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Selah Library

To the editor — As you have published in recent letters, on Sept. 23, Selah City Council members made the disappointing decision to no longer run the public library through the Yakima Valley Regional Library System. The contract between the library and Selah will be terminated as of Jan. 1, 2004.

By terminating this contract, Selah is relinquishing many of the services that are key to running a successful library. These services include the interactive card cataloging system, public Internet access, salaries for the librarians, summer reading programs and the option of interlibrary loaning or reservations.

The City Council argues that the contract with YVRL is no longer economical. We must

argue that maintaining a public library with all the same services that are currently available is far less economical. Knowing that Selah residents only pay roughly half of what is needed to run the library with the aid of the regional system, how could the City Council believe it might find a less expensive way to run our library?

The question now is: Has the Selah City Council truly become ungrateful and blind to the generosity of YVRL, or does the City Council have other plans for the library's current funding and space?

Students from Selah are taking an active role in trying to persuade the City Council to retract its decision on terminating the contract. Based on the belief that access to literature plays a fundamental role in education and

the development of society, students are perturbed by the thought of being thrown back into literacy "Stone Age."

NICHOLE ASHBY
Selah