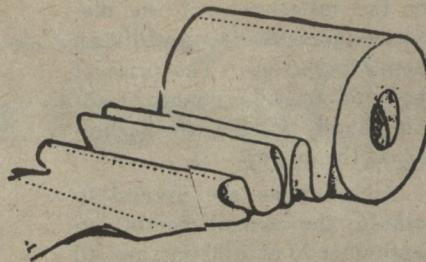


YOUR FORUM FOR DISCUSSION. The Gem vigorously encourages dissent and controversy and prints all letters to the Editor except those of a malicious nature. Letters must be signed and include the authors phone number. However, names can be withheld from publication by request. Deadline for letters is Monday, 12:00pm.



Letters...

Editors;

Once again, the people who formulate policy for the Robertson Library have flexed their authoritarian muscles. I was not enough last year to establish and rigorously enforce vast "super quiet" ones in the library, but this year, it appears the policy makers wish to drive even more students to the smoky Pit with the discontinuance of assigned study carrels.

I have no insight into the logic behind this new policy. However, I might guess that some of the arguments are these:

1. Assigned carrels lead to visitations from friends and to neighbourly discussion.

2. As the enrollment at UPEI has increased, it becomes increasingly unfair to allow a small num-

ber to have a constant study space while limiting general study space for the rest of the population.

3. Most students with assigned study carrels do not use them to study, but merely as a place to keep their coats and books.

My response to these arguments:

1. In my experience, "quiet" and "super quiet" zones are usually observed, as well monitored. It is the fault of the students if library regulations are not adequately enforced.

2. Study carrels are only given to the students who are waiting in line for them on the given two to three hours before library staff arrive. In the past, very few students desiring carrels

waiting in line on the given day, have been turned away, which would seem to indicate a lack of concern over study space on the part of most students. Moreover, it is an extremely rare day at the library which sees all carrels, tables, chairs, and study rooms occupied indicating no pressing need for the creation for more general study space.

3. It is doubtful that there is a way to measure the amount of use a carrel gets, therefore this supposition has no merit. Furthermore, were it the case that these carrels are no more than lockers, since most UPEI students do not live on campus, is it such an evil to provide them a place, on campus, to keep books and to study?

Hans Connor
SU Council Arts Rep.

To The Editors:

In response to the letter in the Sept 15/88 issue of the GEM, concerning Freshmen initiation at Bernadine Hall. We would like to clarify the involvement of the UPEI Orientation Committee. The letter mentions "That Frosh Committee", referring to an independant committee formed among the Upperclassmen students in Bernadine Hall and is in no way associated with the Committee, of which we are chairpersons, that was hired by UPEI's Student Union. Our main goal this year was to ensure that none of the frosh we singled out, degraded, or made feel inferior in any way. We feel that we provided a fun-filled week that was a great introduction to UPEI and formed many fond memories in the minds of the Class of '92.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the frosh for their attendance and enthusiasm at Orientation '88. You are the people who made it a success.

Thanks!

Patrice Ross
Bonnie Jean McCabe
John Scott
Chairpersons
Orientation '88

Dear Sir,

As a student who has used the individual carrel system in my last few semesters at UPEI, I was quite distressed when I found out last week that this policy has been changed.

For quite a number of students these carrels were a great convenience. Many students must commute quite a long distance to attend classes here at the university. These carrels provided a private quiet place to student since these students often don't have the option of being able to go home to study.

I don't feel that by dropping the above mentioned policy that the noise level in the library will drop. Quite the contrary, an increase in the noise level in quite possible since many students will be walking around the library attempting to locate people who would have otherwise been easy to locate with their own carrel. (Often times, these people are needed for academic purposes, not just social.)

The numbers that turn out very early in the morning to obtain carrels are fairly large-proof, I believe, that this policy is a

...Cont. page 12

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my concern about the raw deal certain cab companies have been giving students. The Star Cab company gave out coupons in *Campus Welcome* packages claiming \$0.50 fare but due to an error on their part meant only \$0.50 off. This however, one only finds out after arriving upon their destination. This appears to be false advertising. I also was charged \$2.00 extra on an occasion to have my bicycle carried in the trunk of the cab. This is outrageous and certainly unaffordable to students. I will certainly walk or bike no matter how late and take the chance being rather than be ripped off by the Star for sure.

Laura Kilfoil

READ THE GEM



OR ELSE...

THE GEM

What is the newspaper but a sponge or invention for oblivion?

-Emerson

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This Week's Contributors:

Dawn Ambler, Brian Cormier, MaryAnn Fitzpatrick, Malcolm Gorrill, Laura Kilfoil, Dave MacKinnon, Laurie Murphy, Lisa Murphy, Mark Walker (who we neglected to mention last week), and many others.

Anyone can contribute to The GEM: announcements, short stories, poems, letters, or just plain ideas can be dropped off at the Barn, sent through VAX MAIL to GEM, or stuck on our door down in the basement of the utility building.

We reserve the right to not print submissions that are passed in after the deadline on Monday.

We cherish typed and double spaced submissions and submissions on computer disk or through VAX mail. For legal reasons, all submissions must include the author's name and phone number. However, names will be withheld from publication on request.

Deadline for submissions is Monday, 12:00pm

The GEM is published by the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the GEM staff, the UPEI Student Union, or of anyone in particular.

We reserve the right to edit submissions due to space or taste limitations.

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