

Brunswickan

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ON EDUCATION

The human intellect is constituted so that general ideas arise by abstraction from particular observations. This is what occurs when men learn "naturally" for such men have a perfect acquaintance with both sides of knowledge — the particular experience and the tendency to generalize about these particular experiences.

It seems to me, however, that modern educationalists seem to put the cart before the horse. They teach people to listen, to read, and "learn" general ideas before they have any extended acquaintance with the world as it is; and when these educationalists are questioned on this point they reply blandly that the particular observations which go to make up these general ideas will come later in the course of "maturity" and experience. They fail to see that until that time arrives, people will apply general ideas wrongly, judge men from a prejudiced view, consider world situations from the wrong standpoint, see them in the wrong light, and treat everything and everybody in the wrong way. This kind of education perverts the mind.

Instead of developing a man's or woman's (although with women development is difficult) own faculties of discernment, and teaching them to think and judge for themselves, the modern educationalists uses all his energies to stuff their heads full of ready-made thoughts of other people. The mistaken views of life, which spring from a false application of general ideas, have afterward to be corrected by long years of experience; and it is seldom that they are wholly corrected. This is why so few men of learning are possessed of common sense, a common sense which we often meet with people who have had no formal education at all.

An attempt should be made to find out the strictly natural course of knowledge, so that education may proceed by methodically keeping to it, and men may become acquainted with the ways of the world without getting wrong ideas into their heads—which in all too many cases cannot be "got out" again. If this plan were adapted special care would have to be taken to prevent people from using words without clearly understanding their meaning and application. The fatal tendency to be satisfied with words instead of trying to understand things — that is, to learn phrases by heart so that one can take refuge behind them in time of need. This propensity exists in almost all children and if the tendency lasts on into manhood (which in most cases it does) knowledge then becomes nothing but mere "word magic" — a phrase that seems to be unknown to all but a few educationalists.

A man sees a great many things when he looks at the world for himself, and he sees them from many sides; but this method of learning is not nearly so short or so quick as the method which employs abstract ideas and makes hasty generalizations about everything. Experience will take a long, long time to correct preconceived ideas, and in the case of meagre intellects, experience will never do its job. For whenever a man finds that the aspect of things seem to contradict the general ideas that have been pounded into him since youth, he will begin by rejecting the evidence offered as partial and one-sided. In some cases—especially in religious matters—a man will shut his eyes to contradictions and indeed will even deny that there is a contradiction. Or alternately, and just as irrationally, he will "embrace" contradiction and then try to look clever.

So it is that education breeds wrong notions about life, giving men whims and prejudices that become, in later life, fixed ideas.

The fact that he has never tried to formulate his fundamental ideas for himself, out of the experience of his own life, but has an ersatz way of looking at the world, because he has taken over ideas ready-made from his teachers. Thus he becomes not less superficial and shallow than his teachers before him. It is simply incredible how much harm is done when the seeds of wrong notions are laid in the mind by mistaken educationalists. Later on the crop of prejudice is so manifest as to make men kill each other for the sake of preserving their prejudices uninjured.

"To unlearn the evil" is the branch of knowledge that is most necessary according to Aristotle — I think we can all see what he meant when we reflect upon that statement today.

UNB RADIO—(Continued from Page 1)

trem, they intend to buy about 100 more, in order to keep their music as up-to-date as possible. They are building up four libraries of LPs in Classical; Popular, both vocal and instrumental; Ballads and Folk Songs; and Jazz. They also have almost 100 45s which are given to them on a promotional basis, with more arriving daily. It looks as if we can expect better music in the future from our fast-expanding Radio Society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

This letter is not written to point the finger of guilt at anybody for the sad state in which we find some of our boys varsity sports. Its main function is to direct some attention to the feelings of a good many students.

Well then, what is wrong with our teams? One answer is merely to admit we do not have the horses. However, we have damn good swim, ski, cross-country and soccer teams. Surely not only stars of these sports find themselves at the Beaverbrook rink on registration day.

Could the fault rest with our coaches? If so, it should be brought to the attention of the coaches concerned. These men may be unconsciously hurting our teams and themselves.

Then again, if they are deliberately showing favoritism, discarding players for not being sufficiently self-supporting (financially) to come early to training camps, or are requiring our play-

ers to become personal friends as well as players, then it is time they find employment elsewhere.

