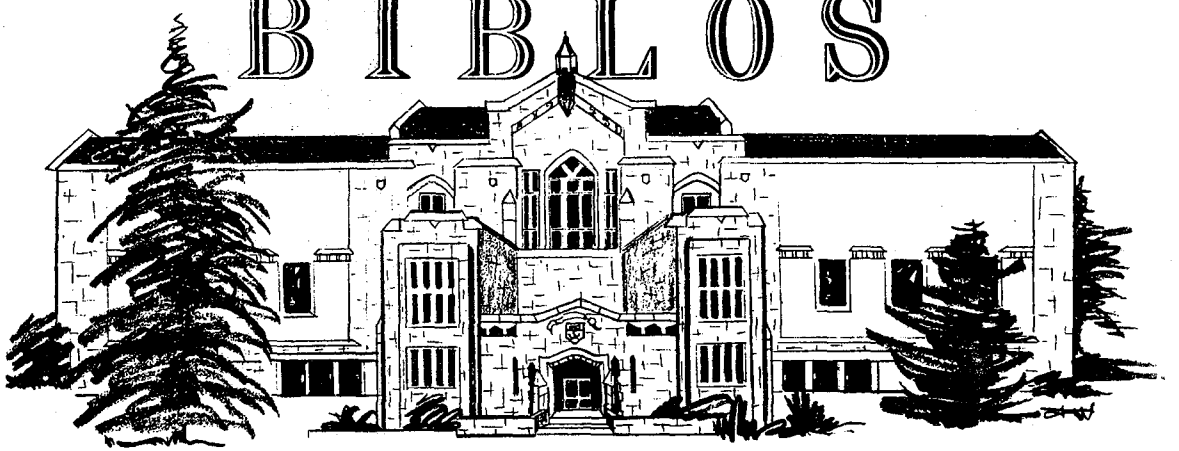
BIBLOS



VOL. 6. No. 3. of the U.B.C. LIBRARY STAFF NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1969

IT'S
ALMOST
THAT SEASON
AGAIN
AND
FOR OUR MESSAGE
TO YOU
THIS MONTH
PLEASE READ
PAGES
8 & 9

University of British Columbia

St. Wibby reports.
Sorry my portrait was missing last month - that empty space looked rather peculiar - but truth to tell the Editor was probably too busy with her own picture to worry about mine. Anyway here we are again and only a month before Wenceslas and I go celebrating again.

THEY tell me that the experimental Micro-reader in the Acquisitions Division is proving to be the answer to the inconvenience of the large and cumbersome monthly print-out. Woodward Library orders are now being typed in Acquisitions and are part of the computerized system. Law and Social Work seem to be the only departments ordering independently.

VAL RODDICK Science - leaving us for the second time - is looking forward to spending Christmas in London.

AMAZING REPORT coming from Circulation. On 3 separate days during November a record 15,000 transactions were recorded through the automatic check-out stations. There are now 9 such outlets on the system. Sedgewick, Woodward, Math, R.B.C., Forestry/Agriculture, Music and 2 in Main.
All time high of 15,867 transactions was recordec Oct. 14th of this year.

TRUDY LEWIS of Serials looking very rested after a visit to Mexico City and Puerto Vallarta.

WE UNDERSTAND too that Ann Gardner also of Serials has just completed the transfer of approximately 1000 Reading Room titles to the division. Ann is currently on holiday possibly to recuperate.

SOCIAL NOTE.
Keep Saturday January 3rd free. The Library Assistants Association will be throwing another of those Wine and Cheese parties at Cecil Green Park. More details later but keep that date open.

MAP ROOM staff were delighted to play host to Mrs. Prescott, a visiting librarian from Melbourne.

HOPE YOU ALL got in on the Football Pool operating out of Cataloguing. Will let you know who won next month.

BEST WISHES to Ardelle Bruce of Cataloguing who recently changed her name to Mrs. Aldrich.

