

To the Editor:

In many issues of the X-PRESS, I have read glowing descriptions of the new technologies and services being installed in the Robertson Library. Last week, I had occasion to enter the library in search of a book on a Second World War campaign. A reasonably simple request, I thought. This is a topic that has been written about ad nauseum, and libraries are habitually well stocked in the department. Accordingly, I passed through the turnstiles and began looking for the books. I passed a room full of photocopiers, a corridor full of computers, a closed door marked "PEI Files", and a room indicating that it contained government files. I examined the latter, just to be on the safe side, and determined that it did not contain the materials I was looking for. I then moved up the staircase. Upstairs, I found a plethora of carrels in a room marked "Super-Quiet Study Area", small individual rooms filled with students in conference, and more photocopiers. The last thing to be seen was a double doorway leading to a darkened room. As far in as I could see through the gloom, there was nothing but banks of empty shelves. When I finally returned to the information desk and inquired, I was told that this darkened, apparently empty room contained the books I was searching for.

Once there, I considered the problem of how I was to read the spines of the books. I wondered whether the small dials on the ends of the shelves might be light timers, but as they were completely devoid of any identifying marks, I decided against pursuing the course of action which seemed equally likely to turn on the sprinkler system or summon flying saucers as it did to turn on the lights. Now, if the Robertson Library had indeed implemented an energy-saving system for their lighting, then they have my wholehearted applause, but is it too much to ask that they post information to that effect? My request seems all the more reasonable when one considers that each shelf bank already bears a sign telling patrons not to hang coast from the ends of the shelves. (I must add heartfelt- and amused-thanks to the conscientious individual who pointed out that hanging goats in the same place would be equally inadvisable.)

I would be very much appreciative if I were to receive a definitive explanation in response to my confusion. If these are indeed energy - saving light timers, why are they not marked? And, for that matter, why is the room housing the collection not marked as such? These would seem to be simple courtesies to provide in an extensively used public service.

Danielle Christensen

Dear Editor,

This is a letter that I believe reflects the views of many students, and should be taken under consideration by the powers that be here at U.P.E.I.. I am concerned about the security officers at Robertson Library. They treat everyone like a bunch of children. I am an adult, and if I want to stop and quietly whisper to a friend at another table, I don't need some guy kicking me out like I've just committed a crime. Bottom line: these security guys have attitudes. We pay a fair chunk of these guy's pay cheques, and in return we get bossed around like twelve-year-olds. And why are people booted out for standing around outside the actual study area? Are they disturbing anyone? No. The least security could do is be consistent. They show up once every blue moon, and enforce their dictatorship. Why do we need these people anyway? All they do is stand around. We're all mature students. The place isn't going to burn down if they aren't there. I hope someone with some power reads this, and gets rid of these domineering assholes (excuse my Latin).

Sick of the power-trip

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