

CLARION

INTEGRITY, OPPORTUNITY ACHIEVEMENT

VOLUME 6. NUMBER 10. CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL March 26, 1970

THE PIRATES ARE HERE!

Almost every afternoon, a group of anywhere from 20 to more than 40 of CVU's musically talented(?) students, under the direction of three of our more talented faculty members, invade the stage, to fill the empty corners of the autitorium with their venditions of such musical masterpieces as, "Pour, Oh Pour the Pirate Sherry" and "When the Foeman Bares his Steel". The cause of all this, of course, is the impending performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, The Pirates of Penzance.

As Mrs. Moore conducts the music, Miss Minotti sees to the dramatic perfection, and Miss Fraser takes care of the scenery and costumes, the members of the all-star cast have little to do but to perform, raising their voices in song as the plot (such

Two of the Pirates -- Rick Giroux and Sue Van Dreser.

Courtesy of Tom Tompkins '73

The only known remaining copy of *The Clarion*. This issue's front page features the spring production of *The Pirates of Penzance.*

The Fine Print: A History of CVU's Printed Newspaper

Grace Warrington
Editor-in-chief

This is the first of two installments about the history of school newspapers at CVU. The second installment will be published in the next issue. The following article concerns the paper through its existence as The Clarion, *which ran from 1964-1972, and the* Cow Valley Press, *which ran from 1972-1978/9.* The Hawks' Nest *merely follows in the steps of many like minds before ours.*

The Hawks' Nest spoke with **Tom Tompkins '73**, a Shelburne resident and former CVU student. Though he himself did not work on the paper, he had a treasure trove of old documents and information about how the paper was printed and plenty of insights about high school life back in the early '70s. He is the source of many of the photographs on these pages, and is also the holder of the only known surviving copy of *The Clarion*. CVU was founded in fall of 1964, and the paper began sometime in the early years of the school. Around this time the school was much smaller– "about a thousand students" when Mr. Tompkins attended.

The first iteration of the paper was called *The Clarion*. As Mr. Tompkins says, "You can see there were the two colors. They ran it through twice, got the blue, and normally it was just black and white, of course, just

Continued on page 3

The Fine Print: A History of CVU's Printed Newspaper

Continued from page 1

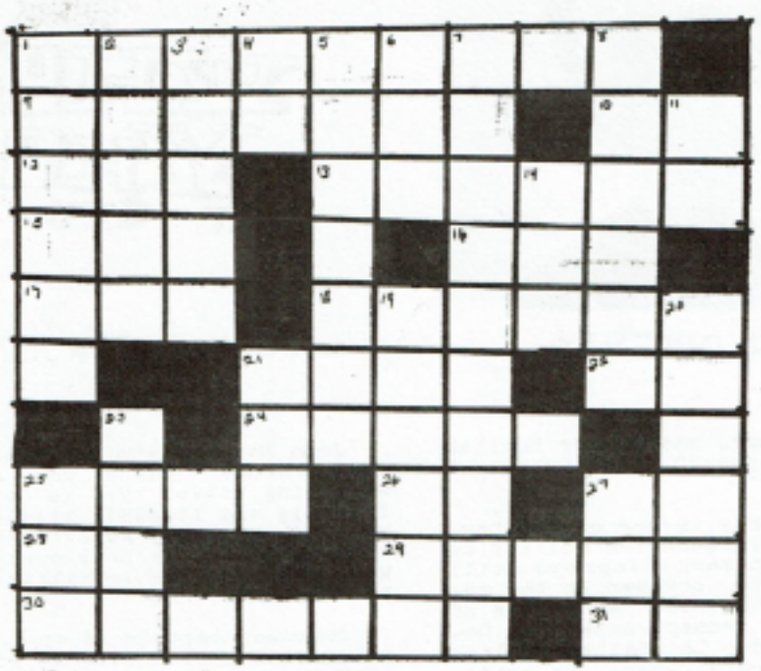
like yours." Further editions of the paper in the mid-seventies would also include orange.