HOPE SOME of you help to celebrate Blake's Birthday at the party to be held Friday November 28th, 12.30 noon, Fine Arts Gallery. Blake himself might appear (212 years old) as we understand he

has been specially invited to attend through a spiritualist. Birthday cake will be served and all are invited.
This is all part of the Blake Festival which has been organized by the Fine Arts Gallery in conjunction with the exhibition Visionary Forms Dramatic, which will be at the Gallery from November 21 to December 10.
Don't miss the readings of Blake's Poetry December 5th, 12.30 noon in the Gallery.

CONGRATulations to Pat McArthur and Lynda Putnam who, as reported last month, took their final scuba diving tests and both passed.

SEDGEWICK reports that Sylvia Goiran and husband left San Fransisco for Yokahama via Hawaii on 23rd November. They will be visiting his parents in Malaysia and they plan to see Southeast Asia, and the Middle East before travelling on to Europe - over a two year period.

That's all for this month watch for those lucky numbers on the back of my picture next month and until then count your shopping days, its later than you think.

.....

Watchit!!!

Civil servants in Whitehall were staggered recently to find the following meme on their desks:

"Kindly return to this office a complete list of personnel of your department broken down by sex (in triplicate)"

(World Medicine July 1st '69)

A gem from Cataloguing

We've all heard about the old lady who "lived in a shoe" but this title suggests an even tighter squeeze:

Barber, Michael P.
Landlord and tenant in a nutshell

IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A PLANE! IT'S A WHAT?

In this age of space, it seems only fitting that one should indulge in the sport of the space age - Skydiving. "Oh!" you say, "but it's too dangerous!" It's a known fact that skiing is far more dangerous than skydiving. Even golfing, particularly in the States, is not exactly safe anymore!

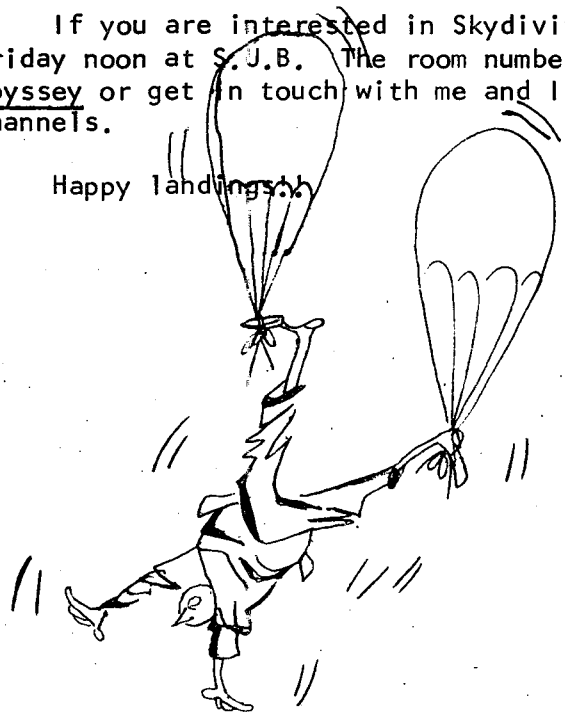
On campus, students and staff (I'm the staff member) have formed a skydiving club - the UBC Dropouts. Meetings are held every Friday noon in S.U.B. and training sessions take place most weekends at the Abbotsford Sport Parachute Centre.

The cost to participate in this sport is comparable to that of skiing. However, skydiving is year-round. During training all equipment is supplied and each student has two instructors - one on the ground, and one in the airplane.

Since September, 50% of the 100 persons who attend the meetings have made at least one jump and there has not been one student give up the sport.

If you are interested in Skydiving, drop in on the "Dropouts" any Friday noon at S.U.B. The room number is announced each week in the Ubyssey or get in touch with me and I will direct you to the proper channels.

Happy landings!!



Sandra Johnson,
Secretary,
Dropout Club.

(Systems)

HOW IT HAPPENED AT THE ASSOCIATION OF B.C. LIBRARIANS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARKSVILLE, VANCOUVER ISLAND, OCTOBER 6, 1969.

Fred White, head of Vancouver Island Regional Library, hosted a party Sunday night for the 20 or 30 early arrivals. Clifford Currie, Executive Director of the Canadian Library Association, "passing through" on the way to the Yukon, added to the general jollity. (It's not every profession that has a look-alike for Peter Sellers!) About 1.00 a.m. we left Fred with a room full of empty glasses and smoke. Another 30 or so librarians arrived Monday morning.

