

7 Bowes Avenue
Sackville, NB
E4L 3M9
January 3, 2011

rboorne.nb.sympatico.ca

To: The Editor
The Argosy

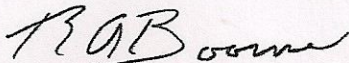
Dear Mr. Kowalski

A few days ago a friend, who is also a former member of the Board of Regents, said to me: "Look. I agree that it's a shame to knock down the Memorial Library, but you are wasting your time trying to prevent it. The board does not want to hear about the real meaning of structural fatigue, or the significance of war memorials, or anything else you and your friends have to say on the subject. The Vice-President Administration spelled it out for you very clearly. The President has already decided to knock the building down, and the Board backed him up, and that's the end of it. Logic and reason have nothing to do with it. So just let it go."

In spite of this good advice from my friend, I asked the Administration to let me see the consultant's report regarding the "evidence of fatigue in the main supporting beams". I also asked to see the beams in question. These requests were denied. No reason given. In addition, I asked to see the architect's report estimating that 5 million dollars would be saved by knocking the building down. This request was also denied.

In world politics, there is a name for regimes that operate this way, but Mount Allison is just a little university in a little town and anyway, it is only an old building that the authorities want to eliminate here. So maybe my friend is right. Maybe I am wasting my time, but that is something that emeritus professors do very well. And I will not stand idly by while the people in power destroy an important part of our heritage, using as their major excuses, a structural analysis which is meaningless, and a promise to save 5 million imaginary dollars.

Yours sincerely,



Ron Boorne
Professor Emeritus of Engineering