 people of the class of '82 who have been at Bennington four continuous years. What I have seen is Bennington in a "constant state of flux": change occurs when people are ready for it. Some would say Bennington is changing for the worse, while others, including myself who say it's changing for the better, shout "It's about time!"

I'm talking about the change in attitude of Bennington students. This year a yearbook and newspaper have been established, and I have the feeling that this paper will not be an evanescent attempt. These changes are not to indicate that the next in line for Bennington College are sororities and school rings, nor should they be. Over a decade ago when Bennington went co-ed, students tried to start a newspaper and yearbook. Everyone said, "Yeah, yeah, let's do it." But it was never done. It has now been done! There are still students who will sit around listlessly with that "who cares-let-someone-else-do-it attitude," but a large number of people are now accepting the idea that conformity is not necessarily "unbenningway." I can't pinpoint the impetus of this change of heart, but if Bennington has entered into a state of normalcy, it has done so in a style appropriate to Bennington.

We have all met students who turn their noses and say "it's not Bennington." Well, what is the "Benningway?" This veteran says, "To do things that are unusual, different and unexpected is the Benningway." A newspaper and a yearbook are unexpected, and with our student community, how could they not be unusual?

A salute to the Benningway!
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Sue Fineman



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'YOKO THANKS 31 NATIONS'

I was sitting on Commons Lawn, soaking up the sun, reading the Banner, and wondering how the world could be in such a state of fury, destruction, and human suffering. Argentina and Britain are heading towards war. Four young American military personnel died and some eighty others were injured during a multi-billion dollar peace time parachute jump at Fort Irwin in California, while twenty-five million people remained malnourished in the U.S. alone. And there I sat reading the words but feeling no emotion. How could the suffering of millions of people not even cause me to shed a tear, while the news of my cat's death left me crying for two days?

"Meaning arises from relationship."

On page two, near the bottom in a small black box, a heading caught my eye: YOKO THANKS 31 NATIONS FOR AIDING MEMORIAL PARK--N.Y. (AP) - Yoko Ono Lennon says the response of thirty-one nations to help create an 'island of love' in Central Park in memory of her husband has been overwhelming.

So I thought to myself, "Damn it, the only time people are moved is when something tragic directly affects them." I thought about John Lennon and how much his life affected people all over the world; so did his death. Although he wasn't a relative to the majority of the people he touched, there still was a common bond, a blood relationship, with a man who gave love, music, and ultimately, his life to the world.

"Meaning arises from relationship." With sudden insight, I realized that the only way I could begin to bring about world peace, and end human suffering, is by being conscious of every one of the four billion other living, breathing, loving and experiencing Human beings, as though we share the same blood. I thought about that for quite awhile. Then quietly, I continued reading the article:

"The correspondents all indicated 'a serious universal desire of our time for world unity,' Ono also added 'It made me realize that under-neath it all, we are one, as we share the sky and planet.'"

I let out a sigh.....

by Larry Lanoff

BENNINGTON CLASSIFIEDS

Information on solar energy workshops at Post Office bulletin board. More on these and other seminars, Mary Kraus, Box 381.

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Community Notices

Watch the Spring Migration. Learn your local avifauna. Saturdays at 8:30AM and Wednesdays at 8:00AM, Laura and Waud Kracke will lead birdwalks around the campus. The walks will start from in front of the Commons, and will continue through the migration season. For more information, call ext. 362. Everyone is welcome to join.

Sabbath Services Jewish students are welcome at Sabbath Services which will be held Friday, May 7 and Friday June 4 at 8:00PM at Temple Beth El. The Temple is located at the corner of North Street and Adams Street. Any student who would like to speak with the student Rabbi, call Monday through Friday, area code (212) 674-5300 and ask for Marjorie Yudkin.

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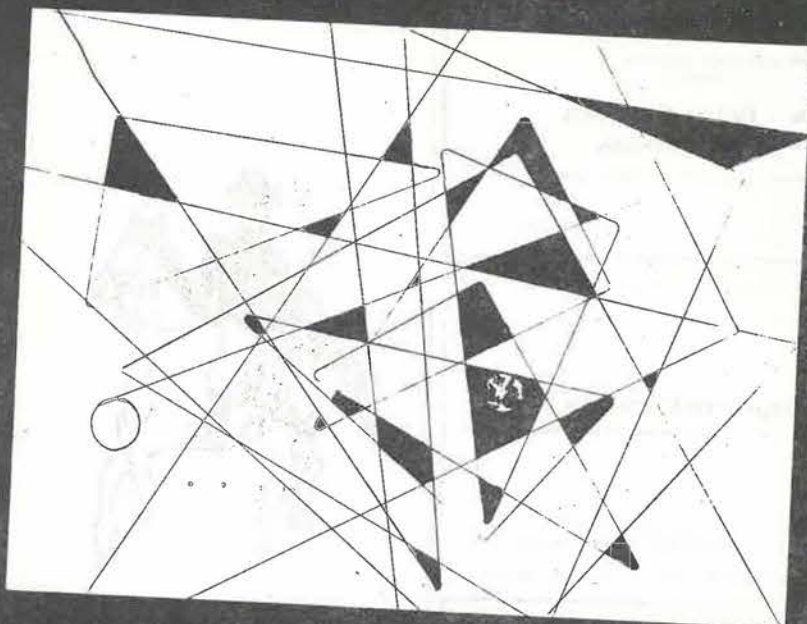
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by Larry Lanoff

SPECIAL for BENNINGTON COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Protest Continued from page 3
cuts in student financial aid. You may also wish to write or telephone President Reagan." Letter campaigns can be effective if citizens simply take the time to express their views to their elected representatives.

