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To: The Editor
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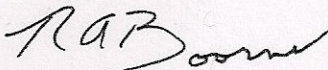
Dear Mr. Kowalsky

Universities can sometimes be very funny places, so it is not surprising that the author of "Alice in Wonderland" worked at one of them. Here, in the little town of Sackville, we have our own "(Mount) Allison in Wonderland". For weeks now I have tried to explain to anyone who will listen that the diagnosis of "structural fatigue in the main supporting beams" of the Memorial Library is meaningless. Structural fatigue is always associated with repeated or variable loading, and very rarely applies to buildings. In fact, the only case that I could find in the literature of a building that suffered from fatigue was that of an elevated train station. In this case the variable loading was supplied by the trains coming and going.

Nevertheless, the administration dismisses all this as "just a matter of opinion." I tell them that "it is not just a matter of opinion". I suggest that they look it up in Eshbach's "Handbook of Engineering Fundamentals", or "google" it. They say that they have reports from experts to support their opinion. I ask to see these reports. They say that I can not see them, nor can I see the beams in question. They say also that my claim that "it is not just a matter of opinion" is, in itself, "just a matter of opinion".

Now I ask you dear reader: Is old Mt A still a university to be respected, or has it been transformed into a local version of the mad hatter's tea party? Sometimes I wonder, but I am willing to admit that (unlike structural fatigue) this is "just a matter of opinion".

Yours sincerely



Ron Boorne
Professor Emeritus of Engineering