

Vanier residents dissatisfied with quality of life

"mildew in the shower stalls is so thick that steam from the shower makes an unpleasant smell"

by Robert Walsh

A recent questionnaire conducted by the Vanier Residence Improvement Committee has found that a majority of respondents are dissatisfied with the quality of undergraduate residence life.

The annual questionnaire received 206 responses out of a total of 257 residents. Marshall Biere, chair of the committee now for two years, explained that the high response rate indicates a desire on behalf of residents to affect change.

The complaints ranged from those involving matters of security (poor to adequate) to the quality of residence rooms (the majority of responses ranged from 'not satisfied' to 'satisfied').

Vast amounts of discontent were reserved for such things as the lack of enough washers and dryers (75.5 per cent and 87.7 per cent respectively), with the biggest majority — 95.5 per cent — stating they are not in favour of the meal-card system.

A majority of 57.1 per cent were not satisfied with the cleanliness

of bathrooms. One of the "most frequent responses" was that "mildew in the shower stalls is so thick that steam from the shower makes an unpleasant smell."

Norman Crandles, director of housing and food services, said he was "philosophically" in favour of giving the students what they needed, however he declined to answer on questions of funding.

Despite Crandles' financial reticence, Biere does not believe that housing operations is the committee's greatest obstacle in affecting change.

"Crandles is caught between a rock and a hard place," said Biere. "I wouldn't want Norm Crandles job. I think it would be extremely frustrating."

According to Biere, the real problem lies with the York administration, which uses Vanier residents as a "cash-cow."

Biere cited the example of Hospitality York which he claims is

subsidized by students. Hospitality York rents out residences during the summer, yet pays no operating costs to housing operations. As a result, Hospitality York gets for free what residents must pay for. Moreover, it is residents who must pay for Hospitality York's free ride.

In addition, there is the ongoing loan (now 20 years old) that housing operations took out with an interest rate of prime plus 1 per cent. The administration refuses to allow housing operations to retire the loan.

Compounded with these considerations is the administration's holding "in trust" of profits earned by housing operations in other years. The money is to be allocated to housing whenever the administration sees fit. In the meantime, no interest is being paid on what amounts to a loan to York.

Ultimately, "(resident) students pay twice," said Biere. In addition to regular tuition fees, Vanier residents must also cover these hidden expenses in resident fees, which are expected to reach the \$4,000 mark come September.

Biere will meet with Crandles and manager of housing operations Peter Ridout to go over the questionnaire's findings "line by line." Biere has said that he will ask for housing's loan to be retired. To do this, it is necessary for York to free up the money it holds in trust.

But Biere has "mixed feelings" about the chance of either of these things happening. "It's up to [vice-president (finance and administration) Bill] Farr," he said, as Crandles' gets his mandate from him.

In the meantime, Vanier residence remains as is, with major improvements unlikely in the near future.

CYSF funding policy gets mixed reaction from clubs

by Michele Greene

York clubs are giving the CYSF's club funding policy for 1989-90 mixed reviews.

Generally in the fall, each club receives a base allotment of \$200, said CYSF vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship. For special events not covered by this amount, clubs can apply to the CYSF's \$10,000 pool for club special event funding for more money. Other years, the clubs received a large sum of money in the fall to fund them throughout the year, added Winship.

Joe DeMatteis, York's Italian-Canadian Association president, and Shahzod Amjad, Pakistan Students Association president, have no problems with the current policy. DeMatteis finds the CYSF "reasonable" and "nurture[s] [the clubs'] needs" when it comes to funding.

However, Bethune clubs expressed their concerns about the policy in an open letter to CYSF president Peter Donato published in the November 9, 1989 edition of *Excalibur*.

The base allotment of \$200 is one concern. Raf Magar, Chemistry Club president, wants the

amount allotted to each club to be based on its size. Magar said it is "not very fair" that a club as large as his (300 members) receives the same as a club of 50 members.

Bethune College president Chia-Yi Chua also questioned the fairness in granting what he calls "non-existent" clubs, who are hardly active, the same amount of money as very active clubs.

Chua also said the \$200 allotment is not fair because it is not enough to cover costs that are not eligible for the special event funding but are of equal importance. For example, he said, club newsletters "establish important links among members" but do not fall into the special event funding category. The CYSF seems to indicate, by this peractivity funding, that it thinks a "party is more important than newsletters," said Chua.

Cyrus Osen, Filipino Students Association president, also thinks the \$200 allotment is insufficient. His club would prefer to receive a lump sum in the fall rather than apply for special event funding. Osen said his club is "feeling the blow" financially.

The clubs page in *Excalibur* is another issue. The CYSF has budgeted \$16,000 for advertising

club events. Magar said the science clubs did not agree with this proposal. Chua said the three-week deadline the CYSF requires is no good. Also, he notices the page gets used to advertise CYSF events. To encourage clubs to use the page more, the CYSF used a slogan, "Use it or lose it." Chua said the CYSF has its answer in the poor participation. "We want to lose it," he added.

