

July 13, 1976

Richard Tristman
Bennington College

Dear Richard:

The sounds which you heard late Sunday night were from a party going on at the south end of Commons lawn. There were no rehearsals in the Arts Center after Vespers (5-6 p.m.).

Immediately after each of your and Dorothy's complaints I have talked with Omar. He has had the sound level reduced and has rescheduled rehearsal space in an attempt to lessen the sound you hear. There will be no more rehearsals with amplified instruments in Usden gallery.

When college is in session I frequently hear loud sounds generated by Black Music way over at my house and when the local youngsters have a dance at Lake Paran the amplified guitars seem to be in my front yard.

Complaints are coming in from residents of North Bennington who constantly hear Steve Horensteins saxophone. He lives in the village.

Since the north college gate has been closed we get more noisy traffic. It is particularly noticable at night.

I enjoy peace and quiet but it was never guaranteed.

Enquiries from people who live in the vicinity inform me that they hear the amplified instruments but they have no complaints.

My dealings with Omar Lerman are frequent and sometimes lengthy. He never imagined that he would meet the hostility he is experiencing. If he had he would not have attempted the Bennington Summers program. You have my assurance that he is no idiot, nor have I found him to be a liar.

July 13, 1976

It does not seem to me to be realistic for you to expect, and certainly not to demand, that your standards of peace and quiet be guaranteed in writing, or verbally by anyone "with authority". Would you be willing to make such a commitment ?

You enjoy peace and quiet twenty-four hours each day almost every day. The episodes of outdoor performance will be infrequent. Because you find them to be pure horror, I will ask Omar to notify you in advance. Perhaps you can then plan to use the night study room in the library or visit friends.

When I agreed to help out during this difficult time for the college, Joe Iseman did not give warning, nor did it occur to me, that such episodes would disturb my sleep.

Yours for peace and quiet, and
tranquility,

Robert H. Woodworth
Interim President

RHW/dw

cc: Don Brown
Omar Lerman
John H. Williams