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Lecturers or Teachers?

Why do some lecturers assume a tone of absolute knowledge, both in regard to themselves and to the authors they quote, when they address a class? It strikes us as odd that at university level lecturing — as opposed to high school teaching — this supercilious tone, comparable to the general attitude of magazines such as the Reader's Digest, should be taken by some of our lecturers.

It has always been our idea that at the university level, and we refer mostly to the humanities and social sciences, the primary task of the lecturer is to create in the student an interest in certain subjects; to create the possibility to think; to create a way to develop, or help develop, the mind of the student.

To have absolute knowledge imparted to him is useless to a student if he has not, or cannot achieve, the ability to think critically on the spoken word and thus apply his reasoning power to the imparted knowledge.

An equally useless habit is the permanent reciting from a limited number of books instead of providing a number of diverse opinions of highly qualified experts, interjected with the lecturer's own opinion, as long as it is made clear that the statements made are opinions and not the last and final words on the subject.

At Kindergarten we expect to be told what to do in detail. At Grammar School, where the material of the knowledge to be conveyed is of an extremely basic nature, the attitude of the elder of being the absolute teacher is natural. As the pupil progresses through High School, and particularly during the last two years, the possibility should be created for the child to change the attitude of being a pupil to the attitude of being a student.

At the end of the High School training, the child — mentally at least — should be at the brink of adulthood. When this person enters University he will run less the danger of being thrown off balance entirely by the change of atmosphere combined with the change of methods used.

We feel that a number of lecturers should make more of an attempt to lecture and to leave their present method of teaching to those places where such is desired and necessary. In this way the calibre of students who graduate could be improved considerably G.B.

To the Bloomers

We apologize for the fact that in last week's editorial we inadvertently included the Girl's Varsity Basketball team. We have only admiration for the way in which this small group has maintained last year's high quality. A complaint reached our ears that there are still too few students turning out for the games played by this outstanding team. Whereas the support for the Men's games is normally as good as can be expected, the number of spectators for the Girl's games is pitiful. What other team on the Campus can claim to have won ten out of twelve games? G.B.

CAMERAS and ACCESSORIES

FILMS, FLASHBULBS,
 CHEMICALS and PAPER

"Individuality in Portraiture"

THE HARVEY STUDIOS

372 QUEEN STREET

OPP. THE GLEANER

COACH COMMENTS

We had occasion to speak with Mr. Ted Bedard, Assistant Coach of the Varsity Hockey Team, who disagreed with some of our words of last Tuesday and commented:

"Team spirit lacks in Varsity Sports on the UNB campus because there is a definite deficiency here in the whole organization, from the faculty right down to the janitor. There is no interest. Players criticize coaching methods and blame lack of team spirit, when actually they have no desire to win, and under tough competition they have no guts to fight back for the honour of the school. It is up to the students and the faculty to support the players. Championship teams are built on organization, which is definitely lacking at UNB. (We just have to look at Saint Francis Xavier for that side of the story.)"

"Personally I'm sick and tired of having faculty, students and players criticize the coaching at UNB. This University has top coaching in every sport. The lack of desire to win is why team spirit does not prevail. Team spirit must EXIST on the campus, then and only then will it rub off on the players."

Re—"Sports and What Not."

The Editor, Brunswickan

Sir,

I agree in principle with your editorial on the coaching of the teams here at UNB. I had the impression that you tried to impress on the coaches that they should try to strike a better balance between training for physical fitness and for team play. I agree with this unless it is possible to maintain the physical fitness schedule under which they now operate and to this add training and coaching for teamwork. I feel however that this would take too much time and that therefore it would be better if the coaches did try to strike a balance. I am glad that you brought this subject in the open, and hope that people will try to read it sensibly and not fly off the hook because you touched the "untouchable"; Sports.

Yours truly
 A Player

The Editor, Brunswickan

Sir:

In recent years I could not help but be appalled by the great sheepishness of University of New Brunswick students. Nowhere was their docility more noticeable than in campus politics, where they accepted without question the tired old dogmas of the traditional parties.

However, the recent formation of a genuine grass-roots party, the Christian Atheists, is a sign that there may yet be some life in the student body. If nothing else, it at least shows that Maritimers do not always have to have the tail wagged by the Ottawa dog.

Let us hope that UNB students will have enough courage to return a fairly large number of these adventurers in this week's election. I, for one, would like to see a little originality displayed on the floor of the Legislature.

Yours truly,
 John Feeney

Letters to the Editor

The Editor, Brunswickan

Re—"Sports and What Not."

Sir:

It was with regret that I read your editorial on the Athletic department. I do not believe your method of defamation by suggestion is quite fair to those involved. I know that the purpose of the editorial column is, at times, to spark controversy and student interest, however, I do not think an attack in this manner is justified.

I can only mention a few points in this regard which I feel will clarify the situation here at UNB. First, your suggestion that team spirit is low or lacking. This suggestion is false. There are some games played in which spirit is low I will admit, but by and large the majority of games are very hard fought and team spirit is quite evident. I believe you are confusing a lack of team spirit with a lack of excessive talent in respective sports.

Second, you state that the level of sports is low here but I suggest that it is the level of sports participation which is low and not the level of sport. If you judge the level of sport by the number of winning teams we produce then you misunderstand the true meaning of sport.

Third, let me quote an example of what can be accomplished by physical fitness and conditioning which you feel is not important enough to be stressed. 'Shearwater Flyers' won the intermediate title in Canada largely as a result of their superb condition.

There are two main ingredients required in a winning team. One is a good coach, and the other an abundance of talent. One without the other is not sufficient to produce a winner. (There are exceptions, of course). Editorials of this nature cannot possibly elevate the prestige or quality of sports here. The type of editorial which should be written is one to encourage greater participation in sports and not one attacking the Athletic dept.

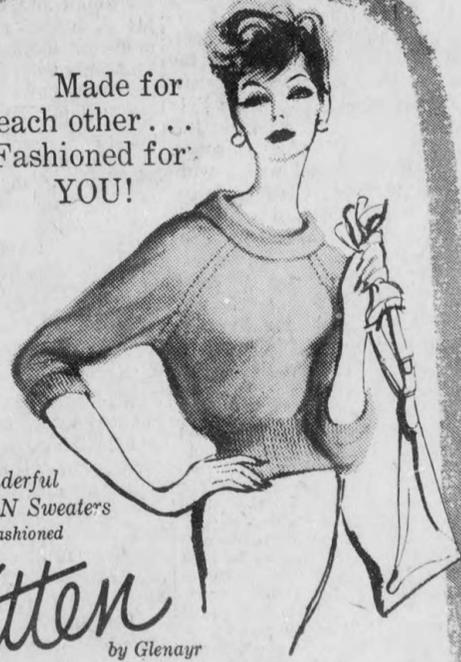
I am not saying that our coaching staff cannot improve but I venture to say that even if Pop Ivy, Goose Tatum and Toe Blake were added to our staff here at UNB, they would not be able to produce consistent winners unless more people could be encouraged to participate.

Montreal Canadians are a good example of a winning combination and although at present the other five teams in the NHL do not appear to have team spirit or talent we cannot claim that they are not well coached just because they are not leading the pack.

Improvement in our Athletic department endeavours cannot be forthcoming with editorials such as the last one.

Sincerely yours,
 M. J. O'Connor

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