

Item 3

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE FACULTY OF BENNINGTON COLLEGE HAVE ASSEMBLED HERE THIS MORNING TO DECIDE UPON AND TO GIVE FORMAL VOICE TO THE AWARDING OF DEGREES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 34th GRADUATING CLASS. THEY HAVE ALSO ASSEMBLED TO CONFER ONE OF THE COLLEGE'S RARE HONORARY DEGREES.

EJB

(card #2)

THIS ASSEMBLY PROVIDES A FITTING OCCASION TO REAFFIRM THE IDEALS OF THIS COLLEGE.

BENNINGTON REGARDS EDUCATION AS A PROCESS OF EMOTIONAL AND ETHICAL NO LESS THAN INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT. IT SEEKS TO LIBERATE AND NURTURE THE INDIVIDUALITY, THE CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE AND THE ETHICAL AND AESTHETIC SENSIBILITY OF ITS STUDENTS, TO THE END THAT THEIR RICHLY VARIED NATURAL ENDOWMENTS WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARDS SELF FULFILLMENT AND CONSTRUCTIVE SOCIAL PURPOSES.

WE BELIEVE THAT THESE EDUCATIONAL GOALS ARE BEST SERVED BY DEMANDING OF OUR STUDENTS THE FULLEST AND MOST ACTIVE PARTICIPATION POSSIBLE IN THE PLANNING OF THEIR OWN EDUCATION AND IN THE REGULATION OF THEIR OWN LIVES ON CAMPUS. STUDENT FREEDOM IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF RESTRAINT BUT THE SUBSTITUTION OF HABITS OF SELF RESTRAINT FOR THE RESTRAINT OF OTHERS. THE EXERCISE OF STUDENT FREEDOM IS THE VERY CONDITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREE CITIZENS, DEDICATED TO CIVILIZED VALUES AND CAPABLE OF CREATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN MODERN SOCIETY.

THE DEGREE WE ARE ABOUT TO AWARD CERTIFIES THAT THESE STUDENTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MET THE STANDARDS OF QUALITY IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND OF RESPONSIBILITY IN CITIZENSHIP SET BY THE COLLEGE. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE FULFILLED OUR OTHER AIMS CANNOT BE FORMALLY CERTIFIED, BUT THE DEGREE DOES INDEED EXPRESS OUR CONFIDENCE THAT THEY HAVE RESPONDED TO THE IMPRESS OF OUR IDEALS AND THAT THEY WILL DO GREAT CREDIT TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

AT BENNINGTON THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE MEANS AT LEAST ONE OTHER THING. EDUCATION HERE IS A RECIPROCAL AFFAIR. WE WHO ARE CHARGED WITH INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATIONAL POLICY HAVE RECEIVED AS WELL AS GIVEN, HAVE LEARNED FROM THESE STUDENTS AS WELL AS TAUGHT AND COUNSELED THEM. THE CONFERRING OF THE DEGREE IS THUS AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION TO US AND TO OUR COLLEGIATE PRACTICES WHICH THESE STUDENTS HAVE MADE.

WE SHALL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THEM WITH INTEREST AND AFFECTION AS THEY GO TO TAKE THEIR ROLES IN OTHER COMMUNITIES. TO THOSE COMMUNITIES WE CONFIDENTLY RECOMMEND THEM.

WILL THE DEAN OF STUDIES PRESENT THE CANDIDATE FOR THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS ?

EJB

(card #7)

"MME. CHAIRMAN, YOU HAVE HEARD MARTHA  
HILL DAVIES PRESENTED BY THE FACULTY AS A  
CANDIDATE FOR THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF  
LETTERS. IS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN FAVOR OF  
GRANTING THIS DEGREE?"

EJB

(card #8)

Item #6

"WILL THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FACULTY  
PRESENT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AWARD  
OF DEGREES?"



EJB

(card #9)

Item #9

"MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY, YOU HAVE HEARD THE NAMES OF THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE FULFILLED ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION AND ARE RECOMMENDED FOR THE AWARD OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES, AND THE NAMES OF THE GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE RECOMMENDED FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE. DO YOU NOW NOMINATE THESE CANDIDATES TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THIS PURPOSE? IF SO, PLEASE SIGNIFY YOUR APPROVAL BY RISING."

Mrs. Emmet

(card #1)

Item 5

(The Chairman responds to the President)

"MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE"

Item 11

(The Chairman addressing the Board of Trustees)

"MEMBERS OF THE BENNINGTON COLLEGE CORPORATION:  
BY CHARTER THE POWER OF CONFERRING ALL DEGREES,  
DIPLOMAS AND HONORS FROM THIS INSTITUTION IS PLACED  
IN YOUR HANDS. YOU HAVE HEARD THE NOMINATIONS OF  
THE FACULTY. AS MANY AS ARE IN FAVOR OF GRANTING THE  
RECOMMENDED DEGREES TO THE STUDENTS NAMED, SIGNIFY  
YOUR APPROVAL BY RISING."

Mrs. Emmet

(card #3)

Item 12

(The Chairman addressing the candidates for degrees)

"MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS AND GRADUATE  
STUDENTS: (THE CLASS STANDS IN RESPONSE TO THE  
SALUTATION.) I AM HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT THE  
TRUSTEES OF THIS CORPORATION, IN THE EXERCISE OF  
THEIR AUTHORITY AND ON NOMINATION OF THE FACULTY,  
HAVE ADMITTED YOU TO THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
ARTS, AND IN THE CASE OF THE GRADUATE STUDENTS, TO  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS. I DECLARE YOU ENTITLED  
TO ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PERTAINING TO THOSE  
DEGREES HERE OR ELSEWHERE."

EJB

(card #10)

Item 10

MME. CHAIRMAN: I PRESENT FOR THE  
CONSIDERATION OF THE TRUSTEES THE STUDENTS  
WHOM YOU HAVE HEARD FORMALLY NOMINATED BY  
THE FACULTY FOR THE DEGREES OF THE BACHELOR  
OF ARTS, AND MASTER OF ARTS."

EJB

(card #11)

Item 13

(THE PRESIDENT PRESENTS THE M.A. CANDIDATE,  
WHO HAS STEPPED TO THE EDGE OF THE  
PLATFORM, WITH HER HOOD.)

Item 14

"WITH THIS FORMAL RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENT, YOU JOIN THE COMPANY OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FROM THIS COLLEGE AND THE MEN AND WOMEN IN ALL OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHO HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO THE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND OBLIGATIONS WHICH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS AND THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREES IMPLY.

IN THE NAME OF ALL HERE ASSEMBLED--YOUR TRUSTEES, YOUR INSTRUCTORS, YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS, YOUR PARENTS, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FELLOW TOWNSMEN-- I CONGRATULATE YOU."