The impact of these financial aid cuts, if implemented, could only be detrimental to this vital industry called "Education." It is important that students are aware of what may occur--a possible 50% reduction in federal financial aid for Vermont students. But perhaps the message that best sums up the sentiments of most students is found on a bumper sticker: "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

by Douglas Gerlach

(Ed. note: Students may write President Reagan at this address:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-7639

The addresses of Congressmen may be found in the Library.)



Coming in the next issue of *The Collective*: An exclusive interview with President-to-be Michael K. Hooker. Find out what an ex-Harvard, ex-Johns Hopkins philosophy professor has in store for Bennington College. (Photo by Leonard L. Greif, Jr.)



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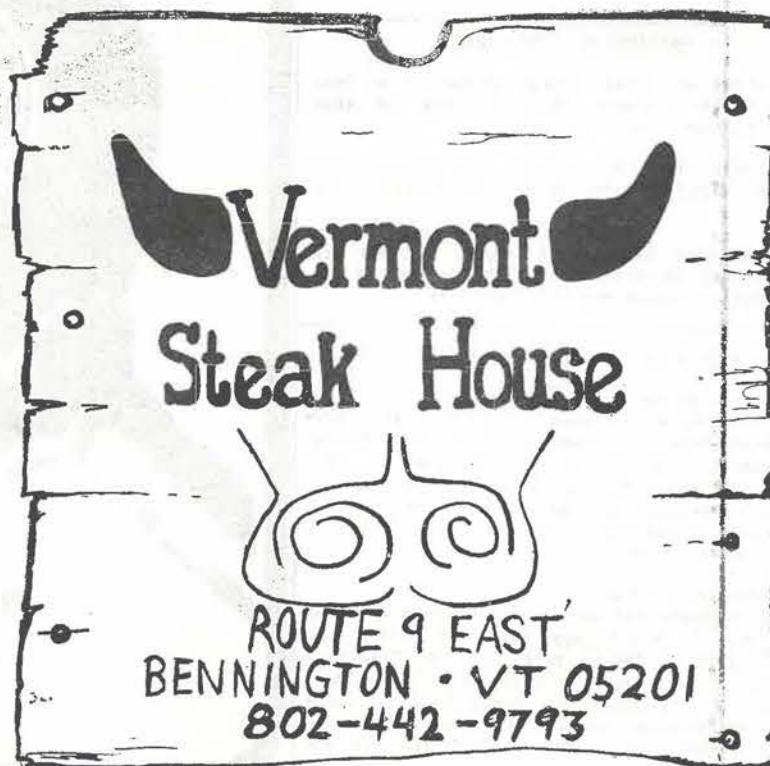
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South Africa

Continued from page 7

the administration can be gauged by observing the way U.S. votes are cast in the U.N. On August 31st of last year, the U. S. vetoed a Security Council Resolution condemning South Africa's raid into Southern Angola.

The premise that a socialist government in Namibia would necessarily cut off mineral supplies to the U.S. is a false one. 'Marxist' governments in Zimbabwe and Angola have shown pragmatism in their economic relations with Western countries and continue to solicit U.S. and European investment to their countries. They can do no less because it is from the West that the best industrial and agricultural technology can be obtained. The S.W.A.P.O. leadership has stressed again and again that once in power, it will maintain as non-aligned a position as is possible. It seems to be pro-Soviet now, because the Soviets and the East Europeans have been the only ones prepared to give them arms in their 14-year armed struggle against the South African army. When Robert Mugabe came to power in Zimbabwe there was widespread alarm and despondency in the West because he was considered a Marxist who would be certain to increase Soviet influence in Southern Africa. This early view has now been considerably modified and he is now seen as a political pragmatist who realizes that he cannot develop his country without Western technological aid and investment. The same thing is true of Angola. Cuban troops were invited in after the South African invasion of 1975, which attempted to topple the "Marxist" government and install a pro-South African puppet regime. Despite this, and despite the pariah-like status Angola enjoys in U.S. government circles, it is still trying to attract U.S. investment. U.S. oil companies are exporting Angolan oil to the U.S. (Angolan petroleum exports to the U.S. came to \$347m in 1979). S.W.A.P.O. has stressed that an independent Namibia under its leadership would need U.S. investment. Of course, it would put an end to the exploitation of Namibian minerals under the present system whereby U.S. South African, and European firms are permitted to repatriate all profits to their home countries. This can only be expected since the welfare of the Namibian people must come first.

