

March 30, 1965

### GALLEY

As seniors we are also concerned with the future of individual freedom at Bennington. We feel that the recent galley, signed by five seniors, is proof of the ferment and unrest at Bennington. However, we also believe that their assumption that the administration is at fault or is trying to "emasculate the Bennington reputation" is erroneous and reflects the kind of attitude that can do more damage to the community than can restrictions from the administration. In blaming the administration for infringing on students' rights those seniors use the liquor ban as an example. Bennington has never condemned any student's drinking and it was with hesitation that Mr. Pearson imposed a ban, not on liquor in general, but merely on the consumption of liquor by minors in public rooms. The ban was not, as is widely assumed, a question of morality or an attempt to alter the existing structure of individual freedom. It was a question of legality.

There are many more important issues at stake now. Those who are anxious and uneasy about the ideals of the college should examine their own views about academic work, about college community life, and about the outside world, before criticizing others. We must remember that the purpose of rules is to insure the perpetuation of freedom.

Conflict, argument and discussion are essential prerequisites of a liberal community. At Bennington these can be brought into the open in many ways: through galleys, through discussion, and through various committees. What the college needs most is a wide-open community meeting where rumors are brought out, complaints are aired, and no holds are barred. The air must be cleared, but distorted accusation, trial by rumor, and bitter antagonism are not the solution.

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