

The Brunswickan



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Meditations on the Arts Course

(Reprinted from the Manitoban)

In our age when material success has become, or is rapidly becoming, the "be all and end all" of human existence, the criterion by which men plan their own lives and judge the lives of others, the traditional liberal arts course has in some quarters fallen into disrepute. How often the complaint is heard that the arts course is impractical, that it gives one no skills that he may use in making a living. How often it is scorned as a haven for effete culture vultures, for effeminate unwilling to face the realities of life. This attitude is reflected in the gradual decline in registration in Arts and a notable swing to Science, Medicine and Engineering. The seeming loss of faith in the study of such subjects as English, History, Philosophy, Government and the languages has been accentuated by the exigencies of modern war, with its tremendous demand for the services of trained technicians, and also by well-intentioned though short-sighted emphasis on pure and applied scientific studies by government and government agencies, pledged to prosecute with vigor and efficiency a struggle which must not be lost.

Were the war the only casual factor in the increasingly wide-spread repudiation of liberal arts education there would be scant call for concern. But such is not the case. We live in a mechanical age, an age in which men are absorbed in the use and enjoyment of the products of their own ingenuity. This is an era of great material achievement, of wondrous mechanical contrivances, of great roads and bridges, of tremendous factories and deep-cut mines, of a high standard of living. It is an era of unparalleled scientific advance, of the discovery and utilization of new and beneficial forces, of revolutionary medical progress. Yes, it is also an era of distrust, of speculation and theory, of impatience with culture and learning, of an admiration for the down-to-earth, practical and real.

But today's problems are not material ones. Does it seem likely that we are going to suffer from a death of the material things we hold dear? Are we in danger of experiencing a cessation of scientific advance? The essential problems of today, like the problems of every age in history, are human ones. No one can deny that the world today faces a great dilemma, that that dilemma has arisen largely out of a failure of our social and political institutions to keep pace with the march of science. In other words we are keenly aware of what science has done for us but have not yet comprehended what it has done to us. We rejoice in the material benefits which surround us but are sorely perplexed by the problems with which our cleverness has confronted us.

It is an understanding of these human perplexities to which the devotees of the liberal arts course must direct themselves. Surely such an object is as practical in its way, as down to earth, as real as any which exist. The arts course is not, or at least should not be, an ivory tower to be climbed with tired steps by those weary of considerations. It is and must remain a vital field of study where may be gained an appreciation of what man has faced and accomplished in the past, of what he faces today and may accomplish in the future. The arts course is by no means perfectly constituted, either in this university or others. Those who direct it must realize that it is no longer a vested interest, secure in its ancient and honorable tradition. It must be reformed, its organization re-thought if it is to justify its position, along with science, at the core of the university curriculum.

LETTER FORUM

685 Charlotte St., City,
January 24th, 1942

The Editor,
"The Brunswickan,"
Dear Sir:—

May I compliment you upon the last two copies of the "Brunswickan"? The militant stand announced and practised as your policy has had a tonic effect on the student body. On every side comment is as decisive as your editorial column. This is a healthy condition to have on the Campus. "Keep 'em talking."

"Wartime Education" by Mr. Ikejani ended in your paper on Friday 23rd. by causing a violent (Continued on Page Five)

Beaverbrook Residence
Fredericton, N. B.,
January 26, 1942.

The Editor,
The Brunswickan,
Fredericton, N. B.,
Dear Sir:—

It seems time someone took up the case for sports, in reply to these splenetic people who assail everything remotely resembling a hockey stick.

These volunteer prosecuting attorneys and super patriots howled and bawled that the budget be cut by curtailing sport. They call for a curtailing sport. They call for a cessation of activity in our rink (Continued on Page Five)

Letters to The Editor

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was received from Mr. Ikejani with the request that it be printed if at all possible. He has entitled it, "An Open Letter to Mount Allison.")

Lady Beaverbrook Resid.
Fredericton, N. B.,
January 25th, 1942.

The dreadful fire that visited you on December 16th, in which your Men's residence was destroyed and lives and properties lost, came to us as a great shock. Unfortunately, it came during our examination week, and right after that the school was closed, and there was no time to send our sympathy. Perhaps some of us might have written you individually expressing our sympathy.

However, we now write to sympathize with you all. We realize what a great blow it is to you. The loss of life was a great blow indeed. We have always admired Mount Allison. For years, you have been our traditional rivals in nearly everything, both academic and athletic. We have grown then to take you as brothers. We have shared joyous moments with you all in games, debates, etc. We have, therefore, become great friends. But a friend in need is a friend indeed. So now that you are in need, we have to prove that we are friends indeed.

Incidentally, we have not been sleeping. Our S.R.C. has taken up the challenge and has pleaded to the students to contribute something towards a fund for you. It is only the beginning. We have also taken the lead by asking other universities in this country to help, and we have no doubt that they will do their share.

Perhaps, our contribution will be small. It may not cover the property loss of a student, but we want you to feel that we extend our greatest sympathy to you. We want you to know that we are not sleeping and that we are doing our best to contribute something. We want you to know that we have asked our contemporary universities to do likewise.

We have admired your courage and your spirit which you have shown in this your great hour of trial. We know, and are happy to believe that whatever happens, Mount Allison will continue to be a sign post for mankind, and may God grant that as the years roll by in ceaseless flow, Mount Allison will continue in its tireless effort in the education of the Canadian youth. In this your great hour of trial, may your daily psalm be:

"Let us be up and doing
With heart for any fate
Still achieving, still pursuing."

Yours sincerely,

Okechukwu Ikejani

Red Cross

Last week the University of New Brunswick participated in a Trans-Canada University effort to raise money for the Red Cross. It fulfilled its part magnificently for a college of its size. At this point we feel that it might be well to meditate concerning the wonderful work which the International Red Cross is doing in this second Great War, and so we are taking the liberty of publishing excerpts from an article entitled, "Red Cross" which recently appeared in the Sheaf, undergraduate newspaper of the University of Saskatchewan. One of the greatest organizations for the preservation of the highest ideals of mankind is the International Red Cross. Outstanding evidence is their work of World War II. To them, there is no ally, no enemy, all men are equal—all to be treated alike.

Through the offices of the International Red Cross in Geneva records are kept of all prisoners of war. Most belligerent countries, with the notable exception of Japan, are pledged by the Geneva Convention to keep this organization informed on the location of all their prisoners of war. The International Red Cross looks after the physical welfare of prisoners and handles the correspondence with (Continued on Page Five)



"Why can't you decide between those two boys?"
"Because they both smoke Sweet Caps!"

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES

"The purest form in which tobacco can be smoked."



The Inquiring Reporter

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW LISLE STOCKINGS? WHY?

Not much. They don't wear any better than silk and look much worse.

Connie Murray

Haven't seen much difference, myself. They don't improve girls' legs but they don't mar them in any way. They are definitely patriotic.

Eric Bell

Depends whose legs are in them! Sandy Gregory

Phooey! No oomph and goodness knows the co-eds need it.

Doc Roberts

Anything I might say would be unquotable.

Murray Stephenson

I don't like them. I have never worn them. Certainly no improvement for your legs.

Terry Rioux

All I can say in their favour is that they must be warmer.

Bob Grant

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