S.W.A.P.O.'s patience is not inexhaustible. It's most recent call for a negotiated settlement came on March 20th of this year. This shows that it is prepared to compromise and that there is still time for discussion. But if South Africa persists in its intransigent stance with U.S. connivance, the moderate element in S.W.A.P.O., by current leader Sam Nujoma, is going to lose credibility within S.W.A.P.O. The advocates of 'total war' will then get their chance, and it will become increasingly possible that a future black government will be unrelentingly hostile to Western opinions and interests, the very thing the U.S. says it does not want.

Volunteering: A Worthwhile Experience

by Zorica Ball

Victor Cherbuliez once said, "Half the joy of life is in the little things taken on the run. Let us run if we must-even the sands do that-but let us keep our hearts young and our eyes open that nothing worth our while shall escape us." Being a volunteer is probably one of the most satisfying and worthwhile experiences one could have. Many Bennington College students have already become involved in the various volunteer positions available; they feel fulfilled as a result of their endeavors.

The United Counseling Service has several openings which would be both stimulating and interesting for students. Their Day Programs operate from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. every day. During this time the clients are taught daily living skills, vocational skills and personal hygiene in addition to participating in recreational, educational and social activities. The Residential Programs operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The residents not only learn basic supervision, but also are involved in cooking, cleaning, laundering and community activities. The Director of Alternative Care Services, James P. Henry, Jr., believes that students can be helpful if they can devote any extra time to these programs.

The Senior Citizen's Day Care Center of Bennington is looking for innovative volunteers to create and demonstrate special recreational projects, like arts and crafts for senior citizens. The Old Age homes are also looking for music and dance performers to entertain their residents. Similarly, area nursing homes would like people who are interested in exhibiting their art or visual work.

Another program that has been extremely successful at the College is the Big Brother/Big Sister program. This is a nationwide program which seeks to establish and maintain one-to-one relationships between young people aged 5-17 and warm, responsive adults. The volunteers and young people are matched on the basis of shared interests, age and other relevant personality factors. Big Brothers and Sisters share a few hours a week with their counterparts establishing and strengthening their relationships. Both the students and the young people find it rewarding reaching out to others and agree that the more time that is put into a relationship, the more satisfaction one gets out of a relationship.

Transportation is available through the College, so why not do something worthwhile with your time? Get involved. We need your help. More detailed information on volunteer work can be obtained from Laura Fraser, Box 254, Ext. 355.

Financial Aid

Continued from page 1.

tuition income goes directly toward aiding students), so it will be more difficult for Bennington to make up the loss in federal aid.

John Nissen and Joan Goodrich remain cautiously optimistic, however, and offered this statement: "Bennington is maintaining its commitment to aid students, and the College is doing its best to make up the gap left by federal cutbacks. We don't want students to panic, but with financial aid cuts so drastic, the students will have to carry more of the burden." It is hoped that the burden left by Reagan's decision to cut federal student aid will not be too much for students to bear.

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So, how did we know, not
to eat an orange rind?

How did we know, to make
a definite statement?
What-----? A fact.

When we dance, that's like
seeing the mind go abstract.

We are too shy, to communicate.

Did you know, laughing is like
a grotesque mask? OH! But I love it.

It, I love it. Ah! Can you guess?
Hey! What's it?

Too bad we cannot always laugh.

So, why do we skate on thin ice?

Lora Whelan

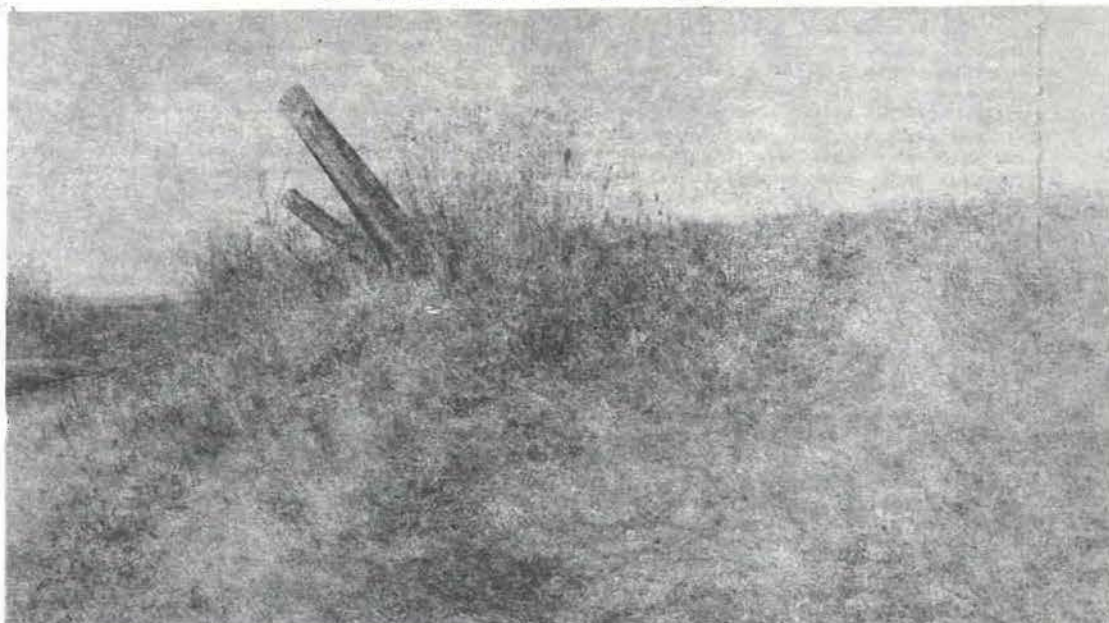
The Illusion And The Flame

(An English Sonnet)

