

Letter to the Editor printed in the Moncton Times-Transcript on February 9, 2011.

Mt. A must not destroy 'cenotaph'

To the Editor:

Recently you published a letter which listed reasons why the First World War Memorial Library at Mount Allison University should not be demolished. The letter gave 10 reasons why it should be preserved. I offer another valid reason why the Memorial Library building should not fall to a wrecking ball.

Since the late 1920s the building has stood as a fitting reminder of the young Mount Allison students who answered the call of king and country in defence of peace and life. Seventy-three of those young students lie buried in war torn countries of Western Europe. Their names grace gravestones in those countries, and at Mt. Allison on a plaque.

Because their bodies lie buried in Europe the War memorial building on the Mt. A campus became a cenotaph, as it is an edifice raised in remembrance of those who died and whose bodies are buried elsewhere. As a cenotaph, the building has an aura about and within it. For many it becomes a spiritual and sacred place.

The university must seek property elsewhere to build the proposed performing arts facility being planned. No one will ever fault those who did so.

Rev. Ronald W. Dempsey

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