To: Members of the College Community

From: Edward J. Bloustein

Subject: The Day of Self-Study

As you all know by this time, the Day of Self-Study is scheduled for the afternoon of May 27 and the morning of May 28, when, as a result of action by the Faculty, all classes will be cancelled. The success of the Day of Self-Study depends vitally upon the preparatory work which is presently being undertaken by 6 "task forces," the subject areas and leadership of which were recently announced. The purpose of this memorandum is to urge you all to join in the work of one or another of the "task forces" and to thereby personally participate in what could be a substantial regenerative force in the community.

Anyone who has had any experience at other colleges and universities in America knows this is a remarkable place. Anyone who knows Bennington well knows also that it has its problems. Among these problems is a sense on the part of a number of students and some faculty that they have too little opportunity to participate in decisions concerning the life of the community. Here is an opportunity for anyone who has that feeling to become involved. It seems to me that anyone who does not become involved cannot thereafter justifiably sit back and complain about a lack of opportunity to be heard.

The Day of Self-Study is not intended to supercede our regular constitutional decision making bodies and processes. It is intended rather to give a new impetus and momentum to those organs and processes in their ongoing attempts to meet new needs, new values and changed circumstances. This is an opportunity for everyone to have "a piece of the action;" I hope you will take it.

Bennington College
May 17, 1968