

GALLEY

It's unfortunate that the SDS meetings are the only political dialogue taking place on campus and most of the SDS meetings aren't really on campus! SDS prides itself on holding "open, political dialogues." But are these so-called dialogues really open? Can one really express opinions which clash with "official" SDS policy? What's wrong with just being liberal? Must one be radical to keep from being thought un-American or ultra-conservative? Must the present administration always be wrong? Is marching the way to end the war?

Granted many SDS policies and projects are good. However, the SDS position on the war in Vietnam colors all their positive gains. But SDS is the only existing political forum on the Bennington campus. What does someone who is only a liberal do? What does someone who doesn't have the answers to the war do? Does she go to SDS meetings because they're the only discussions taking place or does she become disgusted and say "What the hell?" Or does she do nothing?

Bennington seriously needs a liberal, non-partisan organization to carry on political discussions and to carry out constructive programs. (A first step could be a local tutoring program.) An organization which will allow its members not to have all the answers. An organization which will allow its members to be opposed to the war (or even support it), but will not demand that opposition or support as a prerequisite for membership. An organization which will allow its members to be just liberal, if that's what they want.

Living on campus where SDS is the only political organization is like living in a community where the only church is the Christian Scientist.

J. Z.

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