

EDITORIAL

Use boycotts to fight residence increases

The Residence Budget Committee met last week and proposed an eight per cent increase in fees along with cuts in services. In real terms that would increase the price of a single room from \$3976 per year to \$4294 annually or \$536 monthly.

If you live in North York, you can rent a comfortable room in a fully furnished house for between \$300 and \$400 a month without food.

It's no shock that the administration runs York like a business. Norm Crandles, director of Housing and Food Services, and Bill Farr, vp finance, are essentially businesspeople and as such, they should be willing to negotiate their terms with students.

Negotiation, however, entails give and take, and what have we as students got to give except money?

The problem in this case is that the new residence budget proposal is one-sided. We give the administration money and they take away essential services such as telephones and night porters.

Student governments could organize demonstrations, petitions, sit-ins, etc., and raise some awareness, but the administration would take an organized boycott of the Student Accounts offices or York Lanes more seriously than a group of screaming protestors.

Constructing York Lanes was one of the best things the administration ever did. The university collects rent by leasing out space. But if there are no customers, no business will want to rent the space. Therefore, a boycott is an effective threat.

But students and student government should also strike where it hurts the most, in the Housing department's financial statements. Business people are usually very receptive if the alternative is going to cost them money. Threaten that income and you are going to get a reaction, guaranteed.

Traditionally, residence students come from areas outside Toronto. For a first year student coming to York, residence is the easiest, safest and most convenient housing. The administration knows this and that is where the problem lies. York has a virtual monopoly on the campus housing market.

Drawing on models from UofT, Waterloo, and many other universities, the possibility of student run cooperatives should be seriously considered.

Take a chunk out of the market, force the administration to be competitive and if they refuse, at least a cooperative is an alternative to the skyrocketing prices of residence.

The university has an off-campus housing department. It takes up a small office in Student Affairs, staffed by two people to service a population of 50,000.

Apparently, the administration is not concerned with the housing crisis. If the university can operate off-campus housing on such a small budget, so can the York Federation of Students.

Some may argue that student run co-ops are usually subject to misuse and abuse by the tenants and have been likened to student ghettos. Conditions at the on-campus residences, however, are not much better, even without the proposed cuts in services.

It is time to stop whining about the evil administration and how they are screwing students. Time to stop waving banners and causing a mild disturbance outside of the offices of those whose hands are usually tied by financial constraints or bureaucratic red tape. It's time to let the administration taste their own medicine.

It's quite understandable why these changes are being proposed at a time when students are more concerned with passing school and summer employment than fighting rent increases.



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, we will refuse letters that are racist, sexist, libellous or those which attempt to incite hatred toward an individual or an identifiable group. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Reflections from the right on election results

To the editor,

Curious isn't it? It seems that an entire slate of like-minded people have been elected to YFS's strongest positions by the minority of York students that constitute the voting public.

Curious how all of their election signs looked somewhat similar. Could it be that some greater powers conspired to pool their resources to see to it that a majority of these politically correct "Ghomeshiites" could gain access to our student government?

When a great victory it was to see that they *all* got voted in. It must have been sweet revenge for the Conservative landslide of 1984. With the void left behind by the restructuring Soviets, York was a perfect spot for the left to once again spread its gospel.

Thankfully, however, York student politics has little influence on the outside world (if it did, Iraq would still have 19 provinces, the Palestinians would control Jerusalem, and abortion would be available on demand and covered by our new health plan).

So, the YFS will have to keep itself busy by just wisely dispensing the money of the students it represents (a far greater number than those who bothered to vote). It can continue to spend money on slick protests against the federal government (macaroni for everyone this time) and the provincial government for not lowering tuition so that more student money can be spent on necessary items such as the CFS and QFS.

YFS' masterful control of the election process, having proved its effectiveness in the OFS and CFS referendum, has now been perfected in the YFS election.

By running an election in a very short period of time, the ruling members were able to mobilize their campaign, allow a couple days for poorly publicized and even more poorly attended debates and, of course, neglect sufficiently publicizing the dates of the election. Congratulations are definitely in order for a slickly run election.

Finally, I would like to make a suggestion to the legions of people who will be moved to respond to my letter (many of whom find them-

selves incapable of signing their names without a punctuating epithaph such as International Socialists).

My suggestion is that you may consider me a sarcastic, bitter fascist but, rest assured, many students who did not bother to vote (more than those who did vote for your bloc of candidates) would agree with me, if only they were encouraged to form an opinion.

Alan Grad
International Capitalist

Doulis editorial "overt"

To the editor,

RE: *Vandoo* editorial: "The Totally Irreverent, Biased, and Outright Nasty Voting Guide"

I would like to respond to Cassandra Doulis' editorial in regards to the recent YFS election. The first rule of journalism is that when you decide to endorse a candidate through the back door you don't make it so overt that people wonder if the writer and the candidate are related: "Michelle... Why not? "Nikki... settle for great minds think alike, right?" Was I the only one who became sick to my stomach with this patronizing piece of writing?

Doulis goes on to state that if you're rich and into (now get these five-cent words) "highschool-esque acquiescence" then your vote is best served by Joe, Andrea, Mike and myself. Does Doulis know of some secret fortune that I have yet to discover? I guess I work two summer jobs and a part-time job year round because I want to come to grips with the plight of the proletariat. Perhaps the next time Doulis puts pen to paper for the purpose of writing an

editorial she can get her facts straight.

If there's anything good to be said about this editorial it's this: if the rest of Doulis' writing is this bad, we'll have one less caviar socialist to worry about in the world of journalism.

Ron Stubbings

Election omission

To the editor,

We were troubled to find in a recent article in *Excalibur* a statement which we neither made, nor would make, with regards to how we feel about working with the new executive. It stated that we are "quite happy about Hafez and Hughes being elected."

To correct this as to how we do actually feel, it should read that we are *very* happy that Hafez, Hughes

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