What is a Gorky doing in a place like this?

If you believe, as you must, in mind over mortar — especially when it comes to a university — then you'll delight in the dilemma of Andries van Dam.

It says a lot about Brown.

For it says a lot about the kind of place that can attract (and keep) certain kinds of people. A university, after all, is a meeting place where a good many sharp minds cross swords, words and ideas — where the dialogue is rich, the dialectic keen, the ambience worth savoring and sharing.

So take Dr. Andries van Dam.

He was born in Groningen. He left the Netherlands in 1945, earned his B.S. at Swarthmore in '60 and his Ph.D. at Penn in '66. As a pro in computer software engineering, he had his choice of top job offers. So he evaluated those schools on 20 key characteristics (location, size, equipment, students, etc.) and two of them ended in a dead heat. He chose Brown. Only half jesting, he adds:

"During my interview here, I'd been impressed by the Gorky tapestry in the Computer Center. I figured that any place with Gorky in a lab couldn't be all bad. So I came to Brown."

A big university family is built on little things — a Gorky here, a Henry Moore there, a swimming pool, a campus that predates Rochambeau's sail up Narragansett Bay to quarter his troops on College Hill. It's made of professors who are at home with teaching and research . . . who believe in a place because they believe in the people (and vice versa).

So if you believe — in what Brown is doing, in the kinds and minds of people who teach and study here — then won't you support the Brown Fund? We need every dollar, and every extra dollar you give is matched this year.

After all, any place with a faculty like this can't be all bad.

The Brown Fund — if we don't, who will?