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Bonding on ice: Palestinian Marcus Kotto (left) and Israeli Gili Schwarzman take a break during their first-ever day of skiing at Stowe on Feb. 5. (Photo: Peter Huoppi)

An Israeli drove for the hoop, a Palestinian deftly blocked his shot, and the basketball bounced out of bounds. Smiles and high-fives all around. Switch sides, toss the ball in and try again. Politics should be simple as a game of one-on-one.

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quirky tour of the numeric scope of this enterprise called UVM.

Going for the Green

Progress and development exact a price, and the color of the bill is green. During the past 20 years, there's been a dramatic loss of green space in Burlington neighborhoods.

INTERview: Lyn

Jarvis Lyn Jarvis looked up at the camera last week during a live *Across the Fence* segment and told viewers he was retiring from the show after 27 years and some 7,000 broadcasts.

THE WEEK IN VIEW

Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m. Exhibition: Team Vermont vs. Team Middle East. UVMers take on visiting Israeli and Palestinian coaches. Patrick Gym.

Feb. 7, 12 p.m. Film: *Slaying the Dragon*, exposes the stereotyping of Asian women in the U.S. 104 Allen House. Register for seating: 656-7990.

Feb. 9, 8 p.m. Concert: Tracie Morris offers "visionary African-American poetry and music." Flynn Center.

Feb. 11, 3:30 p.m. Lecture: "Rebuilding Brownfields: A Latino Community in Holyoke, Mass.," Luis Saez, Nuestras Raices/Our Roots. Kalkin 001. Information: 656-0176.

Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. Lecture: "Disappearing Burlington Lawns: Students, Cars, and Land Use Change," Paul Bierman, Geology. Memorial Lounge, Waterman. Information: 656-4389.

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Seasoning veteran: Senior Rebecca Aborn has cooked at the weekly Food Salvage dinner since her first year at UVM. (Photo: Andy Duback)

Student Food Program offers 'Extra Hand'

Tater Tots in the oven, pasta on the stove, and the work of a dozen UVM student volunteers heats up the small kitchen of Burlington's King Street Youth Center.

Outside, a hallway fills with those who have come for the weekly Food Salvage Program dinner. Created ten years ago by UVM students and staffed ever since by their successors at the university, Food Salvage is the lone charitable meal served in Burlington on Sunday nights.

Dinner's on in twenty minutes and the line in the hall is fifty-some and counting, but there's no panic in the kitchen. Everything is on schedule and under control – thanks in large part to program coordinator Rebecca Aborn. The senior psychology major from Scarsdale, N.Y., lugs 20-pound bags of bread, pours a legion of milk glasses, asks a friend to grease the pan for the Tater Tots, and fields questions from the whereabouts of the ladle to the ever-popular, "Do these noodles seem done to you?"

If Aborn handles work and leadership with ease, it is because, at age twenty-one, she is an old hand here. She's volunteered with Food Salvage since her first year at the university. Last December, that commitment earned her the Vermont Student Citizen Award, a new honor recognizing outstanding volunteerism. Sponsored by The Vermont Teddy Bear Company, the award brought \$1,000 to UVM, \$1,000 to the Food Salvage Program, and \$1,000 (not to mention a cap-and-gown clad Vermont Teddy Bear) to Aborn.

Senate Speaks Out on Search, Student Advising

Drawing a distinction between process and results, Faculty Senate President Michael Gurdon praised the efforts of the committee charged with searching for a new president, but expressed concerns about the speed with which the search was completed.

"Was there enough time to be properly reflective?" Gurdon asked during his opening remarks at the Feb. 5 senate meeting.

Gurdon noted that he and other faculty leaders met with President-designate Fogel for an hour during his campus visit. Fogel subsequently called Gurdon and expressed his eagerness to work with the senate. Gurdon said that he believes that a "successful Presidency" is contingent on close cooperation with a "strong and successful" Faculty Senate.

