

Why fuss about the Art Centre?

Dear Sir,

What's all this fuss about the Art Centre, and the Resident Musicians and Artists Programs?

We're getting rid of half a dozen quacks whose interests lie in classical music and painting. The university community should be thankful that we're getting rid of such parasites.

Can you imagine music and art at a university? How posterous! Everyone knows that the purpose of the university is not to cultivate and educate individuals. Its function is to orient people into

practical occupations. Heaven forbid that we include programs that teach you to appreciate beauty and refine their sensibility. And even more, that we may support such ludicrousness.

The long term plan of action should be to phase out anthropology, sociology, history, classics, political science, philosophy, and of course, comparative and general literature. These departments are even more practical than the Resident Musicians and Artists. Not only can they not entertain, they exclusively indulge in mental masturbation.

These departments will only make society less and less productive. They will only help bring about the fall of current economic and democratic institutions. These people speak of concepts and ideas.

Have we ever heard of any of these people talk about con-

crete problems, practical solutions? Can they use mathematics, statistics, computers? Can they do anything of use for society?

I say ship them all out. Tear down Memorial Hall, and make a parking lot. We should be rid of these useless

parasites and we'll edge that parking situation around the Old Arts Building and the I.U.C.

What society needs is practical people with practical ideas ... like the ones above.

Felix Rebolledo
CE IV

'Conspiracy' about protested Art Centre

Dear Sir:

Would you care to reprint

this letter to Dr. Downey if you think it worthy of interest.

Thanks.

Sincerely,
F. Vanicek

Dear Dr. Downey:

As a student representative on the Creative Arts Committee, but above all as a student of this campus who faithfully attends the refreshing concerts given by our own Brunswick String Quartet and the Resident Musicians, I was shocked and revolted to learn of the conspiracy under way to uproot and deprive the university of one of its finest institutions: The Arts Centre.

I realize that the university is in an extremely difficult situation financially. I also realize that there are a lot of programs and staff that the university would like to continue financing but that it simply can't. Somewhere a line has to be drawn. The painful decisions are those which are taken regarding such issues.

When one amputates to save a life however, (and one amputates only when there are no other alternatives) it is sheer idiocy to start by cutting out the

heart. It is the Arts Centre, in fact, the one body which gives this university its soul; and art is the work of the soul. The Arts Centre is still one place where one may escape to contemplate the virtues of man's potential and man's refinement. Memorial Hall is a chapel dedicated to Man!

To deprive our campus, and indeed the community as a whole, of this cultural institution, is in effect to resign ourselves to the world of intellectual stagnation and shame.

Art and music are not vain leisurely pursuits; they are an expression of the highest and most virtuous of man's beliefs and a proof of his civilization. Allow me to quote from Henry James' letter to H.G. Wells:

"It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance, for our consideration and application of these things, and I know of no substitute whatever for the


(Continued on p. 19)

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