

March 31, 1959

Dr. William C. Fels, President
Bennington College
Bennington, Vermont

Dear Dr. Fels:

Do forgive me for not stopping off on my way back to Boston. I overslept, and it was nip and tuck getting home in time to avert a domestic disaster.

I had a very good time at Bennington. I don't know what Bennington learned about me, but I learned a great deal about Bennington, and came away cheering for it.

Here is an interesting result of the part of my talk devoted to abstract art. Several of the students came to me later and expressed their heartfelt gratitude that I had denounced as pointless garbage stuff they had suspected was ^{enough} pointless garbage but were not confident to say so. One art major told me that she had gone to Bennington to learn something about drawing and painting, but was encouraged to splash aimlessly instead of being taught the basic rudiments of art: namely, anatomy and perspective, and that when she asked her instructors for instruction in anatomy and perspective, she was told that these things are unimportant and might ruin her "style."

Now, in my opinion, and I think this is an opinion that would have been endorsed by Rembrandt, diVinci, Titian, and Michelangelo, the young artist who is not taught the A B C's of his craft is left to flounder hopelessly forever. I would strongly urge that your art



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faculty include at least one classical artist who will give your students the absolutely essential groundwork that every artist, no matter what his final destination in art may be, cannot live or work without: That is, anatomy and perspective, and a good solid course in each.

Again, thank you for a very pleasant evening.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al Capp", with a stylized, cursive script.

Al Capp

AC:ND