In other business, the senate:

- Eulogized Donald Eugene Moser, the long-time mathematics chair who died last November.
- Presented Feb. 2002 degrees.
- Heard from Interim President Ed Colodny, who updated the faculty on the status of the state appropriation request. UVM's appropriation for the 2003 fiscal year is currently two percent above the pre-recession funding level, making higher education one of the few budget priorities not cut or level-funded. Colodny said he was pleased by this, but pointed out that, "We're still a target." Colodny also covered efforts to boost annual fund giving and plans to create an alternative to "4:20," the annual drug-legalization protest.
- Discussed the role of academic advising responsibilities in tenure and promotion hearings. David Dummit, professor of mathematics and statistics, told the audience to "relax" – despite concerns raised by recent reassertion of undergraduate advising as a factor in review, promotion and tenure assessments, advising has always been a part of those reviews. The goal now, he said, is to provide faculty advisors with more resources and tools to do their jobs, and come up with fair ways to assess their advising performance so that they "get credit where credit is due."

The next senate meeting is Mar. 6 at 3:30 in Memorial Lounge.

The Food Salvage vet offers some gentle guidance to the volunteer team as they make final preparations to serve the meal. Aborn notes that at the end of the dinner, extras will be wrapped and clients will be encouraged to take them. "Be careful not to say, do you want to take some *home* with you, because you'll likely get the response "What home? I don't have a home," Aborn says.

She admits to the same mistake. The response is both jolt and reminder of why she has given nearly every Sunday evening of her college years to the Food Salvage Program. "Someone less fortunate needs an extra hand," Aborn says, "and who am I to walk by and pretend that I don't notice."

S. Burlington Group Seeks Help from Adult Volunteers

The South Burlington New Directions Coalition seeks adult mentors for one-hour weekly get togethers with elementary school students at their schols.

Dennis McBee, a former UVM staff member, is involved with the group, which is a community-based organization focusing on substance abuse education and mentoring programs. To find out more about the coalition or volunteering, call McBee at 651-4001.

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**Zany 'Widow'**

The Lane Series brings the London City Opera to Burlington for a performance of comic opera *The Merry Widow*. For more, see the story below. (Publicity photo.)

Comic Opera Makes Merry at Lane Series

The London City Opera returns to the Flynn Center at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8 with a performance of Fritz Lehar's *The Merry Widow*. The opera is in English with live orchestra, dancers and a chorus.

The opera is a delightful romp with Viennese-style waltzes, lyric melodies, and impassioned choruses and a plot reminiscent of a Marx Brothers comedy.

Tickets are still available. Contact the campus ticket store at 656-3084, or visit the [Lane Series](#) web site.

Try Your Tennis Against the Lady Cats

The women's tennis team will hold its fifth Tennis Marathon at the Patrick Gymnasium tennis facility on Saturday, Feb. 9. The event will begin at 9 am and run until 7 pm.

The entire team, which won the New England Championship in October, and the coaching staff will be available to play or give pointers to interested tennis players for a donation of \$10 per hour. If interested in playing you must call for a reservation as the morning hours have already been filled. The team is also looking for people interested in sponsoring a player or the whole squad for the event.

The team also will run a silent auction with many prizes, including sports-camp tuition, tennis rackets and gift certificates for local establishments.

DeHayes to Deliver University Scholar Seminar

Donald DeHayes, professor of natural resources and university scholar in the basic and applied sciences, will discuss how human activities can disrupt forests at 4:00 p.m., Feb. 13 in Memorial Lounge.

The title of the lecture is "Anthropogenic Threats to Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity." DeHayes will discuss his team's research, which recently has emphasized how acid rain and other pollutants influence tree health and stress response, and how human harvesting affects the genetic diversity of forest tree species.

V-Day at UVM

UVM will support V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls, with benefit performances of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, Feb. 14-16, in Ira Allen Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors and \$8 general admission. All proceeds from the primarily student-run, acted and directed production will benefit the Women's Rape Crisis Center and Women Helping Battered Women.

Purchase tickets at the door, at the UVM Women's Center at 34 S. Williams St. or the ALANA Student Center on Redstone Campus.

Information: 656-4637 (voice and TTY). To find out about V-Day initiatives worldwide, go to [V-Day](#).