Monday 10 am - noon. Panel Library Service: Today and tomorrow - what users expect.
Chairman: Alan Woodland, Assistant Librarian of the New Westminster Public Library.
Panel: of experts - our users. Dr. R. Bishop - prof. at University of Victoria; R. McDougall - 2nd year Arts at University of Victoria; B. Tobin - newspaper editor (Victoria Daily Times); Hilary Cassie - Grade 11 student Kits High.

A good panel - it represented a spectrum of users in age, library experience, and educational interests.

On external and internal appearance of libraries.
Outside unimportant, internal attractiveness a definite aid in dispelling qualms, but quality of collection and access to it most important - university panelists.

Mr. Tobin - definite "lure" appeal is needed for publish and high school libraries in the form of good displays, puppet shows - any good gimmick to attract the clientele.

Hilary - a library where you could work on assignments in relative comfort.

What's the library's main job?
R.B., R.M., and B.T. took a wider, more objective look at the question. Make every effort to keep the ethnic, social and cultural background of your community in mind, and be prepared for shifts in emphasis. Libraries are important as "humanizing" instruments of education, and should offer as many services as possible to this end. Especially heed the needs of the children. The library should become an essential part of their environment and a logical cultural centre for the community.

Hilary took a more subjective approach. She had not met very many friendly, helpful librarians, and appeared definitely in need of being "lured" back. "If they'd just be friendly and helpful and kind!"

Librarians have sometimes been accused of "rushing headlong into the 19th Century".

Well, some certainly have a "liquor store" approach of little help or service!

And other comments in answer to questions from the chairman.

Know your community, get out and find out what they want from their library, look ahead and establish a good basic collection of cultural worth, as well as current value. Have a special section just for, say, the last five years - modern writers and current events. And more - the unwieldiness of the card catalogue, the need to break up "vast units" into less intimidating, smaller sections, to start getting library use information at an early age, to learn about using the library through a gradual and disciplined process, to provide specific areas for discussion and lounging, to have longer hours of opening at branches (when you start an assignment at 7 p.m., 9 p.m. is too early to leave), to establish more cooperation between school and public libraries on the content of assignments, to avoid making moral judgments, a basis of selection policy, to get out and enlist public support, and work out priorities with the various group interests represented in the community. Satisfy as large a segment of your community as possible within the financial limits of your budget. Above all, guard against an inward looking bureaucracy of rules to suit your purposes and comforts, rather than the users! It's a constant struggle to look outward to the needs of the people you serve, but this is the basis requisite of professionalism.

So - you can't say we haven't been told!

Buffet Lunch 12.30 - 2.00

Lots of goodies to suit every taste and waistline.

Business Meeting 2.00 - 4.30

As is often the case with business meetings involving too large a number to be forced to come to grips with problems, the afternoon session involved a number of motions, but not much action. Too

