

# THE COOPER UNION ALUMNI & PIONEER

## Speculation, A Poem

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**speculate** [Latin *speculatus* past participle of *speculari* to spy out, examine] *verb intransitive*  
1. to meditate on or ponder a subject 2. to assume a business risk in hope of gain *verb transitive*  
1. to take to be true on the basis of insufficient evidence 2. to be curious or doubtful about  
Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition

Why did The Cooper Union build student housing and the New Academic Building?

My design is to establish this institution, in the hope that unnumbered youth will here receive the inspiration of truth in all its native power and beauty.

Why did The Cooper Union invest in hedge funds and tell the media it had survived the crash of 2008?

My reason for this requirement is, not so much to reward as to encourage the exercise of heroic virtues that often shine in the midst of the greatest suffering and obscurity without so much as being noticed by the passing throng.

Why did The Cooper Union hire Dr. Jamshed Bharucha and create a Revenue Task Force?

My hope is to place this institution in the hands and under the control of men that will both know and feel the importance of forever devoting it, in the most effectual manner, to the moral, mental and physical improvement of the rising generation.

Why is The Cooper Union considering charging tuition?

My earnest desire is to make this building and institution contribute in every way possible to unite all in one common effort to improve each and every human being, seeing that we are bound up in one common destiny and by the laws of our being are made dependent for our happiness on the continued acts of kindness we receive from each other.

Why did The Cooper Union tell the media its financial situation was due to problems in Chrysler Building rent?

I trust that here they will learn to overcome the evils of life with kindness and affection.

Is growth always good?

Feeling this great responsibility, I desire, by all that I can say and by all that I can do, to awaken in the minds of the rising generation an undying thirst for knowledge and virtue, in order that they may be able, by wise and honorable measures, to preserve the liberties we enjoy.

Are alumni nostalgic?

Please accept my heartfelt assurance of sincere desire that under your care thousands of the youth of our country may throng its halls to learn those lessons of wisdom so much needed to guide the inexperience of youth amidst the dangers to which they are at all times exposed.

Why is The Cooper Union unique?

The poet he nothing affirms, and therefore never lieth.

Sir Philip Sidney, ca. 1579, "Defense of Poesy" (later, "Apology for Poetry")

*The current version of this document can be found at <<http://www.notnicemusic.com/speculate.pdf>>. The original version was completed on December 15, 2011.*

*The Alumni Pioneer, <<http://www.notnicemusic.com/Cassandra/cooper.html>>, is a virtual newspaper with breaking news stories and links to analyses, sources and the media. It is written and formatted in an inverted-pyramid newspaper style to facilitate quick access to what is deemed the most important information.*