Japanese Film Plays at L/L

A group of 47 samurai, forced to become ronin after their lord is tricked into committing suicide, nurse their anger and outrage, each becoming the personification of the samurai spirit.

The 1962 film, in Japanese with English subtitles, is *Chushingura* (Loyal 47 Retainers), directed by Hiroshi Inagaki. Open only to the UVM community, the film will be shown Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in 315 Commons, Living/Learning, sponsored by the Japanese Language Program.

Information: Mutsumi Corson at 656-1117.

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Feb. 6-Feb. 12

Publications and Presentations

Wolfgang Mieder, chair of the German and Russian department, has edited the book *"": Sprachkritische Lyrik und Kurzprosa zur deutschen Vergangenheit*. The final chapter includes poems that call for a more responsible confrontation with the evils of the Hitler regime.

Awards and Honors

Elizabeth Scannell Trent, extension associate professor in community development and applied economics, presented the paper "Public Policy and Management Challenges for Family Businesses" at the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Annual National Conference Jan. 19 in Reno. The paper won "Best Empirical Paper Award" for the research paper with the most practical application. Trent received a cash award and a commemorative plaque at an awards luncheon on Jan. 20.

Jan. 30-Feb. 5

Awards and Honors

The School of Nursing has received a two-year, \$133,811 grant from the Helene Fuld Health Trust to develop, implement and evaluate a statewide leadership training program for Vermont's Freeman Nurse Scholars. Nurses will receive training to provide sustained and meaningful leadership in rural health care. Launched in January 2001, the **Freeman Nurse Scholars** program provides tuition support to Vermont nursing students with strong academic standing who make a verbal commitment to practice in Vermont for at least two years following graduation.

Publications and Presentations

Wolfgang Mieder, chair of the Department of German and Russian, is the author of two recent articles. "It's Not a President's Business to Catch Flies': Proverbial Rhetoric in Inaugural Addresses of American Presidents" appeared in *Southern Folklore* 57 (2001). "Paddle Your Own Canoe': Frederick Douglass's Proverbial Message in His 'Self-Made Man' Speech" appeared in *Midwestern Folklore* 26 (2001). It investigates the use of proverbs by Douglass in his arguments for independence and freedom of all American people.

Dennis Mahoney, professor of German, published "Primeval Formation: Teaching *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* with the Help of Goethe's *Urworte*. *Orphisch*" in *Die Goethezeit: Werke - Werbung Wechselbeziehungen. Eine Festschrift fuer Wilfried Malsch*. The essay is an interpretation of Goethe's famous novel by drawing attention to one of his philosophical poems.

Jan. 22-29

Awards and Honors

Alan Wertheimer, McCullough Professor of Political Science, is Visiting Professor of Law at the University of San Diego Law School for the spring semester.

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Courting Peace

By Thomas Weaver



Bonding on ice: Palestinian Marcus Kotto (left) and Israeli Gili Schwarzman take a break during their first-ever day of skiing at Stowe on Feb. 5. (Photo: Peter Huoppi)

An Israeli drove for the hoop, a Palestinian deftly blocked his shot, and the basketball bounced out of bounds. Smiles and high-fives all around. Switch sides, toss the ball in and try again. Politics should be simple as a game of one-on-one.

As fifteen Palestinian and Israeli basketball coaches sweated through drills organized by Women's Head Basketball Coach Keith Cieplicki and his staff

Monday morning, the talk was all basketball. All basketball, but spoken in Arabic, Hebrew, and English.

Monday morning's 90-minute clinic was just one part of a week-long Israeli/Palestinian Basketball Coaching Workshop hosted by UVM. To be sure, the coaches listened intently as Cieplicki described the Catamounts' offensive philosophy, but the ultimate goal for the Middle East participants is to build relationships, perhaps even friendships.

Intricacies and uncertainties

UVM Assistant Athletic Director Jeff Schulman, who has played a key role in bringing this venture of Israel's Peres Center for Peace to Burlington, looked on from the sidelines as the coaches lined up for a passing drill.

"We've been sweating out the last several months, hoping the current situation wouldn't make it impossible for this to happen," says Schulman.

