

ON DEFINITIONS:

What Is Education?

By Professor G. F. McINTYRE

Teachers and the students of public education are at an advantage or disadvantage as the case may be, when compared to students of particular fields of knowledge, in that the subject matter or content of the field of education has no fixed boundaries. The field is inclusive rather than exclusive. Very little of the content of education is peculiar to that field. Especially does education include the practical application of truths, discovered in the fields of knowledge. The objectives of public education are to be found in the fields of philosophy and religion; actual teaching methods are to a great extent, the application of theories borrowed from psychology; the administration of public education requires the inclusion to some extent of subject matter from economics, political science, law, and sociology. One could go on to include most other fields of knowledge.

To understand even to some extent, the system of education as it exists in this province, to have some idea of what changes if any, should be made in the system, and even to play an effective part as a teacher or official in the system, require the teacher or official to have a considerable breadth and depth of knowledge in many fields. It is obviously impossible to expect any teacher or official to be an expert in all fields of learning, but it surely is not too much to require the teacher to know something in many of these fields and a considerable amount in one or a few.

OWN VIEWS

Very likely all teachers should have at least their own views concerning the purpose of public education in this province. They should be able to answer, to their satisfaction, at least, such questions as, what are schools for? What are we, as teachers, attempting to do? Just what is education? If teachers cannot answer these questions, they do not know what they are about; they are on a journey with no destination in mind.

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION

Basically the answer to such questions depend on the philosophy and the religion of the individual teacher. That is not to say that every teacher must be a philosopher, or expert in religion. It does mean, however, that the teacher must base his answers on conclusions reached by at least some philosophers and students of religion. Again, since at least nominally, this is a Christian province, the answers arrived at by a teacher must be in accord with common Christian principles.

Let us try to answer the question, What is education? Everyone has heard of the controversy between those who contend that "education is training for life" and the more modern group which loudly declares that "education is life." This dispute is not just a matter of quibbling. One group claims that education is the training given now so that the learner will be able to act in a proper manner in the future or be prepared for the future. The other group insists that life is to be lived now, the future is unknown; it cannot be trained for all that can be done for the child is to help him solve his problems of childhood.

Those who look upon education as training for life or for the future may be divided into two further groups: the first, those who have in mind the training of the child for adult life here in this world; and, the second, those who insist that even training for adult life is not also the final goal but that the child is immortal and he must be trained for that future life in the world to come. So conceivably the teacher has three choices to his quest for the answer to what is education. No wonder there is confusion in education! No wonder some teachers, openly at least, come to no conclusion and confine themselves to the instruction of their pupils in the curriculum laid down for them by an external authority. But, is there not a fourth, or even fifth or sixth choice? Is it not possible that the answer need not be exclusively some one of the three possibilities? Perhaps there's some truth in the conclusion of each of the contending parties.

MUST BE AIDED

It seems that school children must be aided, to live satisfactory lives at present, solving their own problems of

childhood. So to some extent at least "education is life." Yet these children will become adults, and all through their adult life will differ in many ways from the adult life of this generation and that of past generations. Surely there will be something common, some repetition of patterns from the past and present for which they can be trained. Again, despite what some claim to have been undue emphasis in the Middle Ages on training for the life of the world to come, if children are immortal, more attempts should be made to train them for the life of the distant future. So education could consist of training both for adult life and beyond.

One definition of education, then, could be very inclusive. It could be the life led by children, guided by their teachers and others, in which they learn to solve their life problems of childhood, and it could be the training which children receive with prepares them to live satisfactory lives as adults in this world and as children of God in the next. Other definitions of education could be drawn up consisting of other combinations.

Teachers and others interested in education must decide first of all on their definition of education. They must base their definition on knowledge that is available. If they do not know what they are trying to accomplish, there will be little chance of any real accomplishment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR PSYCHIC BARWICK

Dear Sir: As president of the Astrological Society I am constantly receiving requests for love potions. I wish to make public the fact that the ingredients necessary for a really potent brew are entirely unavailable in this country. Even if they were, the temperature here is too low for them to function correctly.

I would also like to point out that my society is not responsible for the position of New Brunswick's present position in the realm of sport. Had I been consulted, I could have shown that the most inauspicious dates were chosen for our intercollegiate matches. At the time of the last hockey match Venus was entirely obscured by the planet Neptune — a really dreadful state of affairs! If the Athletic Association continue to neglect the influence of the planets in this foolhardy way I shall use all my psychic powers to throw them in a deep slumber from which they shall not wake until graduation.

Yours truly, WILLIAM BARWICK, Astrologer-at-large

THANKS SUPPORTERS

Dear Sir: To my supporters in the recent SRC Presidential Election I wish to say thank you. If the same degree of support is given to your new President, as was rendered to me, his duties will be much easier and the result of your

unified support will be evident in his accomplishments.

To the Engineers I would like to say that you have an SRC President from your faculty for the first time in ten years. If his obligations to the student body are to be effectively fulfilled your whole hearted support is essential.

Congratulations, Dick, and good luck. Yours Sincerely, LAURIE COLES.

CONGRATULATIONS AND DISAPPROVAL

Sir: I am writing for two reasons.

The first is to congratulate you on two counts: the adequate staff which you have assembled for the Brunswickian; the extended news coverage in this week's issue; and the improved make-up and lay-out which was evident in this week's Brunswickian.

