

LIBRARY HOURS NOT WORTH EXTENDING

Many students spend a considerable amount of time complaining about the library hours (that is...the lack of them).

This academic year has seen an increase in student enrollment and, as we all know, tuition fees. But when the library personal are asked why the library isn't open longer on the weekends the general answer is funding. In fact, the budget for hiring students has been cut this year. The library employees fifteen student assistants each of whom makes \$4.25 per hour.

When asked why the hours aren't extended, Susanne Manovil, the Head Librarian said that the budget will not allow for extra hours or staff. There must

always be one staff member working at the circulation desk and one at the reference desk. There must also be a commissioner present whenever the library is open. The library committee once tried closing on Sunday at 9p.m. to extend the hours on Saturday, but students complained so the old schedule was resumed. Ms. Manovil didn't feel that the idea of taking

on volunteers (such as retirees) would work because it would take too long to train them.

It seems that when hours are extended students don't take advantage of them. Many of the staff members feel that it is not worth opening on Saturday because there aren't many students who use the library on that day. Also, some of these students don't want to work longer hours, meaning new students would have to be hired and trained.

Ms. Manovil also said that if students want the library hours extended they should let it be known.

DIFFERENTIAL FEES MAKE NO SENSE

HALIFAX (CUP) - Differential tuition fees for foreign students are hurting the world's poorest students and contributing to a narrow vision of education, according to the coordinator of a foreign students' resource group.

"We are advocating a parochial education system - we will not accept you if you can't afford it," said Karanja Njoroge, head of the International Students' Centre (ISC) at Dalhousie University.

Njoroge believes differential fees are keeping out students from underdeveloped nations. But many American, European, and Hong Kong youths can easily afford studying in Canada.

Tuition fees for foreign students vary greatly from province to province. In Saskatchewan, foreign students pay only \$1,000 while in Ontario, fees can be up to \$10,200 a year.

Foreign student enrollment in Canadian universities has decreased by 19.4 per cent since 1982-83. According to the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), there were 35,155 foreign students studying in Canada last year. That number is down 5.7 per cent from the 1985-86 figure of 35,155.

The decline in enrollment "is linked absolutely to the rise in differential fees," said Monique Hag-

gar, a CBIE researcher.

Njoroge doesn't understand why most Canadian universities have differential fees at all.

"We need a mix of local, regional and international people in order to avoid narrowness in our own perceptions," Njoroge said. "No university belongs to any country. It is the essence of a university to seek knowledge, but not just the knowledge of Canada. It is universal knowledge."

Njoroge said a two-tiered fee system makes no economic sense.

"If 400 students quit, the university would not spend any less money than it would spend anyway. They'd still have to buy the same amount of chalk. There's no loss in economic terms unless you're charging those students \$10,000."

International students are more likely to choose Quebec, Ontario, or Newfoundland universities because of special scholarships or lower fees, Njoroge said.

The residents of francophone countries are exempted from higher tuition in Quebec. Ontario has special assistance programs which cover most foreign students' fees, and Newfoundland's flat rate applies to all, regardless of nationality.

There will be a GENERAL MEETING of the UPEI Student Union body (That includes YOU)

Wednesday, October 14th

11:30 AM

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