

'Longer library hours not justified' -Gunn

By JAYNE BIRD

"Longer library hours are not justified", said Dr. Gunn, head librarian of the UNB library, when approached by the BRUNSWICKAN concerning last week's editorial on the present library services offered.

Upon questioning as to whether Harriet Irving should be operative until one a.m.,

seven days a week, Dr. Gunn stated that the library was "in line with what is done elsewhere."

She argued that Guelph had recently extended their schedule of operation in order to meet the demands of the students and the result was that this was not economically justified. Closing time there is now earlier: the library being open when the most people obtain the

most benefits.

She felt that if the number of hours were increased and if students were hired to fulfill the staff requirements, it would cost the university thousands of dollars extra. The problem would then become one of economics. The library has a limited amount of money and such a change would involve an increase in the cost of the lighting system as well as paying the personnel. Dr. Gunn said that the budget has to be submitted in November for the following year.

Therefore it is really out of the question even to think of changing things for this year. "Is it useful to spend so much money for just a few more hours?" she asked.

The general opinion of the personnel is that the present hours are sufficient and if they were increased the staff would probably quit. One case in point is that of the security guards, who already work a forty hour week, and would thus be working overtime.

Dr. Gunn specified that there are now 42 regular students employed during the week and the Sunday staff consists of 7 students who are merely "a skeleton crew in a large library". An increase in the hiring of students would be one that the library could not afford.

When asked why the circulation desk closes twenty minutes before official closing time Dr. Gunn remarked that the staff works until 11:00. Prior to that time the library must be patrolled to clear out people who may have fallen asleep, to gather books left lying around, and to check for burning cigarettes.

She felt that the remark in last week's BRUNSWICKAN about the hours being convenient for the staff, but not the students, was an unfair comment. If all students felt this way, then the personnel could respond with: "If we had our way we would work from 9-5 then leave."

One supervisor felt that the library being open for 15 hours a day was ample time for a student to take full advantage of its facilities.

When confronted with the idea that students could replace the present staff she remarked, "You should have seen this floor (2nd) last year when there was a student running it." She continued by expressing the view that all should be respected in a place of study and it takes an older person to see to this, to keep order, and to manifest discipline.

Furthermore, she felt that students don't know what is involved in maintaining order. If more students were hired, she thought that they would be incapable of informing their friends of the rules of the library; such as, refraining from disturbing others.

This supervisor felt that the statements made in the editorial hurt those who are trying to do their best for the students.

The attempt to interview Mrs. Weiner, Head of the Circulation Dept. proved fruitless. She adamantly refused to divulge any information or express any personal opinions. To do so, in her opinion, involves the ignoring of professional ethics. She explained that reporters may only get information from the head of any organization and not from the other employees. In other words, Dr. Gunn's statements and opinions must hold true for those of the entire library staff.

op-ed / comment



Photo by Ken Tait

Students signing out books at the library.

FEEDBACKFEEDBACK

from page 4

them Mr. Editor. I suggest you take a long hard look at the content of your reporting.

(1) Do you know the criteria for selection or the job description of the new office of Dean of Students? He will doubtlessly be the most important member of the administration as far as students are concerned.

(2) Do you know that a parents' day program is being planned for this University.

(3) Have you any idea what the proposed Atlantic entertainment union is and that it is meeting here in two weeks?

(4) Do you know what the student representatives on the admissions committee did and how it affects this university?

(5) Did you know the SRC is planning a housing project on the same basis as the U of A project, or indeed what the U of A project is?

(6) What is the proposed International Students' Lounge?

(7) Are you aware that the SRC executive has presented the Administration with the design and cost study for a combination 3800 seat indoor theatre, gym and hockey rink?

(8) Have you realized the SRC is working towards installing special rates for students at gasoline outlets and grocery stores as well as establishing student credit ratings?

(9) Have you realized that the businessmen tours may include your landlord, the man you buy fuel from, etc.?

We do not want to tell you your job, Mr. Editor, but it would appear that anyone of these items is newsworthy and merits front page coverage.

We are proud of what we have accomplished and what we are trying to do.

We welcome constructive, well researched criticism and the involvement of any student or student organization in SRC affairs. We do wish, however, Mr. Editor, that you would listen to your own words of wisdom, "Criticism for the sake of criticism is invalid".

Yours sincerely

Robert Poore, President
Daniel Fenety, Comptroller
Joyce Curtis, Finance Chairman

EDITOR'S NOTE

I did not say that the President had hired anyone, or could sign cheques. I said "the situation smacks of patronage", in other words, it was a very convenient arrangement.

As to my self receiving 10 per cent commission for selling directory advertising - perfectly correct. And after a talk (this summer) with the Bus. Administrator and the Finance Chairman, I will receive 15 per cent if I sell over \$3000.00

Also the President mentioned to me that one reason for joining the Board of Trade was to help collect advertising revenue, owed to the Bruns. Is not that a form of solicitation of funds?

The "notorious" carpet was purchased at cost, yet we were quoted a price of \$255. A profit margin of \$30 does not seem to be an ideal way of running a business.

When the "Navigator" salary was set the SRC secretary WAS earning \$64 a week. The increase did not come until April. (I did however use the word "gets" instead of got).

As to the orientation question, the sub-chairman did all the work.

With reference to paying twice for the same job: It was clear in the Editorial that I was referring to the selling of directory ads - not orientation.

As to failing to investigate properly all the items mentioned I would suggest you read more carefully.

We have not chosen to ignore any SRC projects. Several news stories were initiated before your list was received. Yet how much coverage do you expect when insufficient information is available about certain proposals.

I am glad you do not want to tell me my job; otherwise indiscretions might be kept from the public readers.

We also welcome constructive, well researched criticism. If I did say "criticism for the sake of criticism is invalid", then could it be that the criticism was warranted.?

The Editor

Last Chance for Student Phone Directory

All new listings, additions or corrections for the Student Directory MUST reach the S.R.C. Office, Room 126, S.U.B., on or before October 1, 1971.

Final Notice

RIVERVIEW ARMS AND THE ARMS BEVERAGE ROOM

New hours Mon. to Sat.: 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

BREAKFAST MENU
SERVED DAILY FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.
HAM OR BACON WITH ONE EGG, TOAST, COFFEE OR TEA AND TOMATO JUICE **99¢**

DINNER MENU
Served Daily From 11:30 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.
LARGE STEAK and CHIPS \$1.50
SMALL STEAK and CHIPS.....\$1.25
HAMBURGER30
FRENCH FRIES..... .25
Also Available: Egg Rolls, Smoked Meat on Rye.
Proof of age plus Student card must be presented upon request.

RIVERVIEW ARMS and THE ARMS BEVERAGE ROOM

located
On Lincoln Road at Princess Margaret Bridge Over-Pass