

editorial

Arthurs should spend a week in res

York University wants to raise residence rents to 95 per cent of market value. Rents would increase 6.45 per cent over a 10-year period.

The CYSF and residence students are angry with this plan and justifiably so. What will students get for 95 per cent of market value rents? Anything close to a real, however small, apartment?

We would like to reiterate the CYSF's invitation to Norman Crandles, director of housing and food services. We would also like to extend this invitation to President Harry Arthurs and vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr. Crandles, Arthurs and Farr should spend one (1) week in any regular room in any undergraduate residence. The CYSF has promised to provide scrip for the duration of the visit to Crandles, so he can really get to know residence food. We're sure scrip could be made available to Arthurs and Farr as well. Yum.

There are a lot of pleasures, which residence students live with daily, that Arthurs, Farr and Crandles can expect to experience. They will get to live in a tiny little room (approx. 10' by 14'), with a smelly carpet, very few shelves and a small closet.

They will get to share a not-too-sanitary bathroom with a bunch of other co-ed floormates as well as the overflowing garbage bins. They will particularly enjoy sharing the bathroom on Friday mornings, after pub night.

Leaky pipes, disgusting shower stalls (mould on the ceilings and curtains) and the strong possibility of someone stealing their clothes while showering are a few more of the pleasures these three can expect.

They will not be able to sleep because their often insomniac neighbours will be creating disturbances, but they won't be able to sleep anyway because the sagging beds provide no support for their backs. They won't be able to get any work done, if they try, because of the noise of socializing people and their stereos.

If they choose a room with a southern exposure, they can expect to be toasty warm by 8:30 in the morning because the curtains are too flimsy to block the beating sun.

And, hopefully, Arthurs, Farr and Crandles are not allergic to dust.

Most students live in residence because they can't afford the high rents in Metro Toronto. Maybe after they spend a week in residence, Arthurs, Farr and Crandles will be convinced, and will be able to convince their fellow bureaucrats, that residence students should not pay almost as much as someone living off-campus.

So what's it going to be?

Excalibur readers should attend an Open Forum to be held Wednesday February 21 in Curtis L from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. to express their concerns about rental increases. Along with Crandles and Farr, manager of housing operations Peter Rideout, assistant vice-president (business operations) David Homer and director of physical plant operations Khursh Irani will be there to hear and answer to students' concerns. Go and tell them exactly what you think.

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letters

We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They must be typed, double spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Would York take Hitler's money?

Dear Editor:

One wonders whether the \$1 million donation from the Japanese benefactor who was a "class A" war criminal would have still been accepted by York if it had come from, say, a former Nazi war criminal, or a former member of an Arab extremist group that committed similar crimes against Jewish people?

Signed
 Steve Popichak
 Admin. Studies

Part-time faculty often just as dedicated

Dear Editor:

I was interested to read the front page cover article in *Excalibur's* first Tuesday issue, "Prof shortage to hit Ontario by mid-'90s." My interest, however, quickly changed to disappointment when I read Vice-President Davey's dismissive generalizations about

part-time faculty who, in his assessment, "are not as committed to York nor on campus as much as tenured faculty."

I have been a part-time faculty member at York for 14 years. During that time, many of my part-time colleagues in the Writing Workshop, the Humanities Division, Atkinson College and elsewhere, have greatly enriched academic life at York through their dedicated teaching, creative research and publications. Many generously volunteer their time to do committee work, or to organize and participate in a full range of academic and cultural events outside the classroom. Many are active Fellows in York's colleges.

So, are part-time faculty as committed to York as tenured faculty? I will resist the temptation to make a sweeping generalization. I cannot deny that some part-timers are on campus only one or two days a week, I have had ample opportunity to observe that distinctions in degree of commitment have much to do with the individuals involved and very little to do with contractual status.

Over the years, many part-timers have left York. Perhaps their commitment was casual; more likely they were demoralized by the casual dismissal of their contributions to York.

It is far more significant, I feel, that many of us have stayed. We continue to teach, do committee work, research and publish without the benefits afforded tenured faculty, without sabbatical leaves and often without institutional recognition. We stay because, quite simply, we remain deeply committed to our students, and to the intellectual demands and rewards of our chosen profession.

Jan Rehner

Will West shake off it's lethargy in '90s?

Dear Editor:

Like everyone else in the world, I have been watching the positive changes occurring in Eastern Europe with both hope and astonishment.

What we ignore, however, is that these changes have been brought about by ordinary, everyday, hard working, tired, stressed out, fed up people — people like you and I, with the same feelings of helplessness as you and I — yet, people who somehow find the energy and spirit to protest in the streets of their towns and their cities, often risking their lives in very large numbers. They remind us of the positive power we all share when we unite in a common goal, be it political, environmental, economic, or whatever.

The message to governments all over the world is becoming increasingly clear: listen to us, or we will rise up in anger; we have the power to topple you, and worse as Ceausescu of Romania discovered.

Lately, I have been wondering if the '90s will be the decade we finally shake off our lethargy in Canada and the United States. I wonder if the changes we see in Eastern Europe will inspire us to deal with our own feelings of helplessness. I wonder if we have the courage in North America to stand up in great numbers to our own smug, self-satisfied, self-serving political parties.

Placard, anyone?

Richard Eadie