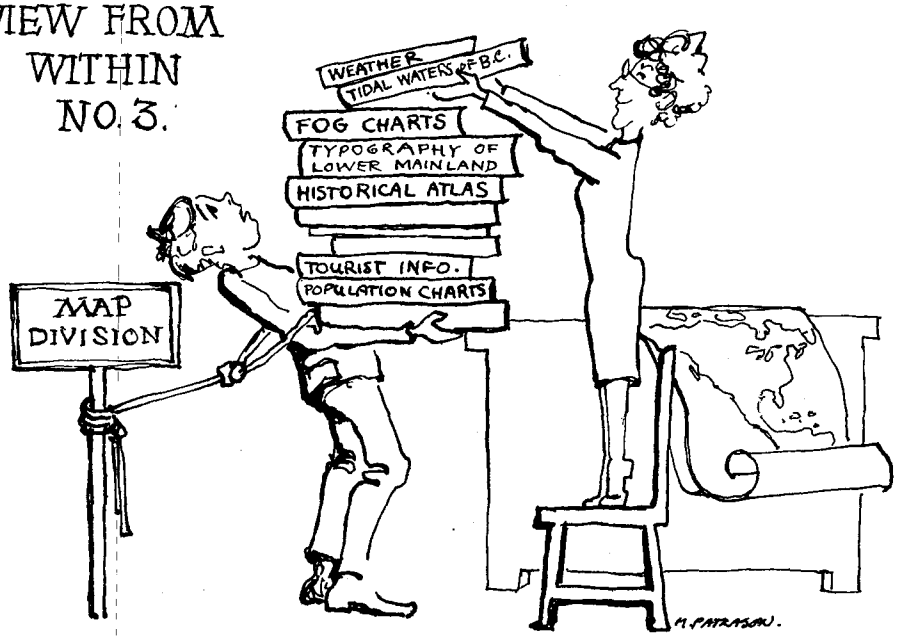
little discussion occurred on the Library School's proposed 2 year MLS program but a statement of opinion, together with a resolution proposing the establishment of a standing committee of ABCL to investigate Curricula of library schools across the country will be forwarded to the UBC School of Librarianship. This resolution reflects the desire of ABCL members to provide a committee of practising librarians which will become informed of curriculum content and problems and may, if the opportunity arises, discuss such issues with the School.

ABCL members voted to drastically reduce spending (not fees) for the next few years in an all-out effort to put 50% of the membership dues into a legal aid fund, the primary function of which will be to attempt to make ABCL the official licensing body for librarians in B.C.

Adjournment, sherry, take-off, and dinner on the dowdiest Queen of Mr. Bennett's navy.

K. Kent

VIEW FROM WITHIN NO. 3.



"BUT MA'AM! HOW MANY MILES IS IT TO CHILLIWACK?"

LETS HAVE A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

As all of you will know, if you read your last Bulletin, the Library staff now numbers over 400 persons who are distributed throughout the Main Library and the many Branch Libraries. Unfortunately this expansion has made it physcially impossible to arrange any type of Grand Christmas Party owing to lack of space, lack of funds, and the very geography of the Campus.

It has therefore become obvious that if we are going to celebrate the festive season at all it must be on a co-operative basis and what better way really is there to celebrate the season of goodwill than by everyone working together to make it a time of friendship and good fellowship.

We realize that there are some who feel that $7\frac{1}{4}$ hours a day spent in the library doing an adequate job and being paid for it is involvement enough, however there are others of us who deplore the anonyminity and lack of unity that the present expansion can create. Some might even yearn for the days when an interest in one's neighbour did not necessarily mean an invasion of his privacy or the compounding of a favour.

So how about one day during the Hallowed season let us show an old fashioned spirit of goodwill towards our fellow workers and celebrate the great festival of CHRISTMAS together.

AND THIS IS HOW IT CAN BE DONE.

Many of you are aware of a tradition that was started in Acquisitions a few years ago. Sometime during the Yuletide season a day is chosen and a HOSPITALITY TABLE is set up in the department. All members of the staff bring a donation of goodies and any one visiting the division during the day is invited to partake. The variety of the food during the past years have been great and scrumptious as anyone who has been lucky enough to visit will testify.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23rd WILL BE HOSPITALITY DAY in the MAIN LIBRARY On that date a long table will be set up in the STAFF ROOM on the seventh floor. All day long we hope to keep it loaded with goodies for you the staff members to munch on when you come in for your coffee breaks and lunches. COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE ON THE HOUSE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

Now that success and variety of our HOSPITABILITY TABLE relies on your co-operation. If every staff member would bring just one small donation - even a 10 cent bag of cheezies - the table will be loaded. There are many of you from other countries and a few traditional cookies or baked items would add a truly International flavour to the whole procedure.

THE BIBLOS STAFF will be in attendance from 9 a.m. on, ready and willing to accept any donation, which will promptly find a place on the "smorgasbord". During the next few days a list will be circulated in each department. If you do not care to participate be assured that this will be your secret. Some people feel we are too optimistic in our thoughts that the staff cares enough to share in a celebration but we are hopeful that the spirit of Christmas and community does exist in the Library.

