

Over a year ago, a member of the Administration told me that, if my friends and I continued to criticize the plan to demolish the Memorial Library, it would mean the end of Fine and Dramatic Arts at Mount Allison. I thought, at the time, that he was just using a colourful turn of phrase to emphasize his point, but now I am beginning to think that he really believed what he said.

For months now, my friends and I have been trying to determine exactly who is the prime mover behind this whole project?, and why do they want to demolish the Memorial Library?, and why do they want a new building on that particular piece of land? The answers given so far by the Administration have convinced no one but their true believers. The rest of us still do not know the complete answers to these questions, but some hints have been given in the flow of e-mails between opponents and defenders of the plan and it is not a pretty sight.

If Mount Allison is a "family" as many Alumni fondly believe, then the family tragedy being played out here reads like a minor play written by the major author of family drama, Eugene O'Neill. Perhaps the Drama Department could stage one of O'Neill's better plays at the grand opening of their new facility. "Long Day's Journey Into Night" perhaps, or "Mourning Becomes Electra". Or maybe Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" would be a better choice because it has a wartime theme. This might even provide a link with the past, an "echo" of remembrance, so to speak.

But on the other hand, this might not be appropriate either. Here, at Mount Allison under the current Administration, the driving forces are not respect for history or continuity. The driving forces are money and power, and "cover up" is the name of the game. So we may never know the answer to the question "Why do they want to do this?". But the answer to the question "Who is the prime mover?" will be obvious on the day that the announcement is made of the name that will appear on the new Fine and Dramatic Arts Building. In the meantime, the total mismanagement of this affair must be obvious to everyone, even to the members of the Board of Regents, who would prefer not to know.

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