He speaks from experience when he mentions the intricacies and uncertainties of life in the Middle East. Together with his wife, Deb Lichtenfeld, former program coordinator in the UVM Women's Center, Schulman spent a year-long professional development leave in Israel. Attending a conference sponsored by the Peres Institute, Schulman met Yair Galily, an Israeli physical education professor. The two struck up a friendship and began to hatch a plan to bring the basketball coaches to Vermont.

The Peres Center, founded by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, runs cooperative programs between Israelis and Palestinians. Sports is just one of the avenues the center has explored as a way to overcome barriers to peace. Financial support from the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation also helped make the visit possible.

Skiing and the Super Bowl

In Vermont, the Israelis and Palestinians have shared hotel rooms, a Super Bowl party (one player's take on the game: "too long, too many commercials, but the last ten minutes were good"), and the visceral bond of those who have stood side-by-side staring down a ski hill for the first time.

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Iris Goren, a doctor who works for a health services company in Tel Aviv and plays basketball on her company team, says, "It is a little bit of a rough start. It takes time to become friends, but we are more and more one group."

Yair Galily, Schulman's partner in nurturing the Vermont workshop, says, "If each of us can come away from this and contribute in our own small way we'll make some difference. It's a cliché, I know, but this is a small step. In sport there is no script. There is no good or bad. We are all together."

The greatest good of the program may come through future relationships that could grow from the ones begun in Burlington, says Gili Schwarzman, coach of a national youth team in the northern region of Israel. He envisions some of these coaches working together to create mutual Israeli-Palestinian practices, games, tournaments for young people in the region.

The fact that none of this will be easy is emphasized by the fact that, for safety's sake, some of the coaches decline having their names included in media coverage of the event.

Still, Schwarzman is among those encouraged by the connection that can happen through programs such as the one in Vermont. "It's important that we're just hanging around and having a good time together. We respect each other and we are not doing it," he pauses and struggles for the word in English, "we are not doing it superficially. We are communicating well."

Schwarzman and friends will put that unity to the test when they take the court as Team Middle East to play Team Vermont (UVM coaches, staff, students and faculty) Feb. 6 as the workshop nears a close. The community is invited to attend the game, scheduled for 3:30 in Patrick Gym.

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UVM By the Numbers

By Kevin Foley

Two weeks, two epochal events: Daniel Fogel was selected as UVM's 25th president and the *FY 02 Sourcebook*, a must-have compendium of UVM facts beloved by *the view's* staff, hit our mailbox. OK, maybe one of the events wasn't quite epochal.

But we couldn't resist combining the two to give Professor Fogel – and the rest of you – a quirky tour of the numeric scope of this enterprise we call UVM.

Money

LARGER THAN VANUATU: UVM's total operating budget is \$348 million. That figure is larger than the annual GDP of 12 nations. This overarching budget includes funds from self-supporting operations (like the residence halls) and the restricted fund budget (money whose use is designated by an outside sponsor or donor).

THE GENERAL FUND: A more useful figure is the \$167 million general revenue fund, which includes cash from tuition, the state, development donors, and indirect cost reimbursement for research. The largest single revenue item in the fund is undergraduate out-of-state tuition (42 percent). The state appropriation made up 21 percent of the fund.

WHERE DOES IT ALL GO? To me. And you. About 69 percent of UVM's \$167 general expenditure budget last year went to salary (51.5 percent) and benefits (17.8), dwarfing outlays to the library (2.6 percent) and for energy (3.9 percent). Operating and equipment costs consumed the balance.

GOOD NEWS: UVM attracted \$87 million in research funds last year, up from \$56.5 million in 1992. A portion of these funds is kicked back to the general fund – which is one of the reasons why president-to-be Fogel says that research is an area he'll emphasize to give UVM more financial breathing room.

MORE GOOD NEWS: Another avowed Fogel priority, fundraising, also picked up within the last year. UVM drew almost \$30 million in voluntary support in 2001, up from \$23.8 million in 2000.

SOME BAD NEWS: UVM's 2001 state appropriation took a 2.5 percent whack (\$876,465) because of the state's ongoing budget woes.

