

## Galley

The most recent series of galleys, dealing with the iniquities of Bennington's "controversial" Drama Department, once again typifies the extent to which it seems that our own resident Antonioni has his students mesmerized. The criticism of E.G. struck us as perhaps the most valid galley-communication in quite a long time.

It was not necessary for the criticism to emanate from the drama department itself, for it seems that none of that seemingly over-cohesive group has the courage to display his inescapable innermost convictions at the risk of his status, and we use the term ever so loosely, in his own dept.

It is fruitless to compare the use of a faculty member in his or her "professional" capacity from department to department. If an orchestral ensemble in our community is to benefit itself or its audience, it must perforce utilise the talents of faculty musicians, if only because a student-comprised orchestra would be but sparsely populated without these others. Each senior music major has an opportunity to solo in a senior concert. Each art student has the possibility of a senior showing of her works, even if during her four years the faculty exhibits more often than she. Each dance major must choreograph some work to be presented at a Selection Day, whether or not she chooses to be performer in it; furthermore she will have performed in several concerts during her four-year stay.

In the drama department, however, despite its much-touted "ensemble" philosophy, there is indeed the possibility, and for many students the probability, that a student desiring actor-training may go through her four years without ever experiencing the specific practical performance-situation of a role with any more than a few lines delivered. (and much to our distaste, a surfeit of floor-writhings and neo-deSartian gesticulations)

We are acquainted with educational theatre facilities that simultaneously house a semi-professional repertory company. The students in these situations cannot help a healthy displeasure with the limitations they include, but they are also involved in frequent and valuable studio productions and are given equal opportunity in the "main-stage" selection of roles. The plays produced are carefully chosen to give the students both an opportunity to act in moderately demanding roles alongside these professionals, and to understand the demands of a theatre that recognizes continuing talent and achievement without descending to the "star system."