

I find myself a little out of place in this large educational and artistic complex. As some of you may know, I'm just a displaced, or perhaps a misplaced, <sup>pretending to</sup> lawyer <sup>this</sup> acting as President of ~~the~~ college, until it can find a real President. What some of you may not know is that I attended Yale Law School, in the Class of 1941 and that one of my classmates there was the husband of our distinguished guest, Mrs. Ford. Even in law school, Gerry Ford was known for the extraordinary attractiveness of the dates he brought to the Yale campus each week-end. Having now met Mrs. Ford, I can simply confirm that his good taste in this respect has lasted for all these years.

Because my job seems to require that I be around the campus almost all the time, I would like to attest, from experience, the intensity with which this new Arts Center is already being used by the College. Although this Performing Arts section <sup>of the building</sup> is quite new, I know that the Visual Arts Building has been used this term, literally, around the clock. I had first thought of the Building as principally a daytime facility, but find that it is actually being used on a 24 hour basis. No one seems to go to bed at Bennington -- ever! One night I left a concert in this Workshop at 11:00, and found, as I walked back through the Visual Arts Building, students welding sculptures, a tutorial on video-tape in process, Pat Adams critiquing some paintings for

<sup>other</sup>  
a student show, students working on ceramics and in the photo

darkroom, sculptures being placed on display, a trio of flute, basson and cello playing casually in the Newman Court, and a modern dance rehearsal in process in one of the smaller dance studios. In tribute to this intense use, I'm happy (or perhaps unhappy) to say that we've discovered that we underbudgeted the electrical bill for the Arts Center by some <sup>30</sup>~~\$50~~,000 per year.

Of course, we could not have these spendid facilities without the generous gifts which have been made to us by so many of Bennington's loyal supporters. I would like to pay our respects to several of them:

First, I would like to honor the memory of Lester Martin, whose family gave us the magnificent three story exhibit hall which stands at the entrance to the Visual Arts Building. This gift was made in Mr. Martin's name by his daughters, Jane Martin Ginsberg '56 and Alana Martin Frumkes '68. (Ask to STAND)

I now turn to my old friend, Jerry Newman, a former Trustee, who has given us the entrance court to these three theaters in this Performing Arts portion of the building. In addition to serving as an entrance court, it has been designed as a space of remarkable acoustical quality for small and informal concerts.

Jerry is both a Bennington father and grandfather and I'm particularly pleased to honor the donor of the Jerome A. Newman Court (Ask to STAND).

My colleague on the Board of Trustees, Barbara Deane, a former Art major, and her husband, Maurice, have given us an Art Reading Room which you will see on your tours through the Visual Arts Building. We are grateful both to Bobby and Maurice for their generosity. (STAND)

One of the facilities in this building which is a little hard to find is the Photography area. I was here for three months before I discovered that, on the lower level of the Visual Arts Building, there is a beautifully equipped darkroom and a photography studio where work is displayed and analyzed. The darkroom was donated by another good friend of mine, Carolyn Crossett Rowland, whose family gave us the Crossett Library about 20 years ago. I'm sorry she's not here with us. The photography studio was given us by Lois Landau Mazer and Richard Mazer, whom I'd like to ask to stand up. Lois is an active Alumna who has served on the Trustee Development Committee.

Let me mention one more facility which you will find on the second floor of the Visual Arts Building, just off the Galleria. That is the Frances R. Dewing Seminar room, given in memory of a long time teacher who taught mathematics at Bennington during World War II. A principal donor of this seminar room is Mrs. Dewing's daughter, RUTH EWING a Bennington graduate. (PLEASE STAND)

I might mention that, believe it or not, there are still quite a few corners of this huge complex that do not yet bear anyone's name. We financed a lot of this building with a bond issue which we haven't quite paid off. If you would like to help us out, and at the same time, immortalize your family or yourself, please see me after this ceremony.

Now I'd like to introduce JOHN BOHNE, President of the  
STUDENT COUNCIL ---