

It is the responsibility of those who have won a freedom to preserve it. To have overcome the forces that oppose freedom of the press is meritorious, but it is of prime importance to maintain that press in keeping with the standards we have imposed upon it. When we begin to take a free press flippantly and are irresponsible in our use of it, we become easy prey for those who would manipulate us in our carelessness.

Galley was re-instituted for the purpose of communication on the campus; as an outlet for the free expression of opinions. We sorely misuse the press by imposing, upon it and the community, personal petty gripes such as the recent "sinological" blurb. Furthermore, the most suspect of illegal literature is that which is unidentified or falsely identified.

Since the freedom of Galley has been established, and the refusal to print any article would be a denial of that freedom, the responsibility for the proper use of this press lies in the hands of the community.

E.K., E.C.

The proposers of the "new" constitutional amendment are experienced in the matter, having been voted down once before, and walked out on at the meeting they called to stir up propoganda. What they are doing now is a thinly-veiled attempt to add to their "aye" vote by softening the blow, and by appealing to idealistic conceptions of what freedom is.

The first of these objections is demonstrated by the change from last year's amendment, which puts the plan for extending hours on a one-month "Trial basis" and on a basis of "house choice." Neither of these has any practical applications as far as community government or individual freedom is concerned. Perfect government would be one in which all were responsible enough to make their own rules, always considering the needs of the community. This, of course, can and will, never be. Thus, rules must be made-- but made universally-- so that anyone may or may not take advantage of them. The whole idea of putting this on a house choice basis destroys the principles of community government, for once the whole is reduced to its parts, there is no limit to the infinity of the parts.

But aside from the form of the amendment, the manner in which this thing is being forced down our throats should be resented more. The group behind it is insulting our intelligence by using tactics which have no place in Bennington's community government: their calling a mass meeting without specifying its topic; their giving us only small and ineffectual doses, a little at a time-- the hour reduction from 1:00 and 2:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., the day reduction from every night to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights; and especially their reliance on a meaningless slogan --- "It's the principle of the thing."

This is not a matter of freedom of choice, but only one of the expediency and practicality of a new rule. There is no principle behind the amendment, no matter how much may be added in hind-sight. The amendment did not grow out of a principle; rather, the principle was tacked on to make the amendment more palatable.

This is a poor amendment in all respects. Its framers can be credited with nothing more than the lack of mature judgment as to what will best serve not only individuals and fractions, but Bennington College as a whole, both internally and externally.

M.P., J.G.

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