

Galley
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The Real Problem

Recently a good deal of faculty sponsored activity has led to the discussion and evaluation of what are considered to be the problems at Bennington, consisting of, among other things, the dining room crisis and social life at Bennington. To me, these are not the real problems confronting the student body or the college as a whole.

To me the important issues which should get the discussion and action are:

1. Is the essential intellectual freedom at Bennington being suppressed? Many quizzes, examinations and mandatory (as opposed to self-motivated) weekly preparations are prevalent in classes. The teachers must feel a need for such techniques, the student body must be taking advantage of our freedom in the wrong sense of the word. What is wrong with the students who try to get away with as little as possible, who intentionally or otherwise bull-shit in class, contributing nothing, and destroying other's opportunities?
2. What has happened to EPC? Many EPC reports are becoming a pseudo-analysis of the teacher's personality, nothing more. This has no place in EPC. EPC is a very constructive and effective means, if used properly.
3. Is the Bennington College catalogue an honest representation of the school?
Does it state theory of the school idealistically or that which is actual in practice?
4. Is Bennington progressive in the 1965 sense of the word or only in the 1933 sense of the word? Have we been content to live on a reputation, rather than strive to remain "progressive" in the sense that each new day proposes?
What new classes are offered each year/or is it merely the same course as the year before with a new title?
What new areas are being explored?
If we are only progressive in the 1933 sense of the word then we are in truth reactionary.
5. Is the economic struggle to run the school efficiently killing

the Bennington idea? Of what use are the new buildings if the students that are living in them could have been just as happy at Smith or Radcliffe? ---Could not a portion of funds be allotted to studies to keep that which is important at Bennington from dying out? Could certain elected students be paid to stay at Bennington during the summer to evaluate and help rewrite the catalogue, to evaluate EPC, admissions and the other factors which make up Bennington and not the buildings?

6. Are student meetings dead; do all movements start with the faculty and faculty selected students? If so it is the lethargy of the students.

Bennington is remaining static in all senses except the expansion of the physical plant; freedoms in the classroom are being denied because of great student laxity. Bennington is turning into one of the seven sisters, and all that is being done to prevent this is faculty sponsored investigations into the dining room crisis.

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