

## Well-Rounded Individual

by Ian Mallett

*(It has been noted that each stanza incidentally matches up well with the verse melody from the "I've Got a Dream" song in Disney's "Tangled". Take this as humorous or very very sad.)*

Are you the sort of person  
whose field is very certain,  
and whose extra time is quite minimal?  
You want to study art,  
or integrate by parts  
—not be a well-rounded individual?

Then I submit to you  
a ballad written blue  
of students getting classes criminal.  
Their counselors all said,  
although they scraped and pled,  
"You'll be well-rounded, individual."

"To study subject A,  
you'll study subject B.  
. . . I see you staring looking quizzical.  
It's not about your brain;  
we put you through this pain  
to make well-rounded individuals."

"I know that some would say  
that study should be play:  
chosen subjects make life more livable.  
It's just an evil lie.  
You're *happy* when you cry.  
. . . Be a well-rounded individual."

"Take classes that you hate;  
you're law-bound in this state.  
Degrees can wait but more importantly,  
the spherical is 'in',  
plus rounded holes/round pins—  
well-rounded's best just individually."

Most classes waste your life.  
So don't believe the hype:  
bulbous injustice nearing biblical.  
You're lumpy, pointed, sharp—  
you have been from the start.  
. . . so why "well-rounded individual"?

Science, Art, History,  
Language, Math, Industry:  
I care for some not all—why can't you *see*?  
We're curved and elliptic,  
orbicular, cyclic—  
I hate this curvilinearity!

My major speaks to me;  
why do you want me to be  
in cookie-cutter molds I do not fit?  
What's wrong with being best  
at what you love and not the rest?  
I'm sick of wasting money on this shit.