

editorial

Lamenting the Libraries

Our avid readers may recollect a past issue containing a story wherein H.E. Newsom declared that Alberta has a backwards library system as compared to other provinces.

Well, it's getting to be that time of year when students rush to the libraries to find books (naturally) to write the term papers that they have been putting off for so long. In my own personal experience as a hard-core term paper researcher, I have never, never found the book I wanted. I have consulted card catalogues, call numbers, author's names, librarians, librarians' assistants, fellow students, professors and even book stores, but I have never succeeded in finding the book of my choice.

Without exception, the book was listed in the card catalogue but could never be found in the library. I have always had to select a book at random off the shelves and make do with that.

It's getting to be the end of the year and, with a term paper due the day after the writing of this editorial, I am getting desperate, and also angry. I defy ANYONE to find on the shelves of Rutherford 4th floor the following: HF3226 W68. It's not there; HF3226 C6 is, but that's not even close enough to fake it.

Originally I was looking for another book, but since it wasn't on the shelves, I chose the one with the number closest to it and am writing my term paper on the subject contained in that book. I'm not choosy; anything will do.

But now, since my topic has been chosen, I have to find other books on the same topic to fill out my bibliography which professors don't read, but require just the same. No can do. That library is chock full of books and books and books, but not the one I want, or even anything close to it. I guess I'll have to fake it again.

I wonder how many students on this campus are experiencing the same problem. I wonder if that's not the way they do their term papers, too, because books are hidden away all the time. I wonder if librarians hide the books. I wonder what librarians do for a living. I wonder how books can be registered under the card catalogue, but never on the shelf. I wonder what's in all the other books that are useless to me.

I know the problem is mainly of my own making and that I should have researched my term paper earlier, but as I sit here, knowing that my report is due tomorrow, and that I still have not found my reference material, it still makes me mad that the record of successful "finds" is still zero.

Why is it that certain books are never on the shelves? Why is it that the card catalogue has a pile of cards related to the subject I am researching taller than the stack of books on the shelves? Is it all a nefarious plot, or is it me?

It's late at night and I know I'll have to ask for an extension on my paper. I've never asked for one before, but I've heard they're easy enough to obtain. I'll just bet that the profs know the problem, too.

I certainly hope that not too many students are experiencing the same difficulties finding reference material as I am. After all, there are thousands of books on the shelves, and if they were all related to the wrong subjects, no books would ever leave the library; librarians would all be out of jobs, and everyone would be sitting around like me making up lies, using footnotes from books that don't exist (I think) and compiling bibliographies from *Read Canadian*.

I also sincerely hope my prof doesn't read this editorial because I think I'm still in his good books, as it were.

Greg Neiman

GATEWAY CKSR YEAR-END BLOW OUT

This party is for staffers and friends so just ask Allyn or Dave or Jim or Satya or Bernie for directions.



Y'all jest saddle yer ass on down, hear? Bring your own bottle, woman and music makers and we'll have ourselves a real good time.