CYSF vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco said the base allotment of \$200 will increase next year. The figure of \$200 was chosen, he said, because that is all the CYSF could afford this year. The delay in distributing the money to the clubs was a result of the CYSF's grant from the administration being late, said LoFranco. After bills from the first months of the fall/winter term were paid, the clubs were issued their cheques, said LoFranco.

LoFranco said the clubs page idea was agreed upon at meetings held during the summer on club funding, with the largest attendance being 23 people. Magar considers the summer meetings unprofessional since the majority of concerned parties were out of town and their feelings were not heard.

LoFranco said the CYSF adver-

tisements for CYSF events such as the "Reel and Screen" appeared only when there were not enough advertisements from the clubs and they did not want to submit a blank page.

The CYSF asked for two pages throughout the year to be dedicated strictly to CYSF events — the health referendum and the CYSF March elections, said LoFranco. He added that there was no opposition to the motion.

Also, LoFranco said the deadline for the clubs page will change next year so it will be more workable for the clubs.

Atkinson dean overruled; courses reinstated

by Nancy Phillips

A decision to cut close to 70 full and half of the almost 250 Atkinson summer courses this year has been overturned.

"Atkinson decided inappropriately to reduce the number of courses. I regarded that as unacceptable and I've arranged for Atkinson to reinstate them," said vice-president (academic affairs) Ken Davey.

On March 2, dean of Atkinson Stephen Griew announced in a letter to "students" that the courses were to be cut because of "grossly inadequate provincial grants to universities . . . [which] will hit Atkinson College particularly hard because of the central administration's decision to allocate to the College a much smaller share of total university growth than had been earlier planned . . ."

Davey said this is "not a factual letter," and that Atkinson's funding has not been cut more than other faculties at York. Davey explained that there was a 1.78 per cent reduction in the budget for all faculties this year and that "the amount of income to the university for growth was less than expected for this year (ending in April)." He also said the Ontario government budget cuts that will take effect next year that will further hurt universities.

Davey said he understands that Atkinson was moving to protect itself, but said the action to can-

The main reason for the change in policy is to stop the abuse of CYSF funds, said LoFranco. Magar considers this an "admirable effort on Donato's part." If a club does not use its entire grant by the end of the year, then it is wasted because the surplus could have been used for another club needing money.

Magar agrees with this aspect of the policy and believes a few minor changes to the policy would make it work even better. This way, he said, there will always be money in the pool when the clubs need it.

cel courses came too late in the year and was done "without the appropriate consultation and planning."

He said, most, but not all of the courses will be reinstated, and that "we've made arrangements for Atkinson to grow a little more." He said the college is already in debt and that the debt will now take longer to work out.

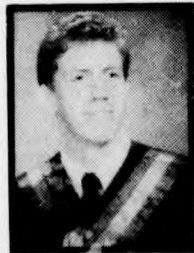
Jane Skinner, front office supervisor for the office of student programmes (arts), said Monday morning that she had not been informed of the course reinstatements yet. "I'm stunned," she said. "It's going to be crazy trying to inform all the students again because they've all picked up their documents already and been informed of the course cancellations." Students who wished to enrol in summer courses at Atkinson had to pick up the proper documents last week.

As she had not been officially informed of this by the proper administrative channels at press time, however, her department will go on as if the courses are still cancelled.

Griew was not available for comment, and Atkinson's registrar Jessie Paquette said, "I've been told by the dean's office not to talk." Paquette said she had not been informed, as of Monday, that the courses had been reinstated.

Davey said he hopes an announcement of which courses are to be reinstated should be made available this afternoon.

York student remembered



The following was submitted by a York Student

It is with sorrow that we say good-bye to a fellow York student. Tragically, Andrew (Drew) Mann, who attended Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute in Scarborough, was killed in a car accident Sunday March 4, 1990. As a fellow Bethune student and casual acquaintance of Drew, I want to let his family know that he will be missed by many friends. Donations may be sent to an athletic fund set up by Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate, which can be reached at 491-6000.

Tuition Hikes in B.C.

Simon Fraser University's Board of Governors has decided to increase tuition by 5.8 per cent. After the decision to increase the fees, about 55 students occupied the Administration Building and locked out the faculty and staff. The sit-in lasted two days.

The students' only demand was a meeting between them and the B.C. Education Minister. On the second day of the sit-in, 2,000 more students surrounded the building. One student said the event was peaceful and that there was little confrontation with security.

Two nights later, the students met with the minister. At the University of British Columbia, the students are demanding that tuition fees be frozen at their present level, and that a royal commission be set up to map out a long range plan for post-secondary education in the province.

from *The Ontarion*, University of Guelph