Burning a path through the thickest of night,
Then hiding 'neath ash, existing but gone;
your smoldering gave such heated delight
Yet left me alone to brave the cruel dawn.
Laughingly licking, you act out a play,
With deadliest daggers sharpened to thrill;
While I sit nearby, an unwitting prey,
Most unaware as you close for the kill.
O but to know the powers of passion
That swim in the whim of your timeless game;
Never be fooled by warmth of false fashion,
I'd touch not the hearth that harbors your flame.
A question as old as the first human fire:
A question of heat, of love, of desire.

-Fergus Reid

CREATIVITY



Maurice Ferre

(An excerpt from a short story)

by
J. Monture-Knecht

NEUTRALITY

What price, rebellion? Take heed, for only three things can happen when you beat your head against a brick wall-- Your head will become exceedingly sore, the wall will become exceedingly bloody, and someone will walk by without noticing, which may be the most important reason for head beating at all. The passersby, who somehow remind me of shellfish, flog you with laughable phonolities. "How's it going?" and "Have a nice day." The correct response should be, "Can't you see I've just broken my head!", (used in the former case) or, "Just as soon as I've cleaned my brains from your wall, I'll surely have a nice day." These answers seem honest when caught in the act of headbeating, not guaranteed to wipe away the pain or the conformity, but then who cares? Is rebellion the direct cause of, or the result of, beating one's head against a wall? (I prefer cinderblock, you may prefer plain cemented brick.) I rather feel rebellion and headbeating are incestuous partners (Sort of like brother and sister up to no damned good at all).

But to continue onwards (or backwards it often appears). I have beat my head against a wall since I was a child. I am appalled over what other people choose to remember about my childhood, when it was my childhood and my head beating. My happiness is the core of this issue, for, you see, everyone I know of who remembers me as a child imagines that I was a very happy baby. That could not be further from the truth. I was a very neutral baby--I just happened to smile a lot, which may be a contraindication of brick wall (playpen floor?) head beating. As I grew older I became a very neutral child, then a neutral adolescent, then a neutral young man, and now, finally, a neutral adult. Happiness never enters into the ol' picture.

No one walks around happy, as if happiness were something solid one could sink his ragged teeth into. We are all very neutral creatures, yet my family thinks (by this revelation) that I am a God-damned ingrate for not being happy after having had such a happy childhood. Perhaps if they were correct I could pour heaping quantities of black-hearted guilt down my conscience's coal chute, but I can't. And trying to convince them of that is like (here we go again) beating your head against a brick wall. So please, just because you see a smiling baby, or a smiling anything, don't assume that it is a happy creature. Put your head in theirs and beat it awhile, then see if the smile is genuine or the result of a self-lobotomizing recreation.

Some explanations are in order. Things were never the same after the job. It was in a bank. My Aunt, Eugennia Feckler, helped me get it. Mother was delighted. Father was proud. "Lawrence," he said, beaming, "You'll be a credit to the family." (I was 18, skinny, wore a borrowed suit) I was fired after my first week, but I don't think you need the details, and I remember mother saying, "But Lawrence, you were so happy there! How could you let this happen?"

"Oh God," Mother wailed. "But you'd never be happy!"

"Then I'll join the army. Go to Korea."

"I didn't raise my baby to be a soldier!" (Mom again.)

"Tell me...what do you want me to be?"

