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To: The Editor
The Sackville Tribune Post

Dear Mr. Doherty:

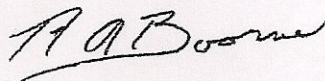
I was pleased to see in your last issue that the President of Mount Allison has spoken out on the proposed construction of a new Arts Centre and the demolition of the old Memorial Library. He is, after all, the university equivalent of a corporate CEO and should finally carry the ball on such important matters.

The President did a good job of explaining the financial implications of managing a complex operation like a university plant. He also emphasised that "Sometimes, University Administrators have to make tough decisions". Who can argue with this? That is part of what they are paid to do after all. What the President failed to do was to respond to the following questions.

- (1) How can he justify the destruction of a memorial building dedicated to Mount Allison's war dead, unless the structure is beyond repair?
- (2) How can he base the decision in part on faulty advice that the building is suffering from structural fatigue?
- (3) How can he justify the tying together of the demolition of the Memorial Library with the construction of the New Arts Centre? Are there no alternatives? If we are against the demolition of the Memorial Library does that make us automatically against a new Arts Centre? Of course not.

Difficult as it may be for him and his advisors, I think that the President should provide satisfactory answers to these questions before bringing in the wrecking ball. Failure to do so will leave a legacy of bitterness and disrespect among many loyal Allisonians and members of the Community of Sackville.

Yours sincerely,



Ronald Boorne
Professor Emeritus of Engineering.