

All logic and no creativity makes campus a dull joint



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look up truthiness in a book; you look it up in your gut," said Stephen Colbert, who is probably one of the greatest non-thinkers of our time.

"But we're at a university," you say, "and this is what universities are supposed to be like." But considering how university is billed as a place where we learn how to make a difference in this big old world of ours, the one-sidedness of it all is borderline delinquent. It's like we've all been sent to robot college to rid us of our human flaws just in time to occupy the next available office cubicle.

Even just a short trip beyond the city limits of pure reason is enough to convince me that there's still plenty left to discover. For one, examined emotions are chock-full of insight. Just one evening spent exploring how crappy it feels when your beau doesn't walk you home to your door, and you'll see what I mean.

First-hand experiences are dense with new knowledge, which is probably why world travellers have a hard time relating where they've been. Intuition and imagination I already mentioned, but memory is another avenue for reflecting on who you've been and what you've done. It isn't something reason can do, but it's surely worthwhile.

If you think this is all irrational nonsense, it may irk you to know that these ideas come from Margaret Somerville, an academic and author who could run logical laps around most of us yet frequently ventures beyond the rigid confines of reason.

So while university will remain fatally flawed for the foreseeable future, it doesn't mean that students have to be as well. Yes, the reality remains that reason is reasonable. But only using the logical side our brains is sort of like driving a car in only one gear. Sure you could do it, but it would be entirely unreasonable.

The obvious problem with university is that there's too much thinking going on. To start, the number of libraries per capita is completely out of whack. The same goes for whiteboards, overhead projectors, and bubble sheets. The ratio is skewed the opposite way in the outside world, but somehow, here, alongside hyper-caffeination, cramming, and copied PowerPoint slides, this is allowed to exist.

This worries me. Thirty-thousand-plus people thinking non-stop for hours on end can't be healthy. Neither can life in an academic world as one-dimensional as a number line. Over the long haul—say 4–5 years spent in an environment such as this—there have to be adverse affects to the non-rational aptitudes that brains normally have.

From pre-university up until now, it's not hard to spot the degradation. As a youngster, I used to have one helluva imagination—my mom's still got the finger paintings to prove it. As a teenager, I dreamt of hardwood heroics every night after basketball practice. However, these days I don't do much of either. Mostly I read my anatomy notes while running on the treadmill.

Just think for a second that there's more to an education than just thinking. Maybe creativity counts for something, and imagination too, despite being outlawed in most university classes. And let's not forget about our prime decision-making organ: the gut. "You don't

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