By the time Mr. Tompkins graduated in 1973, the newspaper was called the *Cow Valley Press*. He relayed to us the origin of the rather odd name: "They used to call CVU Cow Valley, because back then there were a lot more farms around. You could probably see the cows out the windows, in fact." **Ed Vizvarie '75**, another CVU alumnus, says of the moniker that it was "[a] self-deprecating kind of thing—poking fun at ourselves." Mr. Vizvarie was a writer for the paper from the start of the *Cow Valley Press* and was part of the journalism class that ran the paper. By 1976, they had

Continued on page 4

Answers page 8

CARBUNCLE'S CROSSWORD CORNER
a creation of Carbuncle, Inc.
Phineas T. Carbuncle, Prop.



ACROSS

1. The team that beat our illustrious faculty.
9. Wood shop teacher.
10. So as to form.
12. Promise.
13. An almost nonexistent extra-curricular past time.
15. The taxman, abbrev.
16. A piece of material on the floor.
17. New York, abbrev.
18. A book one reads as a first grader.
21. First name and initial of a girl basketball star.
22. In music, a syllable representing the second tone of the diatonic scale.
24. When you have a subscription to a magazine, you receive every _____.
25. Reluctantly willing.
26. In music, a syllable formerly used in solmization, now replaced by do.
27. In astronomy, universal time.
28. Hello, colloloquilism.
29. What the seniors can hardly wait to do.
30. The art room is full of them.
31. Medicinae Doctor.

DOWN

1. The biggest thing the seniors have going for them.
2. Creamy white.
3. Rows of fixed benches with a back.
4. Abbreviation of thermme of a school we play soccer with.
5. In a Greek legend, a King of Thebes who killed his father and married his mother.
6. Boston Subway System.
7. Assign or asscribe.
8. What the Chorus has (singular).
11. Abbreviation for no good.
14. A suffix used in forming Modern Latin names for chemical elements.
19. The answer.
20. The tuxedos the boys get for the prom are _____.
21. Breaking of a religious or moral law.
23. The Champlain Valley Exposition.
25. (Abbrev.) An active club at CVU.
27. University of Vermont.

Crossword courtesy of Tom Tompkins

Crossword appearing on page 4 of the 3-26-1970 issue of CVU's *The Clarion*. Hint for solving: There is a white square that should have been designated as a black square.

The Fine Print: A History of CVU's Printed Newspaper

Continued from page 3

shortened the name to *Valley Press*.

For most of the existence of the newspaper at CVU, it was done through a school-run journalism class. It is only as of 2024 that the paper is run separately through a club. Though running it through a class has many advantages, this made for some rather odd issues in the early years.

As Mr. Vizvarie said: "Instead of doing one the first semester and one the second semester, we had competing classes… [W]e alternated papers … here it'll say 'Staff: Cow Valley Press One' and then the next edition has 'Cow Valley Press Two' so it was a completely different staff on alternating papers." The printing press was run on the school grounds, but the aluminum plates that they would run the ink on were shipped out to the *Burlington Free Press*.

Dan Stowe '72 worked on printing the paper during his tenure here and, by this time, it was called the *Cow Valley Press*. He shared some insights in how the printing was achieved.

"I also did all the printing for the school," Mr. Stowe wrote in an email to *The Hawks' Nest*. "The school had a Multilith 111 Offset printer that was housed in the back room of the administration offices. In 1971, the school purchased a new AB Dick 150 Offset printer. This machine was a lot better and faster. The new press was moved down the hall by the Teachers' Lounge and a window was put into the lounge so faculty could just give me their work needs directly."

Mr. Tompkins also kindly shared the contact of one of his classmates who had worked as an editor on the paper in the '70s, **Linda Miller '71 (neé Stowe)**—the sister of Dan Stowe. She worked as a member of editorial staff of the paper during her time at CVU, and continued on in journalism for some time afterward.

Mrs. Miller talked with *The Hawks' Nest* about some of her memories of her time at CVU and on the editorial board. "I was an editor for two years in high school, and in my life since, I have done newsletters throughout my career and in my personal life as well. It is funny – it became my "thing" but was never anything I thought to do. The summer following my junior year I also worked at the *Burlington Free Press* as a typesetter (with my mother) which helped me become a very fast typist, and cultivated a love of journalism and writing, which was what I went to college for but finished in something different, but journalism is still my first love."