Maybe the coaches are not treating their players as a coach should. I have heard rumors (oh for those rumors) that the (Champion) St. Francis Xavier University's football coach drives his players to the extent that he is hated. This might be so, but after a second glance, who is at the top of the league—undefeated? Could this be our answer?—Maybe.

While I'm in the literary mood, I will do a little more disturbing and ask the "Brunswickan" writer who, for every game, picks UNB to win by several touchdowns to come back down to earth and live with the facts like the rest of the students must.

H. D. Byer

Dear Sir:

With reference to the recent SRC budget, this group of bureaucrats, in all its wisdom, has

DEAR RYDER HART



Dear Ryder,

My girl-friend is taller than I am which makes me feel embarrassed when we walk down the street together. What can I do?

D.C.

Dear D.C.,

There are two solutions to your problem which are both quite effective. First of all you could make a pair of stilts to counteract the height difference, but this would draw stares from passers-by. The second method, which I

personally recommend, is for you to walk on the sidewalk and to get your girl-friend to walk on the road beside the curb. However, I don't recommend holding hands if your city streets are covered with parking meters, unless you have strong wrists.

Hoping that this will solve your embarrassment,

I remain, Your Adviser in Romance,

Ryder Hart

P.S.—As an afterthought you might try a Pogo stick.

POLAND, ANYONE?

"He that travelleth into a country before he hath some entrance into the language, goeth to school, and not to travel."—Bacon

Essays, book reports, evaluation papers, group discussions, lectures, plenary sessions.—Interested? You ought to be, for this is your chance to visit a nation behind the Iron Curtain, one known for its modern art, political theories, and historical misfortunes.

Poland is the country selected by the World University Service of Canada this year for their summer seminar. The seminar involves not only a chance to travel, but also, and more significantly, an opportunity to broaden your knowledge in the fields of culture, history, politics, and science. Under the general topic of "The Role of Science and Culture in the Development of Nations",

one will have the possibilities of seeing, studying, and understanding a nation and its people.

The entire seminar, which lasts about seven weeks, costs the participant only \$250, while tuition fees are waived for the next academic year. All other expenses are covered by WUSC, except for the participant's post-seminar travel through Europe. Applications are open to all Canadian students, with the condition that he or she will return to UNB next year. High scholastic standards and leadership in university activities are taken into consideration. Applications may be obtained from the WUSC Chairman, Jos Mulder, Jones House, while the deadline is Nov. 20.

STILL NOT FOUND — SENTIMENT

A small black and silver ring was lost in the Library, we think. It has a twisted pattern and sentimental value. Call 5-5963 anytime after classes.

seen fit to trim the allowance for the Drama Society far below what is required. Theatre has been, and will contrive to be one of the strongest advocates of truth in the world. In cities where people are aware of his, live drama has the monetary support it needs. Universities, particularly in this land of wealth where money is plentiful (when used wisely), have the opportunity to support this medium. Yet at UNB, which as everyone knows, is a fine university, the main bulk of our money is spent on a yearbook. And what is this thing, this yearbook? Does it benefit the student in his quest for knowledge? Does it help guide him or show him a way? Does it give him any valuable assistance? No! Oh, but the photographs are so glossy and nice to look at, aren't they, Mister SRC? And just think, Mister SRC, if you live to be old and fifty, what joy your copy of the glossy red yearbook will bring you. But you won't remember much about the Drama Society, Mister SRC, because you were too miserly to cough up a little more money to enable it to function properly. I further suggest, Mister SRC, that you won't know much about theatre, or for that matter, much about anything. Are you listening?

Stephen Harris

Dear Sir:

In regard to your article entitled "Dief Disappoints" in last Friday's Brunswickan, we wish to enter a strong protest against the manner in which it was presented. We feel that the author, Charles Hubbard, was strongly biased due to the fact that he is President of the UNB Liberal Club.

We trust that the Brunswickan does not intend to take a partisan stand on politics and therefore Mr. Hubbard's views are his own.

UNB P.C. Club

(Ed. Note)—I refer to the column's title, "Point of View by Charlie Hubbard."

EVER ON SUNDAY

Do you find Sundays dull in Fredericton? The Arts Centre has anticipated your reply and has thrown wide its doors to you to partake of its Sunday surroundings. The hours are 2—5 and again 7—10:30. From 8:30 onwards you may bring and play any of your records on the new hi-fi system. The Arts Centre will be open in the evenings only when there is no Film Society scheduled. Do drop in and prevent soporific Sundays.

