

GALLERY

In accord with the galley of the 5 seniors, I would like to note that when I was in the official position as chairman of the student committee on Educational Policies, I was very aware of the problem referred to by the previous galley. My private feeling was that this was rapidly changing into a finishing school for girls, that Bennington was already beginning to live, like a parasite, on its own myth, as a wild (intellectually), beautiful (intellectually) place, where wonders were wrought because of the freedom given to each individual mind, bend it as it would, or could.

The reports I read from the classes showed something else, they showed intellectual dishonesty, lethargy, let's get by as we can, flatter the teach', but also a discontent that this was the turn things were taking.

I don't love Bennington as much as I love the myth of Bennington, but I decided that I would try to do something because, after all, it did seem to concern Educational Policy; somewhere something was wrong, and it was bound to break. I spent the summer reading and rereading the class and divisional reports, and finally decided that I would make the customary annual report a public one, and perhaps consolidate some of the amorphous feeling into action.

When the report came out (having, I might add, been looked at by a responsible member of the administration, who perhaps didn't take it seriously enough to read it carefully, or with any thought) there was a violent reaction on the part of many of the faculty. They felt insulted and injured by the specific references included. My objections to their objections were these:

1. If the report was just a rabble-rousing string of lies why should they feel called on to get so strongly defensive about it?
2. Since I did not include anything that was not on a previous report (although perhaps I made the mistake of drawing some conclusions, but again, I felt that was only part of my job, I was trying to tie it all up the way chairmen are so famous for doing, and maybe doing badly, however...). Since I did not include any lies of my own, I take it that people in general prefer to be gossiped about in secret, behind their backs ...
3. And why do we all have to resort to such petty personal feelings when we're striving for ideals ... that's the way revolutions fail.

And I think Bennington and its one time revolution is fading fast, if it hasn't faded out already.

Tonia Noell

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