

# money before morals

Integrity. The recent Sasakawa controversy proves that York's leaders are lacking this fundamental quality, one that should be a primary goal of a post-secondary educational institution.

The details are already familiar. York's administration has accepted a \$1 million donation from a foundation headed by Ryoichi Sasakawa — the self-proclaimed richest fascist in the world. Even though he was never tried, Sasakawa was classified by the U.S. government as a class A war criminal (worst rating) after being interned for three years after World War Two. He admired Mussolini, and has documented ultra-nationalist and underworld connections in Japan. And our administration wants to keep the money.

We understand York is extremely short of funds, to the extent that residence rents will likely dramatically increase, that 22 acres of land given to the university for academic purposes were sold to Bramalea Ltd. for \$33 million and will soon sprout an extensive condominium development, and that gymnastics coach Maasaki Naosaki could have gone to the Commonwealth Games if the Canadian Gymnastics Federation had given York \$8,000.

Where will the line be drawn? The pursuit of money has overtaken administrative integrity. York, it seems, will take anyone's money.

Harry Arthurs, York's president, said the money is sufficiently removed from Sasakawa. If this is so, why will the scholarships that will be created from it carry Sasakawa's name?

Arthurs has also contradicted himself by saying the university received the money without knowing details of Sasakawa's past. But, he has also said the decision to accept the money "involved a tight judgement call" because of the ethical considerations. Despite his initial statement, Arthurs evidently *did* think about the origin of this money.

Unfortunately, he did not consult anyone who knows enough about Japanese politics and history to make an informed decision. And in fact, it looks like he won't consult knowledgeable people in the future. He said, "I don't think a university can run efficiently if every decision is a matter of collegial debate." Arthurs is, in effect, saying that knowing the details of what you're doing is not as important as just doing it, especially when money is involved.

York has now lost a great deal of integrity in the eyes of the public, even though some York professors, such as Bob Wakabyashi who resigned as chair of the East Asian studies programme, protested the donation. Arthurs said it's OK to keep the money because universities such as Yale and Princeton have. If Yale told York to jump off a bridge, would Arthurs tell York to do it?

York still has a chance to "save face" by returning the money. Yes, York is severely in need of money. But what price do we have to pay for this million?

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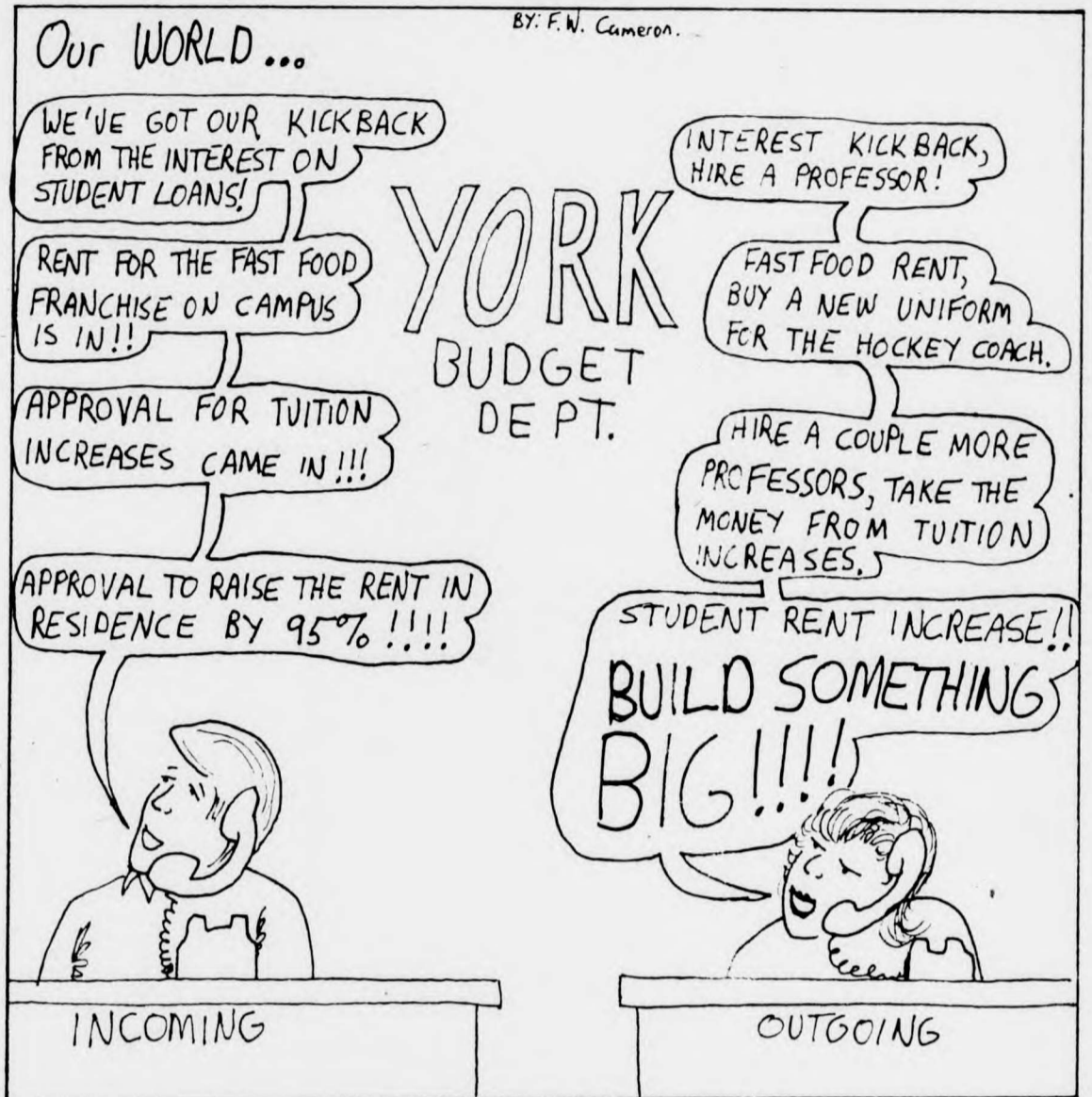
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## letters

