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Lingo or Language?

What is the purpose of learning a language at University? This is a question that has been discussed at various levels in our and other university communities. With some exceptions it seems that the general opinion at U.N.B. is that the student, after he or she has gone through a number of courses, should be able to speak the language to some extent; that he or she should be able to find the way, order food, inquire after health and perform in other general social small talk in foreign countries

This, to us, seems entirely the wrong attitude. It would appear that to learn such aspects of a language it would be best to take a linguaphone record course, or attend the Berlitz School of Languages.

We feel that the University student should be learning about the literature, the culture, the cultural history, the philosophy etcetera contained in the literary manifestations of the country whose language they are studying. Those are the subject of academic study at universities with any claim to linguistic fame, not the general colloquialisms. These should be learned by the student on his or her own accord or by experience in the country where the language is spoken. It is not the colloquialism that builds the bridge to international understanding but the exchange of ideas concerning and knowledge of the relevant cultures.

Admittedly the subject of language itself, and the philological value can be one of intense research, but this should be considered on the post graduate and not on the undergraduate level, with the exception of specialized honour students. The undergraduate course should be general, but with enough depth and scope that the student can pass the course and end up with the feeling of having learned something, of having been educated.

Let us hope that the "How to learn Chinese in six easy lessons" attitude will not infect or spread itself here at U.N.B., but that instead we may look around and find the best way to tackle the difficult task of teaching a Language. —G.B.

Player's Please

THE MILDEST BEST-TASTING CIGARETTE

Late Shopping

Many students do not realize that right here on the campus there is a wonderful opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. The University bookstore does not only sell study books, but has an excellent supply of items well suited for the small pocket book, that would make many a friend or relative happy. Dress scarfs, incidentally in the university colours, small and large beer steins, interesting gift books including some with Christmas recipes for both solid and fluid foods, and writing paper with sketched campus scenes. Why not drop in and have a look around?

Letter to the Editor

The Editor,
 The Brunswickan,
 Dear Sir:

The article, "Liquor, a Problem?" which appeared in the Nov 26th Brunswickan has left me very curious. What would you have the government do with the liquor law? It is evident from the article that you are against the law, but in what way? Do you wish the sale of liquor in our province to be discontinued, or would you have them serve cocktails instead of coffee in the Student Centre?

The article contains many picturesque phrases, but it seems you spent more time hunting up apt words than in explaining the liquor problem. If you decide not to "play ball" any longer (to use your own phrase) with the Provincial Government, I hope you are all sober when you set out to make new laws.

Sincerely,
 Joanne MacArthur

A Case for the FBI



FOR HE-MEN ONLY

How are you fixed for blades? If your supply is dwindling and you are getting tired of shaving then enter the Winter Carnival Beard Growing contest. All applicants report—cleanly shaven—to the SRC Office on Monday, December 9, between 3:30 and 5 p.m. to fill out an application form or contact Bob Wightman anytime thereafter. A prize will be awarded to the winner. Points will be given for curliness, colour, thickness and shape.

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