

# EDITORIAL

## Reinstate previous campus library hours

York libraries' former hours must be reinstated in order to satisfy the academic needs of students.

Scott Library used to be open until midnight every day except Saturday — this year it closes Sunday and Friday at 9 p.m. Other campus libraries have also been hit by the hour cuts.

Total weekly hours lost: 24½

Director of Libraries Ellen Hoffmann said that the staff budget is stable, and that there is no money for staff increases. She said that library hours were reduced in order to have more staff between 5 and 7 p.m. The library administration arrived at this decision after consulting only library staff.

"There was a study, but it was not scientific," Hoffman admitted.

The administration obviously does not care about students' concerns on this issue, as students were not consulted before the change. When CYSF presented Hoffmann with a petition of more than 1,000 names calling for the reinstatement of the previous hours, Hoffmann said "petitions mean nothing . . . anyone can get 500 or 1,000 students to sign on any number of issues."

Glendon College Student Union doesn't seem to be bothered by the cutbacks, which is ironic considering that Frost library suffered the greatest reduction in hours. But students at York's main campus are upset. Taylor Roberts, who began the Scott Library petition, said that many students "were very angry about the cutbacks when they signed the petition."

Hoffmann is considering extending study hall (i.e. reserve reading room) hours during exams, although no circulation would be provided. She is also considering opening Scott Library earlier on Sunday.

But Hoffmann stipulated to CYSF Academic Affairs Commissioner Liz-Anne Galea that in order to be changed, the hours would have to be the only concern students have about the library. In other words, Hoffmann will not address any other changes to the library this year.

If the previous hours are reinstated, forget about increasing the number of photocopiers, or re-establishing microfiche.

Hoffmann acts like she would be doing the York community a great service by "extending" library hours, when in fact she would only be returning the library hours that were already insufficient. U of T's main library hours, for example, have always been longer than York's Scott library.

It's a sad state of affairs when the university restricts studying at the library. The administration's first priority should be the academic needs of its students.

Hoffmann may not realize this.

Director of Libraries Ellen Hoffmann says petitions don't mean anything. *Excalibur* disagrees. If enough students show their concern about the reduced hours, the administration will give in. To show your support, simply fill out the form below and take it to our office or send it by internal mail to 111 Central Square.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am concerned about the libraries' reduced hours and demand that the previous hours be reinstated.

Signature

e x c a l i b u r

Editor ..... Adam Kardash

Production Manager ..... Brian Krog

Copy Editor ..... T.J. Roberts

News Editors ..... James Hoggett, Garry Marr, Nancy Phillips

Arts Editors ..... Cathi Graham, Howard Kaman, Susan Vanstone

Sports Editor ..... Randy Ugolini

Photography Editors ..... Babak Amirfeiz, Andre Souroujon

Production Staff ..... Richard Abel, Roslyn Angel, Alyson Barlow, Bruce Christie, Paul Gazzola, Jehan C.S. Kladitis, Doris Montanera, Mary O, Riccardo Sala, Jerome Ryckborst, Bob Shairulla, Lisa Webster

Staff ..... Marcelo Alterman, Roslyn Angel, Lorraine C. Anthony, Brian Archdekin, Mary-Ann Burns, Suzyn Butyn, Stacey Beauchamp, Simon Chung, Jonathan Clarfield, Frank Clarke, Morley Conn, Orsola Lina Cugliari, Len Cler Cunningham, Farhad Desai, Stephen Dewsbury, Mark Dillon, Deborah Dundas, Sophie Fernandes, Shalene Gavor, Paul Gazzola, Lauren Gillen, Karim Hajee, Dionne Harding, Ken Hunt, Chris Hurst, Martin Hyde, Pierre Imlay, Terry Jacobs, Sheila Jansen, Pamela Jarvis, Jonathan Kahana, Jonathan Kardash, Jacob Katsman, Elan Kattisr, Michael Krestell, Mark Levine, Mike Liddel, Jonathan Mahood, Lorne Manly, Steven Page, Mark Pasquini, Bashir Patel, Zenaida Pereira, Paul Quattrini, Ken Quigley, Tracey Reid, Elizabeth Reyes, Trevor Rosenberg, Jessica Rudolph, Heather Sangster, Victor Serfaty, Alexander Sgroi, Bob Shairulla, Shay Schwarteman, Alpa Sheth, Monika Stegel, Alfred Stieglitz, Sanju Vaswani, Christine Villanesco, David Webster, Brian Wright, Mark Wright, Norman Wilner, Daniel Wolgerenter

Advertising Manager ..... Merle Menzies

Advertising Assistant ..... Zena Kamocki

Advertising Rep ..... Meiyin Yap

Typesetters ..... Mary Jankulak, Stuart Ross

Board of Publications Chairperson ..... Brigitta Schmid

EDITORIAL: 736-5239 MAILING ADDRESS: Room 111, Central Square York University 4700 Keele Street Downsview M3J 1P3

TYPESETTING: 736-5240

ADVERTISING: 736-5238



"Sorry, only one complaint per year."

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

## LETTERS

### Athletic Centre "discriminates"

Editor,

I would like to draw attention to the flagrant discrimination of women practiced by the Athletic Centre. If you don't mind bare bums in towels, then you won't mind going to the men's locker room to find out what court you're booked to play squash.

The women's locker room doesn't have a duplicate list because no one has been brilliant enough to use the photocopy invention. Since the bookings are made a day in advance, I can't understand why this problem exists. At the very least they could use carbon paper to duplicate the schedule.

The Athletic Centre also treats women differently in another way: the presence of a combination lock on the women's locker room exit. Why would the women have it at the exclusion of the men?

Lucky for me, someone pointed this out and told me the combination as I was exiting, otherwise I would've

found myself running outside the building to get back in.

Since I am criticizing the Athletic Centre I would like to point out one other major irritant. It is next to impossible to play a good game of squash when you have clothes stacked against the wall because there is not one, I repeat, not one locker available.

I can honestly say, this is the worst Athletic Centre I've seen, in terms of organization and apathy regarding these issues. It seems to me the Administration of the Athletic Centre truly believes "It's a man's world."

—Suzan Butyn

### York libraries "doublespeak"

Re: "Angry student begins library petition," 13 October.

I nominate Director of Libraries Ellen Hoffmann for the York Doublespeak Award.

On 8 September Hoffmann told *Excalibur* that the decision to cut library hours was due to "lack of

funding." Now she says it was a "scheduling decision" not specifically linked to financial consideration."

That's what's great about York: choice. Students can be mad about shortened library hours for contradictory reasons.

—T.J. Roberts

### Final Church commentary

(Re. Letter to the Editor entitled "No church differences," Oct. 13)

Ms. Connolly, we are going to have to stop meeting like this.

Ever since writing my initial article concerning the Church of Christ ("Student Speaks Out on Sect," Sept. 15) the issue has swung from being a warning to students whose lives (spiritual and otherwise) are in danger of being uncontrollably altered by this overzealous religious sect to a one-on-one argument regarding the ethics of all organized religions.

As I said in my last letter, "let us

cont'd on p. 5