### GPA grading system "not fair"

Dear Editors:

This letter is relevant to every student who is endeavouring to maintain high grades for future employment or entrance into a graduate school.

If you are a member of this large group then you may be being cheated by the system of grading at York. Let me engage in some statistics to illustrate my point.

If you receive a 79 per cent (B+) in your first term of economics and are looking to raise that to an 80 per cent (A) average for the purpose of entering the BBA programme; well, this task will be much more difficult than you think.

Logically what should happen is that if you attain an 81 per cent in second term you will receive the desired 80 per cent (A) average. However it doesn't work that way. What you need to raise that 79 per cent to an 80 per cent is a 90 per cent. What you say, that's not fair. You bet it's not fair.

Averages at York are calculated by Grade Point Average (GPA). Thus, the individual with a 79 percent average has a 7.00 GPA and needs a 9.00 GPA (90 per cent or higher) to receive the desired 8.00 GPA (80 per cent - 89 per cent). This is not a minor difference. Many will suffer the wrath of the York marketing scheme this year unaware that they were unfairly treated.

Here is another example involving scholarship winners. Those who receive an entrance scholarship with a renewable option require an A or 80 per cent average to maintain the scholarship. Let's say you receive an 89 per cent in four of your five subjects and 79 per cent in the fifth (Calcu-

lus was difficult). Still this is quite an average, *n'est-ce pas?*

According to my calculator that's an 87 per cent average, plenty sufficient for renewal right? Sorry. You only receive a 7.80 GPA slightly shy of 80 per cent. If this system infuriates you, it should.

My best guess as to its logic is that it is intended to avoid categorizing students into a hierarchy of 100 percentage points and by doing this account for differences in such things as teachers and testing. To categorize students in groups of two or three percentages is one thing, but to categorize them in groups of 10 per cent is entirely another.

After all, is the above average performance of a 90 per cent really the same as the flawless 100 per cent average. I would think not, but both are put in the category of a 9.00 GPA. There is no legitimate reason to disregard the precision of percentages. It is better for every York student to have their average in a percentage form.

If this issue, or the statistics above, concerns you I would urge you to complain. Directing your complaints to the York Senate Committee is probably your best bet.

Scott Bezeau

### Alternative flicks lose money: Reel and Screen

Dear Editor:

Over the last few months I have worked for the CYSF's Reel and Screen. When I was given the option to run it myself, I took up the challenge. Since then people have been giving me many suggestions on what movies to show.

To show alternative movies would be great, but there is just one small problem. That is, a lot more people would have to attend these movies for this to succeed. Last year's turn-out for these movies was dismal. To some people it may seem this is money-oriented and the CYSF only cares about profit, but this is not totally true. We do care about the students and their opinions, yet for us to show these movies could cause a great financial loss. If we could stand to lose the money we would. People have to understand that the money has to come from somewhere, so until we are on firm ground, we unfortunately simply cannot afford it.

One last thought. Where else can you get to see movies of high calibre on the big screen for only \$5.

Yours sincerely,  
 George Sanghera

### Smokers ill-mannered

Dear Editor:

There are numerous no-smoking signs posted in the buildings on campus. However, a few of my fellow students who smoke are choosing to ignore the North York by-law.

Today (Jan 25, '90) I took it upon myself to ask four people in the Central Square no-smoking area to extinguish their cigarettes. The first person graciously complied with my request. The second person lied in my face and asked me what cigarette I was talking about.

The other two students refused to extinguish their cigarettes, but said they would go to the smoking area. I waited for them to leave. They walked slowly and

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