

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

There is a simple solution to the problem of books and periodicals stolen from the University Library, which I am surprised no one has proposed (at least to my knowledge). Perhaps its very simplicity will preclude its being adopted at this Byzantine institution, where every issue is made to seem as complex as possible. Here it is:

Each full-time student, when he pays his university bills in September, makes a Library Use Deposit of \$10.00. Assuming there are 1800 full-time students, this produces an income of \$18,000.00. If the Library's loss due to theft amounts to \$15,000 during the academic year, this figure is charged

Here is how one university library, namely Laurentian University in Sudbury, solved its problem of book-pilfering:

First of all the Administrators of the library faced the reality that in any student-population — in fact, it could be extended to any population — there is bound to be a number of thieves, who will steal anything they can get their hands on. Secondly, some people are just absent-minded and quite unwittingly will walk off with books. Having established this by observation and sad experience, they arrived at a solution. The staff, not the Security Police were instructed to inspect books, matchels, etc. as students left the library. Since this was library policy and stated as such, no one was offended, and, lo and behold, books stopped disappearing — or at least in the vast quantities they had been disappearing in.

against the \$18,000. The balance of \$3000.00 is refunded to the depositors, at the rate of about \$1.65 person.

If, however, the Library's loss totals only \$10,000, there is \$8000.00 to refund. Each depositor then receives a refund of about \$4.40. The refund increases as the losses decrease, and diminishes as the grow.

Should the theft loss exceed \$18,000 during the academic year, the deposit for the following year should be increased proportionately. If the loss approaches \$20,000, the deposit should be raised to \$12.00, bringing the income up to about \$21,600.00. On the other hand, should losses decline appreciably over a period of years, the deposit should be reduced.

During the year the Use Fund should be banked to draw interest

Now, I believe we could adopt this policy at U.P.E.I. I for one, would not be offended if a staff member were to inspect my books. If I had something to hide I might be. Assuming that we, as university students, have some degree of maturity, we should be able to see that such a policy is to our benefit financially (since Library materials are purchased in part with money WE pay) and schol-

astically (since the more materials we have in our library the better we can do research and extra reading). "My human liberties" will not be jeopardized by the K-Mart mentality".

Let's face it. Unless such a policy is put into effect, our library will remain a prey to

(\$900.00 at 5% of \$18,000.00), which may be used buy new books. Perhaps a bookplate might read, "Donated by Unknown Benefactors of the Kelley Memorial Library."

I suppose the librarians will contend that this scheme does not prevent the theft of "irreplaceable" materials, but there are very few of these. Microfilmed or xeroxed copies of books and periodicals are quite easy to acquire, though they do tend to be expensive.

I see no reason why faculty should not be asked to contribute to the Use Fund.

Adoption of this idea, or a comparable one, will spare us all the insult of closed stacks and commissionaires.

Yours truly,
D.M. Cregier

Department of
History

thieves. Appeals to moral instincts will NOT stop these people. Only the fear of being caught will. A "policy of trust" is just not realistic. It can only harm the innocent.

I worked at Laurentian University Library for six months and must confess I felt uneasy at first asking students to have their books inspected, but never once did I receive any trouble or even "snarky" remarks. If you are innocent, you don't mind; if you're guilty, you deserve to be shown up.

Are we so ultra-sensitive here that we cannot submit to book-inspection even if it is for our benefit? I hope Not.

Linda Campbell

Sport Capsule

Well, it's almost here — that time of the year when varsity sports have run their course. Looking back, we can see that it was an interesting and exciting period, even though we were not always as successful as we could have been.

The football team was supposed to have some talented material and, at times, this was proven to be correct. They got off to a slow start, however, and it was not until the last part of the schedule that they really began to show their stuff. The result was a 4 and 2 record, good enough for third place. Obviously, the potential was there but, following a long line of tradition at this university, they couldn't put it all together. Next Year — watch out!

The basketball team added its bit of excitement, too. Lead by Andy Packard, who finished se-

cond in the voting for the conference all-star team, they showed plenty of hustle and determination. A lack of height may have been their big weakness. Nevertheless they finished strongly and had they been able to win a few of the squeakers that they lost, they might have improved greatly on their fifth place finish.

As for hockey, it's far from over. The Panthers were very impressive in compiling a 14-4 record only three points behind St. Mary's who were ranked number one in the nation. Although beaten twice by the Huskies in the regular season, the Panthers were well off their best performances in both cases. The Huskies are not as good a hockey team as the Panthers are and once we realize this we're half-way there.

The play-offs start Friday, March 10, at the Halifax Forum. At 7: PM

St. Mary's plays Memorial. Either team could win this one in what should be a goal-tenders battle. At 9:00 P.M., the Panthers take on the Dalhousie Tigers. While the Tigers are an explosive team, U.P.E.I. has proven that they can handle them if they put their minds to it. Tickets for the two game set are \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50.

The Championship game is scheduled for 2:00P.M. Saturday, March 11. Tickets for it are the same as the two-games the previous evening. If you want tickets for Friday

evenings games they will be available at the forum box office between noon and game time.

According to reliable sources, tickets will also be available on the U.P.E.I. campus. Since the Forum can seat 7,500 an advance sale of 750 - 1,000 is expected here. Check the Athletic Department, basement of the gym.

With the 10th and 11th being the start of our March break, we expect to see over 1,000 fans make the trip to Halifax. With any luck at all, we can end our vacations at the Canadian College Hockey Championships!

THE CADRE

Member of the Canadian University Press. Founder and charter member of the Cadre Press Syndicate. The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the authors and are the responsibility of the editorial board. Published by the U.P.E.I.S.U.

Contributing staff for this issue: Ron Kelly, Geoff Crutchfield, Richard O'Brien, Grant Woodside, Kathy Roach, Karen Lloyd and photos by Ken Adams.