

# Correspondence

## Won't budge on budget

This letter is directed to the members of the Residence Budget Committee of York University. This message is not meant to pass blame or to insult, but is simply to draw interest to the apathy and lack of concern demonstrated earlier this week with regards to the proposed Residence Budget for 1981-82.

A meeting of the RBC was set 9:30, Monday morning, February 9, 1981. A disappointing two people were in attendance, including myself, a representative of Founder's Residence Council. With such a low turnout, the meeting was cancelled. The topics on the proposed agenda included a discussion of the budget agreed upon by the residence sub-committee, in attempt to allow the RBC and the tenant associations the opportunity to discuss and debate the set resolutions. However, not meeting means no discussion and the terms were left as they were constructed by the subcommittee. The cost increase is a reasonable 7.9 per cent increase for residence. However, my complaint is in the lack of interest shown in the residence student body. It is this same student body that complains at every opportunity that costs are too high, still, when given the chance to make their complaints heard, they shy away from a simple meeting that would at best cost them but a few hours of their precious time. I'm not sure if it was a lack of knowledge of lack of responsibility that the residence budget representatives from attending the meeting, but in either case, it stands to prove that the student's voice is not being heard in the 'bureaucracy' of the university system simply because the students are not raising their voice. Frankly, it frightens me to think that such a large body of students are willing to accept so easily decisions made in their absence concerning their living conditions and financial situations, without caring so much to devote a single morning's energy for the opportunity to be heard. I thought it was our responsibility as students now and members of the community tomorrow, to be aware of our positions and to work towards obtaining the best possible lifestyles for ourselves. However, such a severe display of apathy and lack of ambition as shown on Monday has lead me to believe that perhaps the students of residence should choose more carefully those students who will represent their interests and that it seems that the present RBC members have forgotten that their duty is to attempt to better the living conditions of the students they represent. Even if that duty means sacrificing a Monday morning sleep! This lack of concern among the residence students is a sad disappointment

for all those involved in residence life.

I hope that my words will spark at least one of the absent members into either a rebuttal of my remarks or perhaps an excuse as to why turnout was so low. If no reply comes forth, then students living in residence, you are inadequately represented. This could lead to bigger problems without people who care enough to find solutions.

**Joy Parks**  
Founder's Residence Council

P.S. In the hope that this letter will reach those students who do care and want to know why they are not being represented, try contacting your own residence council and find out why the representative of your residence was not in attendance at this very important meeting.

## Departure questioned

I read with a degree of despondency your featured news article (Brickwood ousted-February 5) concerning the dismissal of Peter Brickwood from the CYSF. The basis of the dismissal was that Brickwood had missed a number of CYSF meetings and (as noted in your article) according to CYSF President Malcolm Montgomery he failed to "...give any guarantee that he would attend future meetings." In my mind, the fact that Brickwood was seeking reinstatement gives a clear indication that he would attend future meetings. As noted in the article, Brickwood missed several CYSF meetings because they conflicted with his "job". It should be noted, however, that his off-campus work concerns the personal counselling of emotionally handicapped children. A very humane responsibility which cannot be easily set aside.

Furthermore, the question must be asked as to what does his dismissal accomplish? Since he held a seat on the CYSF by virtue his position as Student Representative on the Board of Governors, no one will be placed in his now vacant seat on the CYSF. I could see the rationale for a college representative being dismissed for missing meetings, since that person could be replaced by another representative from the college in question. No one can replace Peter Brickwood.

Another point which must not be overlooked is the position Montgomery took, after being elected the CYSF President, in relation to his BOG seat. It was Montgomery's position that by keeping his BOG seat (and not giving it up in a by-election) he could facilitate better BOG - CYSF communications with no "middleman" involved. In this light, the removal of Brickwood from the CYSF breaks half of the BOG-CYSF communication which

Montgomery held in such high esteem, and therefore represents a contradiction of policy on Montgomery's part.

**Lawson Oates**

## Gratitude

I would like to extend my thanks to the women's national field hockey team, the Starbucks, and to all the students who unselfishly donated their help to help make the OWIAA and OUAA volleyball championships the success that they were. Once again, thank you.

**Harry Orbach**  
Organizational Committee

## Shameful

Grasping the opportunity luckily presented by Professor I. Bar-Lewawaw rather shameful, factually inaccurate and pseudo-scientific analysis of the El Salvador's Ad hoc Committee's orientation, I feel obliged to comment upon one specific issue dealt with in his argument, namely the Afghanistan one.

The red-Tory professor, trying to manipulate the principle of democracy is generating an upheaval over LAC's and progressive students' "apathy" toward the "Russian invasion of Afghanistan."

Let me inform this suddenly awakened defender of democracy, this self-proclaimed Kremlinologist, that the Soviet Union did not invade Afghanistan. As a matter-of-fact, the Soviets, anticipating such ridiculous criticisms as offered by this professor of Spanish, had to consider thoroughly and deeply their help to the people of this nation which was struggling for its independence and national sovereignty. Moreover the people of Afghanistan would never have asked for the soviet aid had not it been for unwelcome attempts to destabilize the revolution initiated and attempted by the United States and Pakistan's Zia.

Therefore, anybody progressive, not associating El Salvador with Afghanistan, should not feel that is betraying his/hers progressive convictions.

**John Poulosos**

## Bar-Lewaw replies

Professor Simmons did not himself to the most important points, mentioned in my article and his letter has nothing to do with my content.

I compared communism to fascism, the cozy relations between the Soviets and the most hated Latin American regime in Argentina. If the communists in Moscow need Argentina's wheat—because no communist regime is able to feed its people—then the neo-Nazis in Argentina are "kosher". What is the

Continued on page 11.

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