

On Our Children and Their Dormitory Lives

C. Bomstein

I have been maintaining communal standards as Dorm Counselor in the City of New York for 43 years.

Perhaps it strikes you as odd that a community should create laws for itself and yet require a policy enforcer, but in my experience, the very resident who enrolls in housing in our city - well aware that drugs are not permitted - will be among the first pulling bong hits in some common area. And perhaps it strikes you as more strange still that I should see my role as sacrosanct, but I've watched residents graduate to careers in business or law, watched them live quiet and melancholy lives in a world so lacking in community. No one else in these buildings will bake you cookies or stop by to say hello; no one will monitor your blood-alcohol level; no one will say, if you're looking really down: Hey man, are you all right? Do you know, by any chance, who drew that penis on my door?