Acquisitions Archaeology -- The Inspiration of Unexpected Places (Vol. 3 No. 1, February 1991)

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Recommended Citation
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5576

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As I See It!  

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Ages has become a monument. Its overriding preoccupation is self-preservation. It has a vested interest in the status quo. It is just like the Catholic Church before the Reformation. It cannot reform itself because too much is at stake economically and politically. But it held in low regard by the populace at large. That is very dangerous.

The university system is not accountable in the way that every other publicly supported institutional sector is. As a citizen, I expect all public institutions that are funded by taxes paid by me and my fellow citizens to be held to account for their efficiency — the way they operate and spend money — and their responsiveness to wider economic and societal concern, for instance over skills shortages in the wider economy. And it will not be enough to talk about academic freedom, important though that is. How we deal with the pressures on the idea of the university will define higher education for the next generation.

Endnotes