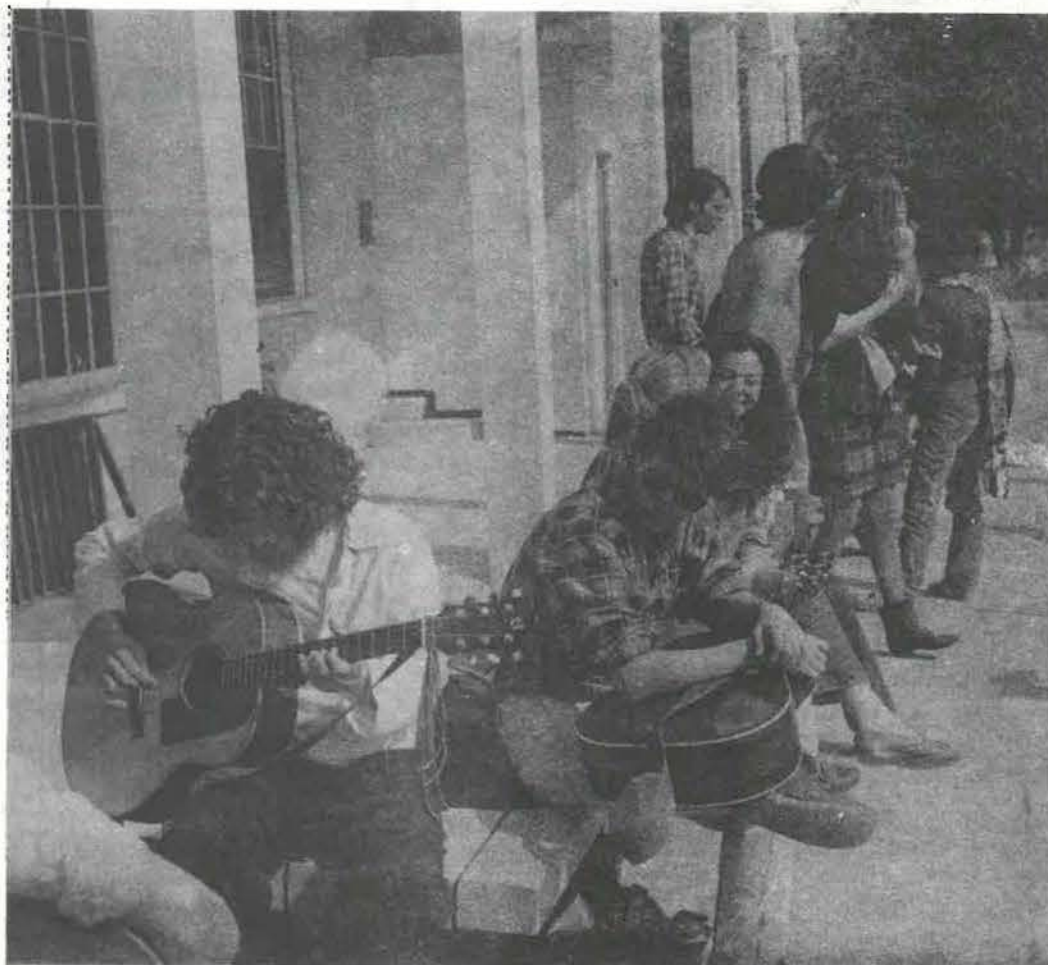
"A surgeon," Father said.

"A real estate developer," Mother said.

"A Hollywood producer," Aunt Eugennia said. (She'd snuck in the kitchen door.)

"Alright," I said, and I put on the smile face I keep stored in my sock drawer. But I scared myself, late that same night. I wandered the long and tall halls and rooms of the ancestral palace. I ended up in a bathroom, somewhere on the twentieth floor, it felt, and stood staring at my own reflection. I looked happy. Used both hands, I removed my smile face and threw it down the toilet, a gift for the fishes in the down-for-the-third-time River. (Incidentally, I still to this day won't go fishing in that River because I just know I'll catch a fish wearing my happy face!) Then, at three in the morning, I crept away to Arnold's place, my friends shack on the river, where I

Continued on page 10



Putter Leach

' The Spirit Side ' Meditation Methods

Every day we are confronted with questions we feel we cannot answer. For centuries entire cultures have known that meditation is an excellent means for finding these answers. Meditation enables us to reach beyond our conscious level of awareness (our everyday functioning apparatus) into our subconscious level of awareness (our more enlightened selves). With consistent practice, meditation can help to bring about a more balanced, peaceful, and confident self. It can assist us in the task of living day by day.

There are two methods I have come across in my studies. Some people will prefer one to the other, others will enjoy both, and still others will find neither satisfactory. These are only two out of many possible methods. Before starting either method, I like to say the 'I am.'

I am
I am thee
And thee are me
We are one
For we are
We are at one - ment
Of the I am
That we are.

By reciting this, I bring the consciousness into tune with the "God force" or the "All that is."

First Method: American Indian Method

To use this method of meditation, you must visualize your kitchen, living room, or any other room in which you spend a lot of time. Visualize the whole room, and everything within. Soon a friend will speak to you. He or she will give you the answer to a question that has been troubling you. The friend may be someone who is living or someone who is in "Spirit soul world."

The way the meditation works is by activating the female (right) side of the brain. The female side is your imagery, and your subconscious. It is normally very still, and quite subtle. You bring it forth to answer the question.

Second Method: Tibetan Method

Before starting this meditation still yourself. Slow rhythmic breathing is a good method. Then say or think: "Whatever it is that disturbs me - what it is that gives me difficulty - whatever it is I am seeking - When I arrive at zero, and I merge the two cerebral parts (Male conscious, and Female unconscious) the answer shall appear in the center, in the circle. The outer rim shall disappear, and the answer shall be there in front of me. This I am." Then visualize two circles. These circles represent the two sides of the brain. Count down '555 - 444 - 333 - 222 - 111 and finally, 000.' Let the two circles merge. The answer will appear in the center of the merged circles. The outer perimeter of the circle will vanish, and as it does, the answer will become clear.

by David Havsky

PLEASE REPLY The Collective welcomes responses to all articles. Submit responses, preferably typed double spaced, to Box 106.

