

God vs. knowledge

SACKVILLE, NB (CUP) — A university education is only worth the investment if one is going to gain financially from it, or so the popular thought goes.

Indeed, it seems as if the only reason we are encouraged to go to university is so that we will be able to get better paying jobs than our uneducated neighbours or friends.

Don't get me wrong, I am not arguing this is an invalid concern.

But at times it seems like we are shoved into a university system with the view that the sooner we get through it the quicker the burden will be removed from our parents and society.

We start university with the ideal of learning and becoming wise people, but soon that ideal is eroded away by materialistic concerns.

Is this the way that university should be?

I would argue that initially universities were meant to function as places where one could freely search out ideas and delve deep into the notion of truth. It seems that today we have substituted the search for meaning and truth with the search for the quickest way to get rich.

To see the strength of this point one has to only look at the number of people who care less about understanding what they are learning, and are focussed instead

on just being able to regurgitate what they have been told in order to get the necessary credit.

This attitude devalues the whole idea of higher learning by making it only a tool for achieving an exterior end, rather than realizing its value in itself.

Certainly at this point I am sure that I am being accused of being too idealistic and not pragmatic. Maybe you are wondering, what about food, shelter, clothing and all that one needs to survive and look after one's family?

Surely one needs to make some money somehow, this I concede. But should this be done at the expense of the value of education?

Are we learning for the sake of learning so that we may transform the world not only economically but spiritually as well? I guess this is where the point of partition comes for many.

For me, education is a way to follow the command of Jesus that I should worship God with all my heart, my soul and my mind (Matthew 22:37). Having done my part in obeying God's command He will do the rest.

That does not mean that all I have to do is sit back and say everything will fall into place. Rather, it means I am able to see my education in light of a deeper and more far-reaching existence than my lim-

ited experiences as a human.

The call to worship God with our mind radicalizes the aim of education in general and reinterprets it in light of a universal rather than an individualistic and material view of life.

In the earthly kingdom, the value of my education is measured only in dollars, but in God's kingdom it is measured in terms of its wholistic usefulness. It affects not only me and my family, but also everyone around me.

I am not denying that some people are just more intelligent than others and that some people have more passion for their studies than others.

What I am saying is that, in a system of education which sees education only as a financial investment, virtues such as compassion, love and community-building become nothing more than ideals.

I contend that they should not be ideals, but a living reality. But this will necessitate a change of attitude in our minds and in our hearts that cannot be found anywhere else except in a life that is based on obedience to God.

This life of obedience is meditated only through a relationship with God's son Jesus Christ. Indeed, the knowledge of God is the beginning of all wisdom.



"Indeed, the knowledge of God is the beginning of all wisdom."

Sex on the brain and elsewhere

How many times have I heard the phrase "You think about sex a lot, more than any girl I know...?" Well I don't think I could give anyone a real number but let's say — for the pure fun of speculation — 169 times a day. So yeah, that's a lot of times isn't it, it is really no where near that high...but I'm just trying to make a point.

The above mentioned statement is usually combined with a look of disbelief, pure astonishment, or sometimes disgust. All I ever say in response is "So?" Really, what is wrong with thinking, liking, joking about or wanting sex? Why is it so wrong for a woman to revel and — oh my god! — enjoy sex!? Although my friends are all what one could perhaps label 'different,' or the not so nice term of 'freaks,' they share the same enchantment with sex. With my friends I can freely joke around about what have you, but the same joke about a penis does not quite get taken the same way with other groups of people.

Admittedly most of my friends are male and therefore, it is deemed proper for them to be "obsessed" with sex. Rumor has it that all men have sex on the brain, but conversely women do not or should not. Women who do are usually degraded with some type of insult 'slut' or 'whore' being the two popular choices. Women are raised to be hush-hush on the topic of sex, it isn't proper for us to talk about how much we want to get laid. Yet, there is the stereotypical thought of "locker room talk."

On the other hand, you find me. The one who purposely tries to get gasps of surprise or disgust out of people. The one who will push the big red button that says do not

push. The one who will make endless, sometimes rude or crude, but mostly funny jokes about sex. What other topic is as shared equally throughout most of society...who

hasn't or won't at some point in there life have sex? I guess perhaps that I am just more open than many people, or maybe its just that I'm more vocal. When I asked a few

friends what they thought about me writing this article, one girl said "I think it's a good idea, I think about it all the time too!" See??? I'm not the only one! I dream about the day

that everything is equal...not just in terms of sexual representation in the way we speak but everything...but that's another article — or thesis.

Caitlin Kealey



Kendo students practice standing.

Photo by Jenn Bethune