We hope too that the Branches will follow our lead and have HOSPITALITY TABLES OR celebrations of their own and if possible pop over to the Main Library some time during the day as our guests.

THERE WILL BE ADDED EXCITEMENT throughout the day.
Every issue of the Holiday Biblos next month will contain a number - so mind you hang on to your copy. Several times during the day there will be a draw for a prize - we hope every hour. These numbers will be prominantly displayed. The Branch Libraries will be advised of the winning numbers the next day.

SOME OF THE PRIZES ALREADY PROMISED INCLUDE

Large Tin of Fancy English Biscuits	Biblos Editorial staff
Voucher for Turkey	Lib. Assts. Assoc.
Bottle of Champagne	
Bottle of Sparkling Rose	Front Office.
and other goodies	
Christmas arrangement	Rita Butterfield

SO HOW ABOUT JOINING IN to make this a success.
WATCH FOR THE PLEDGE NOTICE and that weekend before the 23rd BAKE or BUY.
LASTLY. any goodies left over at the end of the day will be delivered to the Central City Mission or any other preferred location.

WE WELCOME .....

Louise Van den Wyngaart	L.A. I	Woodward
Elizabeth Brock	L.A. I	Circulation
Lynne Malecot	L.A. II	Math
Carli Nadia	L.A. I	Sedgewick
Sally Blyth	L.A. IV	Sedgewick

Congratulations on your Promotions!

Betty Van Wijk	L.A. I	Woodward	to	L.A. II	Catalogue
Ann Severson	L.A. III	Catalogue	to	L.A. IV	Science
Marianne Becker	K.P.O.	Systems	to	L.A. II	Science

We Say Goodbye to.....

Kirsten Sullivan	L.A. I	Sedgewick
Jean Dutton	K.P.O.	Systems
Irene Norden	L.A. III	BMB
John Johnston	L.A. IV	Periodicals
Arab Abu-Sharife	St. Atten.	Sedgewick
Deron Bacon	L.A. II	Woodward
Grace Roberts	L.A. II	Circulation
Pat Denroche	L.A. II	Sedgewick
Valerie Roddick	L.A. IV	Science
Karin Casasempere	L.A. II	Science
Carol Wilson	L.A. II	Mathematics

.....

Letter received at the Woodward Library could indicate a certain sympathy with current working conditions - It was addressed.

The Woodward Bile Medical Library.
U.B.C. etc.

MEANINGLESS EMPLOYMENT

A little more than a year ago, I began work as stack attendant in the Sedgewick Library. I had spent the summer doing little - little at least in the accepted socially productive sense; hitch-hiking, living in my sleeping bag, exploring the Interior and the Rockies with my father and picking blueberries.

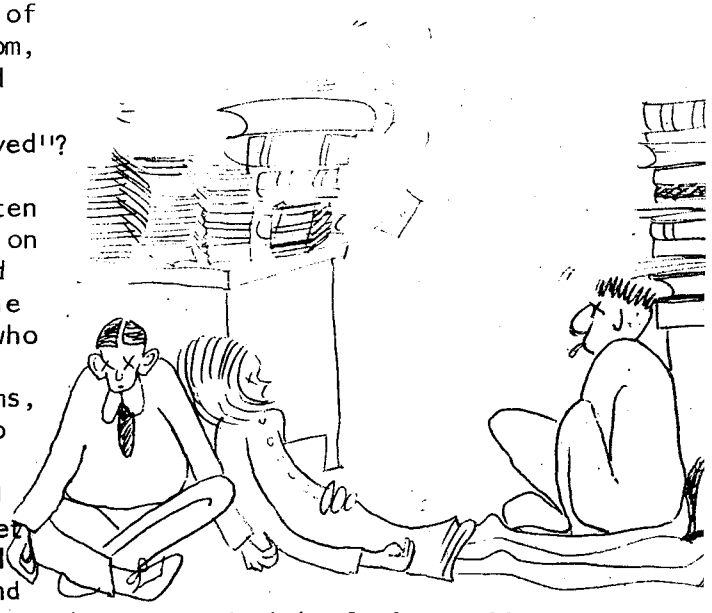
However, as fall passed and winter became imminent, I took stock of my situation. It would be nice to have a warm room of my own for the winter and the assurance of regular meals and I was beginning as well to feel some qualms about my lack of social productivity. Thus thinking, I decided once more to look for work.