THE ENDOWMENT: ... was at \$219.5 million at the close of the 2001 fiscal, down from \$221 million at the end of the 2000. In a dismal climate for investment, when some institutions lost 10 percent or more of their funds, this rather lackluster performance starts to look good.

People: Students

COUNTING THE HEADS: Last fall, 1,849 students enrolled at UVM for the first time, up from 1,776 the previous year.

COUNTING THE APPLICATIONS: Applications fell off a cliff in 1997, and have been crawling (and now, surging) back up ever since. The final number last year was 8,268, up from 7,891.

GREEN MOUNTAIN GAINS: Applications from Vermonters were down sharply

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in 2000, perhaps the casualty of a certain scandal. They recovered in 2001, reaching their highest level in five years.

THE DIVERSITY STORY: Enrollment of multicultural students rose to 419 from 341 the previous year, largely because of UVM's innovative partnership with the Bronx's Christopher Columbus High School

A REASON TO STUDY: In 2001, UVM spent an estimated \$16,530 per student.

A REASON TO WORK-STUDY: Nonresident tuition is a pricey \$19,236.

WHERE THE WOMEN ARE: Fifty-six percent of UVM's undergraduates are women. The school was 52.5 percent women in 1992.

THE BIG 'R': Retention is huge for institutional rankings, prestige – and budgets. After a decade of more or less bad news for retention, and a particularly tough 1999, UVM's one-year retention recovered to 81.8 in 2000. That's good for a public university, so-so for a private.

THE UPSIDE OF HIGH TUITION: Sixty-six percent of first-year students enrolling in 1995, the most recent year with complete statistics, graduated within six years. Forty-six percent graduated in four years. Despite a ballyhooed national trend toward longer undergraduate stays, this number has actually improved recently – 53 percent of UVM first-years who started in 1997 graduated in four.

People: Faculty and Staff

COUNTING THE HEADS, PART 2: There are 1,008 full-time faculty and 1,908 full-time staff. The combined total (along with part-timers) is 3,317 folks.

WHERE THE WOMEN ARE, PART 2: As of fall 2000, the most recent numbers in the sourcebook, 52.6 percent of the faculty/staff were women.

WHERE THE WOMEN ARE NOT: As of fall 2000, there were 430 male tenure-track faculty to 165 female faculty. In 1995, there were 450 male to 149 female tenure-trackers.

Trivia

SCHOOL BY THE NUMBERS: UVM has 121,846 square feet of classroom space and 194,180 square feet of library and study areas.

READING THE LIBRARIES: Books – 1.3 million volumes, 2.25 for each Vermont resident. Each week 25,000 people pass through the library portals, and check out 6,000 books.

CENTRAL, BUT NOT SPACIOUS: The central campus occupies a generous 143 acres of prime Burlington land – but that's a miniscule percentage of UVM's 12,884 acres of total land holdings.

WE'D (OVER)FILL THE SUGAR BOWL: UVM has 84,416 alums. The Super Bowl's home stadium this year held a paltry 76,709. Most alumni live in New England, New Jersey and New York, but there's a UVM representative in all 50 states and 84 foreign countries.

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Going for the Green

Geologist uses service-learning to study – and hopefully save – Burlington's green space

By Lynda Majarian



Runoff sentence: Senior Paul Melillo measures runoff in the Hill Section as part of an independent study project. (Photo courtesy of Paul Bierman.)

geohydrology and geomorphology classes in a service-learning project to study land use and change in Burlington's Hill Section.

Using a combination of high-resolution air photographs, field work and door-to-door canvassing, the project's aim is to better understand why and how neighborhoods are changing – and how those changes have affected the way rainfall runs off, finds its way to storm sewers and enters Lake Champlain.

On Monday, Feb. 11, Bierman will share the results of that study in a seminar titled, "Disappearing Burlington Lawns: Students, Cars, and Land Use Change." Presented by the Center for Research on Vermont's Research-in-Progress series, the free, public lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Lounge, Waterman.

Paving the way

Burlington's vanishing green space, as Bierman will explain, can be attributed to many factors.

Thousands of area college students occupy city apartments, and many bring their cars. City zoning codes mandate that landlords need to provide a certain amount of parking spaces per square foot, but until recently zoning violations were not actively enforced.

