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HOW TO FURTHER COLLEGE SPIRIT AT VARSITY

W. E. TAYLOR.

Happily, college spirit in our University is not as rare a virtue as it was only a few years ago. But we have not yet attained to full perfection, and if there is any laxity in the expression of our loyalty as undergraduates it is both our right and duty to remove the causes, and if possible, apply the remedy.

In brief, there are two great fundamental essentials necessary for the furtherance of college spirit—first, *community*, and second, *unity*.

Community of life is the element which above all goes to make a college. Lacking, unfortunately, a Residence, we must supply this need from such other sources as are available. Artificial divisions, if they exist, should be retained only so long as they are subservient to building up this community. The isolation of boarding-house existence (it is too often merely such), the formation of "sets" tending to degenerate into cliques, and the asceticism of too close application to one line of study—these are all forces which lead ultimately to disintegration. They must be checked if college spirit is to be increased.

And secondly, there must be unity. Unity of *Purpose*, in untiring devotion to the best interests of the University; and unity of *Operation* in the complete and efficient outworking in the various channels of activity. The relations of the various colleges to each other, the intercourse of year with year, and of department to department, call for closer sympathy and increased co-operation.

So much for generalities. But for every undergraduate there must be also the deep conviction of individual opportunities and responsibilities. College spirit will grow stronger in proportion as we become not merely *absorbers*, but *radiators*. There is need for more earnest effort and self-sacrifice in placing the interests of the University absolutely first.

Then shall our University go forward, and that *esprit de corps*, the true expression of loyalty on the part of every undergraduate to his or her Alma Mater, shall not be wanting in our midst.

W. W. McCLAREN.

During the last few years, the graduates and undergraduates of Toronto University have become cognizant of the fact that their interest in their Alma Mater has not been expressed in the tangible way which she deserves. Consequently, the graduates have revived the Alumni Association in the hope that it may prove an effective means of unitedly advocating and of successfully promoting all schemes having in view the welfare of our University.

But this organization will prove ineffectual unless the undergraduates who annually go out from our college halls are pervaded with a common ideal and a common purpose. For without these requisites there can be no abiding *esprit de corps* among the student body. At present there are

various ideals which actuate us respecting the purpose of our college life, and because of these the interest that we all no doubt have in our College and in our University is not expressed in much-needed action. Some of us regard the education which we receive here as the finishing touches in our mental development. Hence we devote our whole attention to the class-room and the study in a vain effort to, spongelike, absorb all the information we can get. We forget that college life is not an end, but that it is a means to prepare us for the real battle of life by making us aware of our talents and by teaching us how to utilize these to the best advantage. The hermit life of the book-worm never will fit him for such a future of attainment and service. Why? Simply because he is neglecting the arena where his struggle must take place and his victory must be won, namely, among his fellow men. No man can perform for himself or for his fellows what he is capable of accomplishing until he knows himself and knows his comrade-in-arms. For such a work the love of the past and present is most valuable because of the theoretical knowledge it gives to him of fundamental relations. But all this theory will prove of little value unless he uses to the full all the opportunities which the free intercourse of college life alone affords of knowing and of being taught by his best teacher—his fellow man. On the other hand, there are others of our number who consider athletics to be the be-all and end-all of their student days. Likewise, others devote their attention almost exclusively to our social functions, reserving the last few weeks of the college year for their studies. Perhaps the last two ideals are preferable to the first one.

But the purpose of student life is not to develop only one side of our being. Its aim is to make of us fully rounded characters fully equipped in mind and body, for the spheres in the world's economy for which we are best adapted. The attainment of this end will entail seeming sacrifice of our plans and ideals. I use the words seeming sacrifice advisedly, for he who through a live interest in the welfare of his fellow students and of his Alma Mater sacrifices his personal ambitions, will gain a richer reward in a fully developed manhood. The recluse who thus throws aside his narrow ideals and devotes part of his time to athletics and to our social functions, will *perhaps* have fewer facts stored away at the end of his course and *may* not take so brilliant a place at the annual examinations. But he will leave his Alma Mater, not only grateful for his intellectual training, but with a practical culture gained on the football field and in the reception halls. So, also the athlete and the lover of society will find themselves leaving our beloved Varsity normally developed in body, soul and mind. Then, when all of us are individually actuated by this one motive of fully knowing and being ourselves known, by engaging whole-heartedly and sincerely in all the various sides of our college life, there will be no lack of *esprit de corps* among the undergraduates and graduates of Toronto University, and no one will have reason to say there exists among our alumni any lukewarmness in regard to her welfare.