Mr. Stowe said of his time working on *The Clarion*: "I started there as a freshman in the fall of 1968. My sister Linda started a year ahead of me in 1967. … At the time I started, the paper was run by Suzy Giroux as the Editor, and Mrs. Mayo and Mr. Doherty were the advisors. Linda was involved as a reporter at first and later became Editor. She also did Layout and typing."

"During my freshman year, Linda had encouraged me to take part in *The Clarion*, and I learned to print. At the time, [two] upperclassmen guys, **Roger Brotz '70** and **Ed Cormier '70** were printing and teaching me. They both graduated in the spring of 1970." A photograph of both individuals is shown on page 5 of this issue, previously published in the 1969 CVU yearbook.

"I continued to print until I graduated in 1972." Mr. Stowe continued, saying, "I taught my brother David to print during the spring of 1972 and he carried on printing the paper *[Ed– by this time the paper would have changed its name from* The Clarion *to the* Cow Valley Press*]*. He also continued to

Continued on page 5



Courtesy of: Tom Tompkins
Tom Tompkins '73 (middle) depicted in *The Clarion* in an article about the 1970 *Pirates of Penzance* production.

The Fine Print: A History of CVU's Printed Newspaper

Continued from page 4

print after he graduated and still works at Lane Press in South Burlington."

Like many of the workers on the school newspaper, it seems, journalism experience in their formative years led to further opportunities through school and later on.

Mr. Stowe shares that "I went to college in Idaho after high school. I arrived a little more than two weeks ahead of the start of school. At first I was quite home sick, I started exploring around the campus and suddenly I smelled printing ink. I went into the building and found the college press. I told the receptionist I had printed in high school, and I ended up with a job printing there."

Mr. Vizvarie also gave us some valuable insight into life at CVU at the very beginning of its formation. Before CVU existed, each town had its own (very tiny) high school, making it very inefficient. The new combined high school, however, was not nearly big enough for the number of students it held. Further additions to the building over the coming decades, though, finally allowed it to come into its own.

Mrs. Miller became the Senior Editor in 1970 before her graduation in 1971. She shared some of her early memories of the school itself, allowing us to see what our school was like in the early years of its existence.



Courtesy of Tom Tompkins
Head printers **Roger Brotz '70** (left) and **Ed Cormier '70** are shown in action.



Courtesy of Tom Tompkins
Editors of *The Clarion* staff from the 1969 CVU yearbook. The Editor-in-chief was Suzy Giroux, depicted in this photograph fifth from the left.

Mrs. Miller shared: "I was a freshman at CVU the first year that the seniors had been freshmen, so the school – and the concept of union high schools – was still quite new. My high school years were a great period of change for the country and world. Civil rights, Vietnam War, riots, assassinations, hippies, all kinds of things."

The newspapers of CVU in the early years allowed the students to voice their opinions on the many new changes in the world. Movements such as the Civil Rights Movement and Women's Rights Movement, along with any number of domestic issues that passed through CVU's halls all were subject to be covered by our newspaper.

Mrs. Miller shares that, from its inception, "CVU was very progressive and active in coming up with new ideas – ISDA, SOPE, effort/ability index grades, and 45-15. 45-15 was year-round-school which the school board approved and was going to be implemented (the first time we as 18-year-olds could vote) and it was rejected later by the voters (including us). I covered that (the advisor indicated my *Clarion* story on that was not totally objective)." Ideas that may seem unbelievable to us now but were hot topics back then were also covered, perhaps with some contention.

Mrs. Miller says that, "Girls began being allowed to wear pants to school during my CVU years (not jeans but very nice pant suits, mostly, and many of us did not wear them because it didn't seem appropriate yet)." Mrs. Miller added, "I treasure my experiences at CVU, although I didn't appreciate them enough at the time."

With great thanks to Linda Miller '71, Dan Stowe '72, Tom Tompkins '73, and Ed Vizvarie '75. Thank you for sharing your memories with us.



Courtesy of Tom Tompkins
Opinion page from a 1970 copy of *The Clarion*.