Three curricula synthesized

By Brent Hubley '82

At an environmental studies meeting Nov. 6, geography Assistant Professor Robert Churchill stated the tentative structure of an environmental studies program which synthesizes the curricula of the environmental and northern studies programs and the geography department.

An Environmental Studies Advisory Committee recommended the new program. Implementation is now contingent on Educational Council and in curriculum committee approval, followed by faculty vote.

According to Dean of Sciences and Environmental Studies Advisory Committee Chairman Russell Lang, once the program is approved, there will be a two-year transition period while the core courses are set up. "There will be some overlap with the present programs for a year or two, but we'll try to make things as easy as possible for the students," he indicated.

He said the goal of the new program is to alleviate competition between the various programs. "We are trying to give students a stronger background in one subject. The present system is too flexible. The director of the program will have a vested interest in its success, and this will make it much stronger," he added.

The program will have a core course/main track structure. Five core courses will be offered, dealing with such areas as geographical perspective, ecology, vision of nature, resources, and techniques of environmental analysis.

After completing several core courses, students will choose one of three areas to specialize in: ecology, geography or northern studies.

Howard Woodin, professor of biology, will coordinate the ecology segment; geography professor John Spengler, one of whom will serve as director of the entire program, will manage the geography track, and professor in the Center for Northern Studies in Wolfeboro, N.H., will teach the area of study in Wolfeboro as well as Newfoundholland, Canada.

In addition, Churchill said the program will not require a concussive (minor) requirement, which the Advisory Committee has approved.

Perry Haines, assistant professor of geography and a committee member, commented on the new program. "So much of its success depends upon faculty and administrative support." Several committee members offered their views on the program. John M. Cooper, professor of mathematics, saw many advantages to the core course/main track system over the self-enrollment system of a core coursework, "en privé de corps," that the present system doesn't afford. The senior seminar will also provide for students to synthesize the knowledge they have gained in the various courses they have taken, he asserted.

John Eder, assistant professor of English, said that these courses provide the best mixture of breadth and depth that the committee could formulate. "We are trying to provide all of the courses the College to make this work. The success of an extended major program like the Asian and American Studies, show that this approach can work," he reasoned.

He said he sees a bright future for the program. "I think there is a strong base in the program for the future," he said.

D.K. Smith, professor of economics, commented, "I was disappointed to see the enrollment decline, but I guess that the economics minor will serve a similar purpose. I hope that economics is a substantial part of the study."
Environmental studies: round two

We support the Environmental Studies Advisory Committee's proposal for an academic program combining the environmental and northern studies programs, along with the geography department.

When College administrators deleted the geography major last spring as a curricular offering, we were wondering if a suitable replacement would be found. This symptom appears to have ended.

First, there is still a traditional emphasis on a major area of specialization, through the concepts of tracks: ecology, geography or northern studies. The new curriculum also requires core courses, which are considered integral to environmental studies. Finally, the major is required to concentrate or minor in one of several areas as specified by the Advisory Committee.

We believe this conglomeration of natural and social sciences provides a unique opportunity in the general area of environmental studies. In the hope that the College can effectively organize all the faculty resources, we urge members of the Curriculum committee, the Educational Council and the faculty, at their monthly meetings, to approve the program.

We will not be shocked through the consolidation of the three programs. We are willing to accept changes.

Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast. - W. Congreve, 1667

"Hey, crank some tunes. Do it up! What a solo, this guy is amazing. Let's get this going." - Joe College, 1960

Congreve's conception of musical charms seems sadly limited today. It's won't be long that the recorded record more or less concedes live rock and avant-garde jazz. Today, music can do a lot more than soothe the savage breast. - It can do pretty much anything to the savage breast. Intrigued by music's mood-wrangling capacities, we sought to return to the situation at Middlebury College in some detail.

My plan was to wander through dorms and observe what I could. This would provide me with a way into life and human interaction.

Accompanied by a pad of paper, I entered into a large and lucrative occupancy suite. The Grateful Dead were recording their way through a room in their usual surrounding way. Two fellow seniors in the air. Finally, I could not take the quiet. "Hey, let's listen to some Dixie."

A cacophony of harmony.

Further down the hall there was more music. I figured drunkensongs and drunkenness to be the habit of the inhabitant of this room. The music was so loud, I actioned on me and the roommates were focused on the room well. Bruce Springsteen uncovered of cords and visions. The cunningly dropped bookbag told me all I needed to know — this was a psyche song: the essential in the emotional transition period between life and the Allis.

The Joe College 1960 previously quoted gons referred to a purely song.

Through the screaming I heard funk. Bassad funk. Rusty and the space-bass funk. I leaped by the door, checking what go been down inside. Four people stood together, moving and grooving. Three of the four fingered invisible guns playing with surprising competence.

I moved on. The lounge was being rocked by the sound of the 8:30. I knew what to expect — the "let yourself go" of things. Sure enough, 40 people stood up and down crazily as if the wrath of an epidemic possessed.

I had enlivened the locale. It was time to mingle more freely ground. I chatted an apparent woman's floor. Mellow music. The first door ajar confounded my thoughts. James Taylor was making an entire sound system somewhat sweet for a couple who held hands and gazed.lng at each other, thinking to themselves "If you do not understand my silence, you will not understand my words."

However, Capital had not bled all. Female torch singer commented with several gongs to a man who played a tune about unrequited love. "Tell me if it is Janis Jani" they yelled.

Peter Campbell

Music explored

Picsus. Touch blinded me as I stumbled from the hall.

Uphane, the female counterpart of the psyche supreme. Three girls danced and sung happily to the Picante-Flute Band while Qualifying Late beat.

She re-appeared again, so much a male force. I heard something I had been expecting — vaity jazz. There were in the room, and the owner of the stereo was playing particularly carefully selections, and pointing out particularly tasty leads for his audience's enjoyment. "Some really fine stuff," I heard him say as he scratched his shaggy head. "What's a time slot on KMC?"

I groaned equally.

Although it was a Friday night, I did find someone enjoying classical music. The strings were making quite some noise and the art; the listener was making equally profound statements about life and manners.

I needed another image. One more image to round out the observations. One more image to avoid the wrath of the newspaper layout editor. A monstrous multi-paragraph piece provided: avant-garde fad for the jazz. Specifically, the bongo rhythm of Berenice's Ninth Symphony.

I had realized that I was trapped back to my room, envying at the variety of emotions and moods of a student body.

So, there was no "Bagpipe" I stared, shaving a string-smaller dot on the turntable.