

GALLEY
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An Open Letter to the Faculty and Student Body

Hopefully, all of you are acquainted with me. If, however, you are a new student or a new faculty, you would do well to look in the Archives of Bennington College, for therein lies my thesis and my history as a former student.

It is true that I am now a married woman. But marriage, I am told, does not ameliorate our interests, nor does it suffuse our personalities. It is true that I was not privileged to participate in your collective Self-Study (and this, to insert a parenthetical remark, is perhaps what being an alumna means: to face the arduous task of Self-Study alone, without the amity and helpful suggestions of faculty and students alike). But this does not mean that I have relinquished your ideals.

I come to my point. It is with great joy that I welcomed President Bloustein's communication today which stated that classrooms without males were an "educational liability". It was with an even greater satisfaction that I watched Joseph's (my husband's) face light up when I read "...it is our belief that we can no longer reasonably continue to deprive men of the unique educational opportunity Bennington provides". And it was with pleasure that I heard him exclaim: "Anita, it's men like me they must be after". So right he is, I mused. Wistfully, however, we realized that his attendance at this time would be impossible. Yet our hearts reach out to all thirty of those young men who will, no doubt, take new and sufficient advantage of this opportunity.

Anita Roach Cottage

October 5, 1968

Cambridge, Massachusetts