"During a recent canvas on Buell Street, the main complaint from UVM students living there was lack of parking," says Gail Champnois, UVM's liaison with city and government relations. Students whose landlords don't provide parking look for, but often can't secure, those highly coveted off-street parking spaces. As a result, they often park on lawns. Landlords then convert the ruined lawns to gravel – and there goes the green.

But while students are part of the problem, Bierman says, "we also see students as part of the solution."

He hopes his students' efforts to trace and interpret the foibles of urbanization

Progress and development exact a price, and the color of the bill is green. During the past 20 years, there's been a dramatic loss of green space in Burlington neighborhoods. Acres of land that used to nurture grassy lawns are now occupied by buildings, parking lots and sidewalks.

For the past three years, Paul Bierman, associate professor of geology, has enlisted students in his

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will lead to solutions and incentives to keep Burlington green. His research, which has received funding and an enthusiastic response from the City of Burlington's Code Enforcement Office, is evidence of that collaborative approach.

"Professor Bierman and his students' efforts to document the loss of green space in Burlington should be applauded," says Champnois, who also works closely with Ray O'Connor, Burlington's code enforcement officer. "It is refreshing to see the role students have played in quantifying and addressing the problem. Sharing the information with other students and inviting them to be part of the solution is a healthy and positive approach."

Forming of a geologist

Another positive outcome of the project has been the opportunity for budding young geologists to conduct sophisticated field research. For many, the service-learning project has been an inspiration for their studies and career goals.

Paul Melillo, for instance, got hooked on geology after taking a TAP seminar on Earth Hazards with Bierman in his freshman year.

"The class got me interested in the exciting field of environmental science geology," says Melillo. "Paul's teaching approach is very stimulating because he teaches in a way that makes you look at the issues on the larger level, in terms of effects to the environment."

Now a senior, Melillo is conducting a self-designed research product, under Bierman's guidance, to quantify the increase in impermeable surfaces – which leads to an increase in runoff – in Burlington's Hill Section. The infiltration study of his research was presented at a meeting last year of the National Geological Society of America, where "we received great support from the community," Melillo says.

The research will be presented at several other professional meetings and the information will be incorporated into Bierman's [Residential Land Use Website](#).

A greener future

Bierman's commitment to Burlington's green spaces – on and off-campus – is unshakable. He's looking to continue providing data to the city, as well as bringing his and his students' expertise to bear on UVM's new construction projects. He hopes that his students will play a role in ensuring that new residence halls have appropriate allocations of green space.

"Our goal is to link students to solutions to the city's environmental problems," he says.

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INTERview: Off the ' Fence'**Extension television producer Lyn Jarvis talks his impending retirement after 27 years on the Vermont airwaves**

By the view Staff



Apples to apples: Retiring *Across the Fence* producer Lyn Jarvis conducts an interview at the Hort Farm. Jarvis looks forward to raising fruit trees in South Hero when he steps down this June. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

When **Lyn Jarvis** looked up at the camera last week during a live *Across the Fence* segment at the Vermont Farm Show in Barre and told viewers he was retiring from the show after 27 years and some 7,000 broadcasts, it's tempting to imagine lunch plates spilling on sofas all over Vermont.

The man and the show, after all, are enduring institutions. In fact, Across the Fence, a co-production of UVM Extension and the

Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station, is the country's longest-running locally produced television show. It's held down the 12:10 p.m. time slot on WCAX-TV since 1956.

Jarvis will stay on the job through June, when UVM senior communications officer and former Channel 3 news anchorman Will Mikell steps into the producer's chair.

the view caught up with Jarvis between tapings to talk about a career and program that span from the era of filmed black and white to digital color.

THE VIEW: In the world of television, where success is now measured by last night's ratings, how do you explain decades of ratings success and the popularity of *Across the Fence*?

