

Oct.3, 1941

Dear Lewis:                    concerning curriculum building

The future of our civilization may well depend upon whether it can incorporate into itself not only scientific inventions, but scientific ideas and a scientific outlook. Our present crisis is due to the inability of our rulers to adjust our economic organization to the vast increase of productive power brought about by science. Several thousand men and a few women have created this science but now the scientific point of view must come out of the laboratory and be applied to the events of daily life. It is foolish to hold that this outlook which has already revolutionized industry, agriculture, war, and medicine will prove useless when applied to the family, the nation, or the human race. The growing realization of this fact has stimulated many writers to advertise their own pet theories as scientific.

It is astounding that certain supposedly well educated teachers, administrators, and writers can so completely miss the point as to judge that "science has failed" whereas it has not even been tried. "We" have failed (not science) to use intelligently the most powerful known method to aid in the control of our gravest problems.

Every Bennington College student should demonstrate, before she is graduated, an elementary understanding of the problems of our culture and their origin, and the fundamental concepts of science.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Woodworth