Well, one fine day, as I was going carefully over the help-wanted section of the Sun, I chanced upon an advertisement inviting job applications for the position of library stack-attendant. Having always nurtured a fondness for books and the dream of working either in a library or at a bookseller's, I immediately set to work composing, in my best hand, a letter of application. A month or so passed and as I was becoming leaner with each day that passed, I took a job slinging hamburgers at Kavanaugh's. This work however was not very satisfying and so, quite naturally, I was quite excited the day I received the message that I had an appointment at the UBC personnel office.

The following week, when my appointment came round, I borrowed a clean shirt, applied some polish to my scuffed shoes and made my way out to the university. After a good half-day of waiting, tests and interviews, I was at length accepted and first met some of the people with whom I was to work. Tho' the work did not turn out to be exactly as I had pictured it, in my somewhat native youthful fantasies, I soon came to enjoy it reasonably well and even to take pride in it. Granted, I did miss the freedom of my previous penury and the exigency that required me to look upon those beloved books as mere blocks of wood bearing a number but, after all, I was meaningfully employed and could spend many of my free hours in the stacks of the main library, could eat my fill and sleep in a comfortable bed.

Thus passed several months without any serious philosophical speculation on my part as to the nature of the thing that I was doing. Gradually, however, the odd troublesome question did arise. For one, what was the

relative value of my paycheck and my time, the better part of which was no longer really my own? And what of my realtionship to those people whom convention has us regard as "superiors?? Should I really feel quilty if I were five minutes late or if I were caught browsing through some book the title of which had inspired me with curiosity? How could I and most of those around me accept the boredom, apathy and antipathy which seemed so general? And for that matter, was I really 'meaningfully employed"?



True, I have often been five or ten minutes late, read a page or two on "company time" and missed the odd day of work without an "acceptable excuse" and questioned the gods who made us. I realize that our administrators have many problems, that, though understaffed they do have a limited budget and that unless I learn to accept a lot, I may end up on my ass in the street. Thus flee our dreams and youthful follies! We work to be happy, and in doing so usually make ourselves unhappy. Nobody's fault really. This elusive apathy that lets us accept our eight hours a day with very little thought of the next persons' essential humanity, with very little creativity towards the solving of problems at work and with very little nerve to do anything about it.

I feel, thus, that we do have a real problem here and I do not believe that I am exaggerating when I say that a great many people working within the UBC Library System are quite unhappy with their work.

Just what the problem is, I am not quite sure. However I do believe that the possibilities exist for a more stimulating atmosphere within the library and sincerely hope that the administration had this in mind with its hiring of consultants and so forth. If, as the "Bulletin" states, "the library already compares favourably in organization and operation with other libraries and institutions" then our society is indeed in poor shape! For, upon what criteria is this statement to be based if not upon that of individual contentment with one's job??

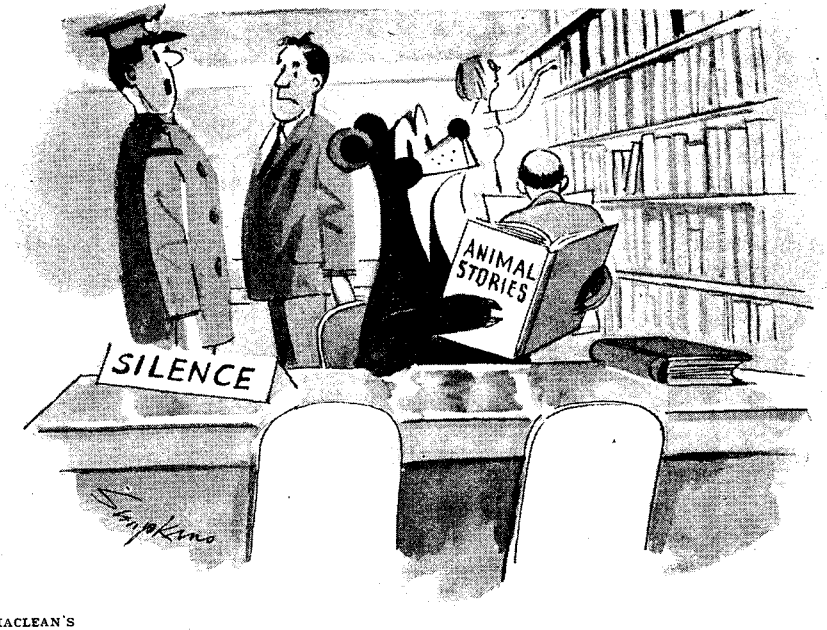
If this poor old world is to survive, then meaningful employment is really necessary, since those who cannot at present feel some relationship to the rest of the world through their work would be lost in any future society in which leisure is important.