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nopeonpe, I lopovope yopou. Hopavope a woponopdoperopopulop loonogop wopeekopenopdop. Bope gopoodop, boputop hopavope a "EmopitopDopogop!" Ropiunopitope.

To a cutie, thanks and good luck. D and M.

PIGFACE, YOU'VE GOT THE LOOK I WANT TO KNOW BETTER AND BETTER. LOVE, LOVE, LOVE GUESS WHO.

To My dedicated cast: Callee, Jon, Douglas, Andrea, Carol, Andrew and Claire - the photograph is developing beautifully. Good Luck, and thank you - RITA.

Piece-a and Lynn, my head is full of springtime and my heart is full of you. Love and Kisses, Val.

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Lisa, I love you. Even though I'm far away, you're still near. Lis I love you H.D.B.

TO MY SECRET ADMIRER; YOU GOTTA STOP DRAWING MAZES IN PHILOSOPHY BECAUSE THE NIGHT IS FULL OF ORANGES - RAUL.

Sarah Collard is a victim of her own provocative beauty. Anne Coggin is a victim of Sarah Collard's provocative beauty.

Things ain't too bad I'm alright I'm feelin' crisp keen and outasight I'm sittin down under a tree feelin alright












Your hair is cute. I'm not cutting mine, but you're still my sweetie. Let's share pink snow champagne again soon!

For two lonely, jelly bean freaks who want to go to Disneyworld. Smile, have a great day and whip it!

AMY, THINGS ARE ROUGH WITHOUT YOU, HOW DARE YOU GET SICK! PLEASE COME BACK SOON TO THOSE WHO LOVE YOU.

Amy we miss you badly, come HOME soon, there's too much work and I need your support. Things are sweet, Love you, I.

MR. HAIRDRESSER, SOMETHING KEEPS YOU DRIFTING MILES AND MILES AWAY SEARCHING FOR SONGS TO PLAY...MITA STIMABO - Rebels

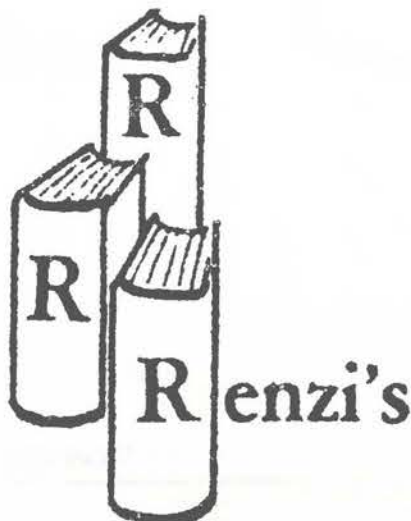
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|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Hi Kids! What a fine Spring day it is.</p>  | <p>Well, look-ee here! The remains of a Friday night partier.</p>  | <p>That makes Mr. Smiley Un-Smiley</p>  | <p>Come on now, Kids! Time is too valuable to throwaway on such foolishness. Just look at Sliza here.</p>  | <p>I Feel So Cheap.</p>  |
| <p>Instead of partying all night, why not go to the library's All Night Study Room?</p>  | <p>Yeah, why not?</p>  | <p>Next to your mother, your mind is your best friend so use it, don't abuse it! Remember: A healthy mind is a happy mind.</p>  | <p>Want to study with me, Mr. Smiley? I've got a good head.</p>  | |
| <p>And after studying hard one's mind and body feel very fit.</p>  | | <p>Yes, Sliza. After studying hard one's body feels very fit to do whatever is necessary. So, while Sliza and I go to the All Night Study Room, why don't you think about what we've said and then, in a couple of hours, come up and join us. We'll be waiting for your minds and bodies.</p>  | | |

Something Old- Something New

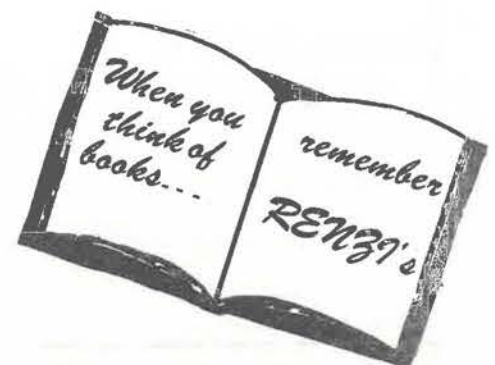
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El Salvador
Continued from page 2

NEUTRALITY
Continued from page 8

will cost the lives of several thousand more peasants. Not that the Reagan policy is any less suicidal. It states that by sending all sorts of useless aid to the incompetent and brutal army, all the chaos in El Salvador will clear up. I have read the political platform of the Revolutionary Democratic Party and found, to my surprise, that it offers almost no differences with the old feudal order. Only the land rulers and the catch phrases will change. The common people, as usual, will get nothing more than what is needed to keep them alive and in favor of the government. Nobody, with the possible exception of the party people, will get any land that they could call their own by the nationalization of the economy. There is also a section of the platform which provides for the outlaw of organizations that exercise "slander against the people" (freedom of speech). The whole platform is simply more of the old bankrupt Lenin doctrine. Therefore, I believe that the FDR and all the Robert Ostertags will betray the guerillas and all the people who have lost friends and family - simply because they want justice. So, what solution do I have for all the present horrors? I have none. Whatever happens, the future looks bleak for the people of El Salvador, and there is nothing we can do.

by Andy Hirsch

Ed. note: The writer has a copy of the FDR party platform for anyone interested in reading the statement.