LYN JARVIS: We've been able to change with the times. When I started producing *Across the Fence* in 1975, our audience had a lot of agricultural viewers. There was a lot of farming here in Vermont. The show started as a program for people with questions related to agriculture. As I continued with the show, many changes were taking place in Vermont. One of those was the decline of agriculture and that meant fewer rural viewers. To survive, we had to change programming content to appeal to a larger urban audience and still keep the rural viewers. It was done by adding shows that met broader demographics, such as book reviews, cooking shows and health-related issues. The challenge over the years has been to keep the program current and do shows that have interest to a large range of viewers. It's certainly helped that Tony Adams has provided continuity as our studio host, with his many years (30+) in the business and his ability to put guests, many who have never appeared on television, very much at ease.

How do you make decisions on what programs to do or what stories to tell?

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A quirky tour of the numeric scope of this enterprise called UVM.

Going for the Green

Progress and development exact a price, and the color of the bill is green. During the past 20 years, there's been a dramatic loss of green space in Burlington neighborhoods.

First, the program, because of our relationship with Channel 3, has to be in the public interest. It can't be a commercial or a promotion for a product or a business. Next, the topic has to have a broad appeal to a large number of people because we have viewers in Canada, New York, New Hampshire and Vermont. And lastly, I always tried to make the show more than talking heads, by using slides or photos, studio demonstrations and on-location video. I also have a rule of thumb: If the show is something that I would want to watch, probably the viewers will want to watch, too. After producing *Across the Fence* for 27 years, I have pretty good intuition.

It would seem as if your viewers would agree with you. Is there something that strikes you the most after 27 years?

Yes. Doing a daily show requires a lot of discipline and time management because there are daily deadlines that are unrelenting. Sometimes the work seems just overwhelming because you've got scripts to get ready, many different people and schedules to coordinate, and program ideas to generate and execute. You're having to produce from many different directions all at the same time, all on deadline.

So what strikes me is when you get that feeling that you're being overwhelmed or there's too much to do, what I suggest is go out and talk with some of the viewers. They're not shy about telling you how much they enjoy the show or what they've learned. That kind of input revitalizes you and makes all the time and hard work put into the show well worth the effort.

Technology has revolutionized television at different points in time. You started in film, then video came along, now it's digital. How have those technologies affected television production?

When I started, the show was done live, in black and white, and all the graphics we used had to be hand printed or done on a printing press of one kind or another. I remember bringing sheep, cows and horses right into the studio. If anything went wrong, it was right there for the viewers to see. In 1976, WCAX moved to a new studio and things changed dramatically. We started broadcasting in color. We started taping the show and airing it the next day, to give us more flexibility. We were able to go on-location and do more in-depth work.

It seems, and probably is, more complicated now than when we used to do the show live. By taping *Across the Fence* at the WCAX studio there are more steps to go through to get the show on the air. With new, technological advances, there's the learning curve with more buttons to press and more switches to throw. Of course the end result is higher quality programming for our viewers and the challenge of keeping abreast of all this new technology.

Spending as much time as you have with farmers, you're in a unique position to assess the state of farming? What do you think?

I don't know if I can assess the state of farming, but I'll assess what I think about farmers in the state.

I've been so impressed with all farm families over the years because of their great family values, their love for their land and their animals. They're very hard working people, there's no doubt about it. I really think farmers are underappreciated because people don't stop to think about what they bring us – our food, keeping the land open, the way we like to see Vermont. People should never forget that.

When you ask about assessing farming, I think when you have people like that, that are dedicated and hard working, they are going to succeed in one way or another.

In life, we make mistakes. In television, they're called outtakes. What's your most memorable outtake?

I've been stung by a honey bee. I've been stepped on by a cow. I've been bitten on the arm by a horse and I've been kissed by a llama. I guess being kissed by the llama makes up for all the bad things that have happened. On

our cooking shows, we've had blenders that spill over and food that has burned.

Looking 'across the fence' at your own retirement, what do you see?

I have some land in South Hero and my plan is to live up there and plant some fruit trees and vegetable and perennial gardens so I can put into practice what I've learned on *Across the Fence*. I'll continue contributing to the show, particularly the popular cooking programs. I've even bought a video camera to do some independent video projects, and I'll do some freelance writing and photography. Basically, it's going to be wonderful to slow down a bit and have a schedule that I can control and not one that controls me.

theview

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