I am not at the time proposing a stack attendant's strike or anything of that nature but only a bit more serious thought on the part of all of us, "management" and "rank-and-file" alike. In fact we might begin by breaking down some of the artificial barriers that are created between the two latter groups.

The Biblos itself, which the "Bulletin" calls a "highly successful medium of general communication" is nothing of the sort. Informative perhaps; but very little meaningful communication. If anyone is interested, there is need for a few more writers on the Biblos. Anyone have any gripes, opinions, poems, drawings, or gossip (for our hard-working but cheerful and curious editress)?

I realize that lately I have perhaps made some pretty rash statements, but - damn it, one must live and we all have a right to meaningful employment.

Richard Howlett



MACLEAN'S

"As long as he's silent we can't do anything."

WHO SAYS 26 INTO 24 WON'T GO - THE BEAUTIFUL BRUNETTE KNOWS.

In an attempt to minimize book theft and maintain a useful working collection, security regulations for the Main Library currently specify that all items in the form of books and briefcases remain outside the book stack area. This has created a situation where many of these articles have been easy prey to those with, shall we say, "itchy palms" or "shallow scruples". The result has been to place the student in a traumatic position, torn between the necessity of going into the stacks to retrieve the necessary materials to produce that A+ term paper, or staying outside to protect what he already has in his possession (the end result being a mark somewhat less than A+!)

The library, ever sensitive to student need, arrived at what would appear to be an ideal solution to this pressing problem and psychological torment. In the early summer arrived the answer in the form of one hundred fifty "small" steel lockers positioned strategically near the turnstiles just outside the entrance to stack level 3, and adjacent to the stack entrance in the main concourse. The lockers are coin-operated; the key being released by the mechanism upon insertion of a 25¢ deposit in the slot. They are "normal" in every way except one ..... the 25¢ deposit is refunded after use. (Hopefully).

Although the instructions for use are clearly indicated on the lockers, they were viewed by the students with some trepidation and skepticism for the first few days.

With the passing of the initial curiosity, pressing needs (one of which being to insure that one's lunch remained intact while studying in the stacks) forced the students to actually read the instructions posted on the lockers.

Once the nature of the lockers (i.e. FREE, FREE, FREE) became evident, their popularity became widespread. However, as with any new gadget, experience is the only test of its adequacy in meeting desired requirements. The first problem to confront the early users of the lockers was their size. Have you ever tried to force a twenty-six inch brief case into a twenty-four inch locker? Many a user, who came to the conclusion that it was an impossibility, began to wonder at their usefulness after all. The result was that the area behind the Information Desk became a repository for oversized cases.