The Collective welcomes responses-typed, double spaced, Box 106.

spent several months, extremely happy, being neutral. And much to my delight, I discovered that my family spent the time beating their heads against a marble wall...

It was easy. I hated it there.

But there was a certain numbing gravity to being fired from the bank, and I beat my head over it for several days. Then one morning I awoke to discover a little neutrality perched upon my pillow like a gnome, and I seized the opportunity to let the bruises on my head heal. Father hadn't spoken to me in days, and Mother worried about what the neighbors were thinking. My aunt was ready to torch my funeral pyre. It was the closest I ever came to feeling hated, although my family professed undying parental love, and assured me that all they wanted was for me to be happy, "Whatever you wish to do with your life is fine with us as long as you're happy."

That word again. Happy. I had no intention of being happy as a duty to my family. I only wanted to be neutral again. "It's time, Son, to think seriously about what you're going to do with yourself, your life." Father said.

I want to be a lighthouse keeper, I decided, "Off the coast of Nova Scotia. Alone."



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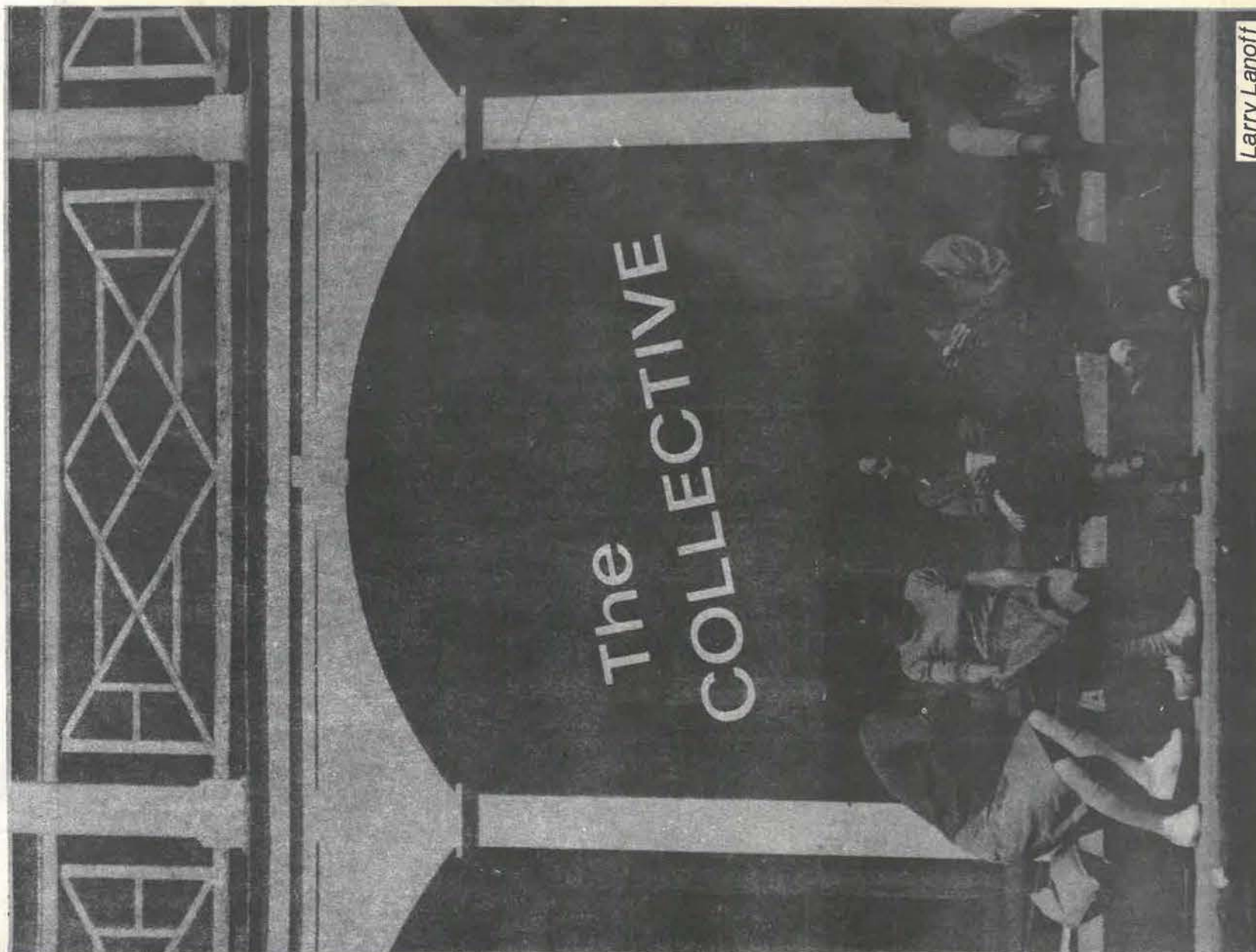
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THE

COLLECTIVE

Volume 1, Number 1

The Collective

Page 1

Correction:

The Collective apologizes for the misprint of Joel Monture-Knecht's excerpt from a short story entitled Neutrality. The correct version is printed below.