My second purpose in writing is to express strong disapproval of the heading, first sentence and second paragraph of your second editorial in this week's issue.

By coincidence, I was the guest speaker at this week's meeting of the Fredericton Gyro Club. I assure you that I have never met a group of more friendly or more honourable citizens. Your readers should, I think, know that during their business session the Gyros seriously considered the request of the students to cancel their regular Saturday night dance, but for reasons which, in my opinion, are valid, they decided that they should not do so. They did, however, resolve to contribute the entire proceeds of one dance to the UNB Flood Relief Fund!

Sir, the Gyros did not act "with complete lack of thought," and no thoughtful person would insult them either individually or collectively, with the phrase "great personal selfishness."

It is my conviction, sir, that when you wrote your editorial you made a very grave mistake. All of us, however, make mistakes, but this one calls for a printed retraction and apology.

May I conclude by saying that I was pleased to read in your first editorial that the policy of the Brunswickian will be in the bent tradition of journalism and that it will be a bold newspaper, first, last and foremost. This is at least as it should be and if I can be of any assistance to you in your efforts, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Yours truly, JACK MURRAY, Alumni Secretary

EDITORS NOTE— Neither the SRC nor the SAC have received any official word from the Gyros as to the action purported by Mr. Murray's letter. The Brunswickian will be only too glad to see any ill feelings cleared up on this case but the printing of any such "retractions" or "apologies" will be withheld until the Gyros themselves have informed the SRC or the SAC officially of their intentions and carried them out.

THANKS VINCENT

Dear Sir: With the change in the editorial staff of The Brunswickian we find no decline in the quality of the publication. In fact, we find that the new staff is doing an efficient job.

However, we feel that a lot of the groundwork has been laid by the former Editor-in-Chief, Miss Betty Lou Vincent. We think that her tremendous effort in regularly publishing a good quality newspaper despite the lack of even a skeleton reportorial staff should not go unnoticed.

We, therefore, would like to commend Miss Vincent for her untiring efforts and thank her for a job well done.

Sincerely, MAXINE MacDonald, DELBERT GALLAGHER

SIGMA LAMBDA BETA RHO

"The Bloodiest Residence in Canada."

The Lady Beaverbrook Residence may well have won new honour during last week's successful blood donor campaign. Out of 80 eligible donors, 77 house members donated their corpuscles, giving a percentage of 96.25% who bled. It seems quite possible then, that our Residence can lay claim to the title of "The Bloodiest Residence in Canada." Possibly the marshrats in Trueman House may have beaten us, or the Acadians in the Memorial Residence may have exceeded our total but we doubt it. Until someone comes up with a higher percentage, we intend to claim the title as our own.

Before our thoughts turned to blood, however, they were turned to water and the cause of this remarkable transformation was the European Flood Relief Fund drive. Friday night saw many of the leading Residence entertainers performing to the delight of a huge crowd in the Memorial Hall. We saw Dave Rogers and heard Colin Harrowing satirizing commercial radio with great success. Jack Cassidy pleased all by making harmonious noises through his trombone. William Barwick, Esq., astounded (?) the audience by demonstrating his astrological skill and by relating the epic of Bessie's Boil. In addition, several other residents were busy assisting with lighting, scenery and seating. Although some people might call our tastes somewhat bizarre, we would have liked to have seen some of our other Residence artists perform. For instance, Irby Stewart would have been a hit if he had recited his well-known funny story "Why Canadians Will Win The Stanley Cup." Our famous floor sweeper would have thrilled many by singing his Scotch ditties. For sheer ingenuity, however, we would like to have heard certain intermediate electricals singing "The Lab Test Blues."

We have already mentioned the remarkable astrological powers of Bill Barwick. Probably not too many residents realize that the UNB Astrological Society holds regular meetings in the Residence clock tower. Meetings are held every full moon just underneath the clock where Secretary Colin Harrowing commences by reading the minutes. President Bill Barwick then hypnotizes his vice-president, Jim King, who falls into a deep and dreamless sleep only to awake at 8:45 the following morning in good time for breakfast. The activities of this club during sessions are many and varied. The president usually devotes himself tirelessly to the testing of the powers of tea-leaves. Occasionally, members spend hours changing gold into base metals under contract for a Bathurst concern. The biggest problem facing the club at present, is however, prediction of the future operation of the Residence clock. It seems that during one of their sessions a few months ago, the club achieved the notable accomplishment of bringing time to a timeless standstill. Unfortunately, despite the combined efforts of the club executive and a member named Einstein, they have been unable to bring the clock back to the present time-space plane much to the consternation of many persons on the campus.

Many house members have been trying their own hand at foreseeing the future during the recent campus elections. The Residence had altogether 11 candidates in the field campaigning for various offices. Of these five and possibly six were successful. Don Thornton was elected SRC secretary, Art Hobbs as intermediate class rep., Fred Drummie as sophomore class rep., Irby Stewart as senior class vice-president and Keith Waddell as senior class rep.

The following is a domestic episode perpetrated in the branches of a spruce (density 40 lbs./ cu ft.) in Woodlot Block #1 (Area 105 acres):

One cuckoo to another as they peer thoughtfully into their little nest "should we Hatch this egg Murph or lay another one next week?"

Our Man of the Week award goes this week to Irby Stewart for his success in campaigning for the senior class presidency. We know that Irby will serve his class well while holding office.

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