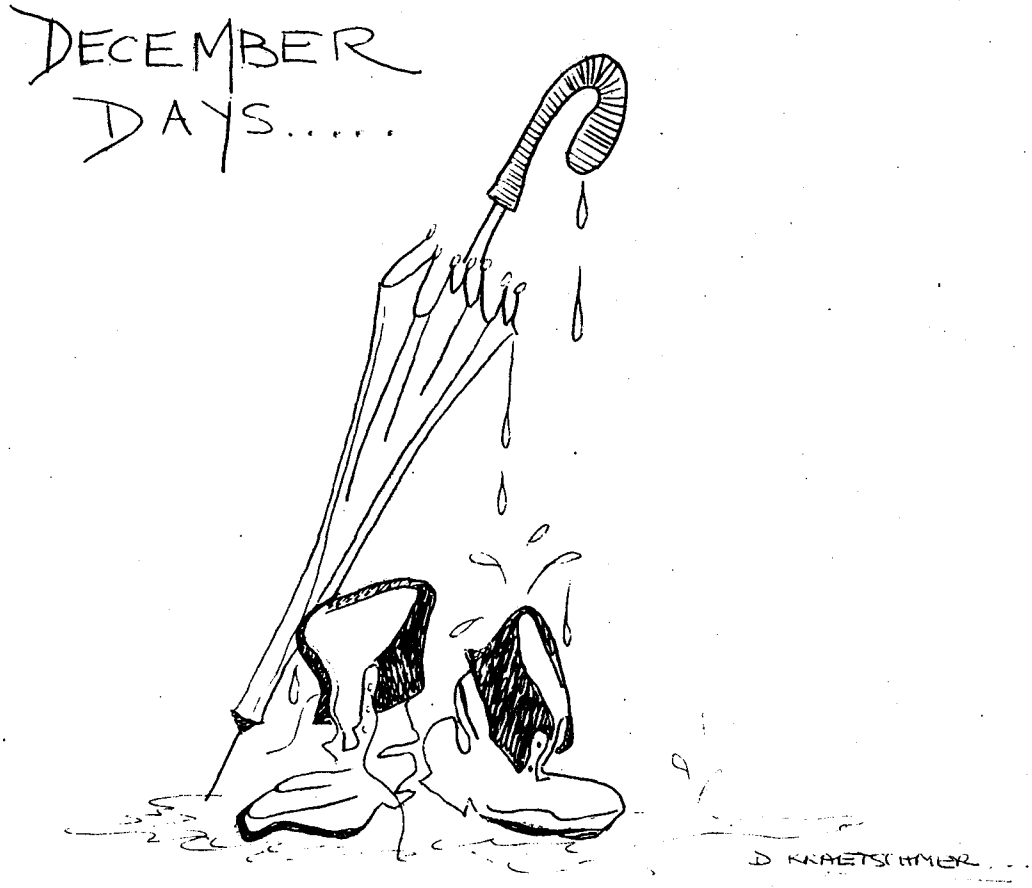
The workmanship, supposedly superb, besides falling short on its requirement of size, fell short in its provision for an adequate system of refund i.e. a slope designed to force the 25¢ refund out into the waiting hands of the impatient student. Consequently, many a harried student, seeking assistance in retrieving what was rightfully his, came face to face with the pleasant fact that the holder of the master key was none other than a Beautiful Brunette. What else could soothe the temper of a distraught youth whose out-stretched palm is painfully empty! It is therefore not surprising to see a student return again and again to the locker scene hoping, just by chance, that he would be one of those fortunate enough to need the services of said person.

The converse to the above incident, however occured recently when a staff member encountered a highly perturbed student trying to jam the refunded 25¢ back into the refund slot.

Another staff member, on the other hand, came face to face with a more enterprizing youth, who knew how to capitalize on the frequent occurrence of mechanical failures of coin-operated machines. Appealing to the sympathies of this person, he was able to convince him that his one and only quarter had been lost in the locker. Whereupon he became the receiver of a 25¢ piece he did not deserve.

There are always those few who attempt to outsmart the system. These were students who considered it to be too much trouble to transport their books to and from the campus each day, and decide that the ideal solution would be to use the lockers overnight. Little did they realize that our efficient commissionaires were one jump ahead of the game. Nightly the lockers are cleared to accommodate the demand of the following day.

What lay in store for the negligent few was something they hadn't anticipated i.e. a first class lecture delivered at the Information Desk--a prerequisite to receiving one's belongings. Fair exchange!

It must have become apparent by now that the Information Desk has not emerged unscathed by all this. Owing to the number of oversized briefcases on campus, and added to this the number of lockers cleared nightly of their belongings, it is not surprising that one has to bypass an obstacle course of books, cases, papers, and stale lunches to reach a librarian.

Dee Norris