

LETTERS

cont'd from p.5

Miceline from the Housing Department.

I'm very thankful to all of them. Based on my experience as a woman and as an international student, I was happily surprised they had the ability to empathize with my difficult circumstances.

The York community should know of the significant contribution they have made to improving my situation here.

Name withheld at editor's discretion

**Don't blame administration**

To the editor,

Re: Use Boycotts to Fight Residence Increases (Mar.20 editorial)

Everyone seems to be attacking the administration because of the rise in residence fees. I think that this increase is more than justified, and perhaps should even be greater.

One must remember the university exists to educate, not to provide inexpensive housing.

Under the new fees, students will be paying about \$4,300 per school year to live in residence. This works out to about \$535 per month (based on an eight-month school year).

This not only goes toward paying for housing, but it also includes a meal plan. Using scrip, students are exempt from paying the GST. Also, if students find that they have an abundance of scrip, they could sell it for cash.

Living on campus also offers a lot of convenience. Classes are close by and students don't waste time commuting.

Residing in residence also offers a great social life. Other people of the

same age and interests are around you.

One cannot blame the administration for a rise in the residence fees. The university housing plan must be self-supporting. The only revenue for housing comes from students. It seems only fair.

Even with the increase in student resident fees, by offering housing at these prices, housing will acquire a \$3.6 million debt next year. Is that fair?

Many students are accusing the administration of running housing as a business. How can this be when they are showing such a loss? It is the people offering housing off-campus that are only there to make a buck. The administration is raising fees just to pay off its debt.

If one can only complain about on-campus housing and point to the benefits of off-campus housing, then why not go off campus? If off-campus looks so much better, then go for it.

Up until now, resident students have enjoyed easy living. Included in the current residence fees are night porters, linen service, and hall phones. The administration finally realized that it couldn't afford to offer these services. Where, off campus, could anyone be able to \$500 (current monthly cost of living on-campus) per month and receive not only a room, but food, security guards, linen service, telephone and the convenience of being so close to classes?

Universities are supposed to prepare students for the real world. The way the university is running its housing now, this is not the case. Students should not be whining about residence fees. They should be thankful that they have things so good.

John A. Vink

**A look at York from the end of year soapbox**

To the editor,

Once again another academic year at York University is coming to an end. Naturally, one looks forward to being released from the mass confusion, total chaos, and all-round apathy generated by prolonged exposure to this institution. Before we leave for the summer, let's reflect on what needs to be done before we leave. More importantly, let's take a gander at the crystal ball and try to decipher the complex scenarios around campus, the present and the future.

Congratulations to the new YFS executives. I hope they serve with distinction, and more importantly, with responsibility (unlike this year's YFS president). Please don't waste anymore time, energy and money on non-issues like trying to freeze tuition. Others in the past have said they would (attempt to) freeze tuition, but has it happened? In the last 10 years, has tuition been reduced, or (heaven forbid), been frozen? Should the new YFS executives waste time attempting the impossible? Hopefully, this year's YFS can separate reality from fiction, not like Mr. Unite to Fight for Student Rights, who lives in his own fantasy world.

Being a Bethune student, I would like to know where the hell Ghomeshi gets off telling us how our college (not UNIVERSITY) paper should operate and what it should contain? Only Bethune students pay for *The Lexicon*, and any reasonable person should realize that Bethune students, and Bethune students alone, should have the ultimate voice in any decision regarding *The Lexicon*. Even though the Bethune College Council (BCC) has not been the pinnacle of satisfactory leadership this year,

BCC is correct to claim that it is a college issue, not a campus-wide issue. Our president, in this humble writer's mind, is right on the mark with her Mar.18 letter to the editor. Suffice it to say, I wish Ghomeshi would do what many (including myself) would like the Central Square smokers to do — BUTT OUT!

If one read *The Lexicon* regularly last year as well as this year, one would know that this year's *Lexicon* is a total opposite of last year's *Lexicon*. There was balance. Heavens to Mercutroid, there were even articles about the college. This year there was nary an article about the college. And when they tried to rectify the situation they put in an article written by University of Toronto students! It had something "science-oriented" and they probably needed their yearly science article, so why not take the easy way out. I'm sorry to inform *The Lexicon* staff, but the band-aid solution does not cut it.

By the way, it was interesting to note that in the same aforementioned edition of *Excalibur*, the editorial suggested a referendum on the fate of *The Lexicon*. Get real *Excalibur* — the pathetic student population at large would not even vote, much less support, another levy on tuition for another paper. We are already overburdened as it is — who wants to pay for the same thing, but in a different flavor (socialist)? I think I should look for my tuition receipt and find the part where it says "funds for socialist newspaper." Damn! I knew something was not reported on the receipt.

Changing gears, I for one am astonished that (it seems) no one is irked at the blatant waste of resources used in the YFS elections. The

posters were too numerous and unrecyclable, and to add insult to injury, many of them became welcome mats for people to wipe their feet on. There should be a limit to the number of posters a candidate should be allowed to put up. We should be voting on what the candidates stand for, not who has the most money to spend on posters.

Instead of trying to wake up the apathetic York populace with non-stop posters, why not extend the campaigning period? I know it's a radical idea, but if you interrupt people's natural "hang out" habitat, they will respond. The few of us who bother to vote every year would like to hear more from the candidates, and not only the candidates competing for president.

If the end of this year is a preview of things to come, I hope summer goes by slowly. Why is it that we have paid (most of us) \$90 to a Student Centre that is never going to be finished until the return of Halley's comet? Why is it that Vari Hall (I thought it was the Entry Pavillion) is going up in record time, while the Student Centre construction drags on? These delays may be to our advantage. We could have a lottery — predict when the Student Centre will be open. The proceeds can go towards financing a second campus newspaper.

Anyways, thank you for your time. Contrary to popular belief, there are actually some of us who care about campus issues. I know there are doubters who say that there are no such beings at York University, but it's true. We may be a dying breed, but we will survive nonetheless.

Sincerely,  
Athol Kelly

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