NEUTRALITY

(An excerpt from a short story)

by

J. Monture-Knecht

What price, rebellion? Take heed, for only three things can happen when you beat your head against a brick wall-- Your head will become exceedingly sore, the wall will become exceedingly bloody, and someone will walk by without noticing, which may be the most important reason for head beating at all. The passersby, who somehow remind me of shellfish, flog you with laughable phonologies. "How's it going?" and "Have a nice day." The correct response should be, "Can't you see I've just broken my head!", (used in the former case) or, "Just as soon as I've cleaned my brains from your wall, I'll surely have a nice day." These answers seem honest when caught in the act of headbeating, not guaranteed to wipe away the pain or the conformity, but then who cares? Is rebellion the direct cause of, or the result of, beating one's head against a wall? (I prefer cinderblock, you may prefer plain cemented brick.) I rather feel rebellion and headbeating are incestuous partners (Sort of like brother and sister up to no damned good at all).

But to continue onwards (or backwards it often appears). I have beat my head against a wall since I was a child. I am appalled over what other people choose to remember about my childhood, when it was my childhood and my head beating. My happiness is the core of this issue, for, you see, everyone I know of who

remembers me as a child imagines that I was a very happy baby. That could not be further from the truth. I was a very neutral baby--I just happened to smile a lot, which may be a contraindication of brick wall (playpen floor?) head beating. As I grew older I became a very neutral child, then a neutral adolescent, then a neutral young man, and now, finally, a neutral adult. Happiness never enters into the old picture.

No one walks around happy, as if happiness were something solid one could sink his ragged teeth into. We are all very neutral creatures, yet my family thinks (by this revelation) that I am a God-damned ingrate for not being happy after having had such a happy childhood. Perhaps if they were correct I could pour heaping quantities of black-hearted guilt down my conscience's coal chute, but I can't. And trying to convince them of that is like (here we go again) beating your head against a brick wall. So please, just because you see a smiling baby, or a smiling anything, don't assume that it is a happy creature. Put your head in theirs and beat it awhile, then see if the smile is genuine or the result of a self-lobotomizing recreation.

Some explanations are in order. Things were never the same after the job. It was in a bank. My Aunt, Eugennia Feckler, helped me get it. Mother was delighted. Father was proud. "Lawrence," he said, beaming, "You'll be a credit to the family." (I was 18, skinny, wore a borrowed suit) I was fired after my first week, but I don't think you need the details, and I remember mother saying, "But Lawrence, you were so happy there! How could you let this happen?"

It was easy. I hated it there.

But there was a certain numbing gravity to being fired from the bank, and I beat my head over it for several days. Then one morning I awoke to discover a little neutrality perched upon my pillow like a gnome, and I seized the opportunity to let the bruises on my head heal. Father hadn't spoken to me in days, and Mother worried about what the neighbors were thinking. My aunt was ready to torch my funeral pyre. It was the closest I ever came to feeling hated,

although my family professed undying parental love, and assured me that all they wanted was for me to be happy, "Whatever you wish to do with your life is fine with us as long as you're happy."

That word again. Happy. I had no intention of being happy as a duty to my family. I only wanted to be neutral again. "It's time, Son, to think seriously about what you're going to do with yourself, your life." Father said.

I want to be a lighthouse keeper, I decided, "Off the coast of Nova Scotia. Alone."

"Oh God," Mother wailed. "But you'd never be happy!"

"Then I'll join the army. Go to Korea."

"I didn't raise my baby to be a soldier!"

(Mom again.)

"Tell me...what do you want me to be?"

"A surgeon," Father said.

"A real estate developer," Mother said.

"A Hollywood producer," Aunt Eugennia said. (She'd snuck in the kitchen door.)

"Alright," I said, and I put on the smile face I keep stored in my sock drawer. But I scared myself, late that same night. I wandered the long and tall halls and rooms of the ancestral palace. I ended up in a bathroom, somewhere on the twentieth floor, it felt, and stood staring at my own reflection. I looked happy. Used both hands, I removed my smile face and threw it down the toilet, a gift for the fishes in the down-for-the-third-time River. (Incidentally, I still to this day won't go fishing in that River because I just know I'll catch a fish wearing my happy face!) Then, at three in the morning, I crept away to Arnold's place, my friends shack on the river, where I spent several months, extremely happy, being neutral. And much to my delight, I discovered that my family spent the time beating their heads against a marble wall...

