

GALLEY

It is appalling how few people regard themselves as citizens, as society-makers.... Rather, people seem to take society as a preestablished machinery of institutions and authorities, and they take themselves as I don't know what, some kind of individuals "in" society, whatever that means.

Paul Goodman

In the past few weeks, we have been talking a great deal about the rules which govern hours for men in student rooms. It seems to be the feeling of many students that the present rules should be considerably and radically modified, to allow for greater personal privacy and freedom. Consequently, there is a fair possibility that the rules will be changed to accomodate this request.

With this possibility for change in mind, some of us have been extremely concerned by the lack of understanding of government, society and simple consideration for others which have been evinced by students on this campus. In particular, we have been disturbed by the fact that several houses have voted to disregard our present system of regulations and form their own. In our opinion, they have voted thereby to secede from the community of Bennington College, and, in effect, whether wittingly or no, have placed themselves outside not only the defects but also the benefits of this community. Furthermore, by this defection, they have undermined the very fabric of government and stability which we have attempted, rather painfully, to weave around us for nothing more than the greatest protection of the rights and privileges of every

individual in this community.

As much as possible, we are a community which attempts to govern itself democratically, that is, by the consent of its many members. We have, it is true, instituted a government by majority consent. It is difficult to contemplate seriously, however, the absurdity of plaguing a community of more than five hundred people with government by unanimity. Furthermore, rule by majority consent is very different from rule by one individual alone, or by a very small number of individuals acting within none of the confines necessary to government by majority consent. Finally, within our system of majority rule, we have attempted to create and carefully preserve for a dissenting minority many channels of protest to the rest of the community.

It is the opinion of the undersigned, therefore, that the means to induce change can be found within our present framework of government. Under these circumstances, we find no right, inherent or legislated, or any group of individuals to determine themselves above or beyond the bounds of our constituted community.

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| Holly Harris | Libby Meyers | Maggie Wise |
| Harriet Moger | Judy Zenge | Carolyn Mower |
| Sheela Harden | Margie Barron | Joey Thompson |
| Emily Stonington | Susan Paris | |
| Irene Borger | Cheryl Aldridge | |
| Rainey Staton | Sally Pischl | |
| Gudrun Heise | Diana Elzey | |
| Susan McGuinness | Wendy Wilkins | |
| Carol Lazarus | Laurie Prencipe | |

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