

Students want more decision-making power

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not "a voice for students" because quorum for an RBC assembly is five, and since there are seven students on the RBC, this allows for meetings with no student representation.

In an open forum held in the Senate Chamber January 25, Crandles faced about 100 undergraduates to discuss the issue of rent increases. Winship said

there is a lack of communication between students and the administration and students want more decision-making power.

Students echoed Winship by saying they are not consulted in decisions affecting them. Crandles said "consulting" does not mean a student veto power, but full disclosure of costs, answers to budget questions and access to university officials to explain

the numbers.

Students said they would have trouble paying the increases and it is unfair that an off-campus private apartment would cost less than living in residence.

Inefficiency and slow service on the part of housing operations and the department of physical plant cause the yearly residence debts of \$250,000 to \$350,000, said the students.

Arlen Vranic, a Vanier don, said he reported a leaky faucet on his floor on August 30 and measured that it wasted over one litre of hot water per minute, equalling 1,542 litres per day. The faucet was fixed last week. This is but one example of one floor in one residence, he added.

Marshall Beier, a Vanier resident, said a bathroom wall on his floor had been unnecessarily retiled three times in four years, and the other walls are still in their original crumbling condition.

Crandles responded by saying that physical plant has to serve the entire campus and that students should take better care of residence. "Everyone in residence knows someone who's [damaged] something," he said and to increase repair service, more staff would have to be hired, which would cause an increase in residence fees.

Students were angry when told their rent increases would go toward graduate buildings they can't live in. Crandles said if there were different budgets for apart-

Examples of residence rents at other universities

Undergraduate Residence single room Innis College Residence (University of Toronto) September 1989 to May 1990	\$2035
Undergraduate Residence single room Erindale Residence (University of Toronto, Mississauga) September 1989 to May 1990	\$1880
Neill-Wycik single room	\$265/month or \$325/month
St. George Graduate bachelor apartment (University of Toronto)	\$402/month

ments and residences, residence rent increases would be about 20 per cent since the losses are made up for by the apartments.

Pantelidis argued that undergraduates actually pay rent for 12 months, since money raised by the Conference Centre, which operates residences in the summer as hotel-like operations, does not go toward the residence budget but into the university's general fund.

He added that fees at some UofT residences are up to \$180 lower per year than York's rental fees, and it is unfair for York students to pay more to live in North York. After the forum, he added that downtown independent student residences such as Neill-Wycik would be cheaper to live at

than York. Crandles said UofT is a different situation, because "some of those buildings were paid for before [his] father was born."

Pantelidis suggested the university turn residences into co-ops, raise fees only by referendum, get the buildings under the *Landlord and Tenant Act* or get the Conference Centre budget included in the residence budget.

Crandles said he couldn't remember the last time he was in a residence, so students challenged him to live and eat there for a week.

Winship said she has planned another forum the week of February 19 which may include Crandles, Farr and physical plant staff.

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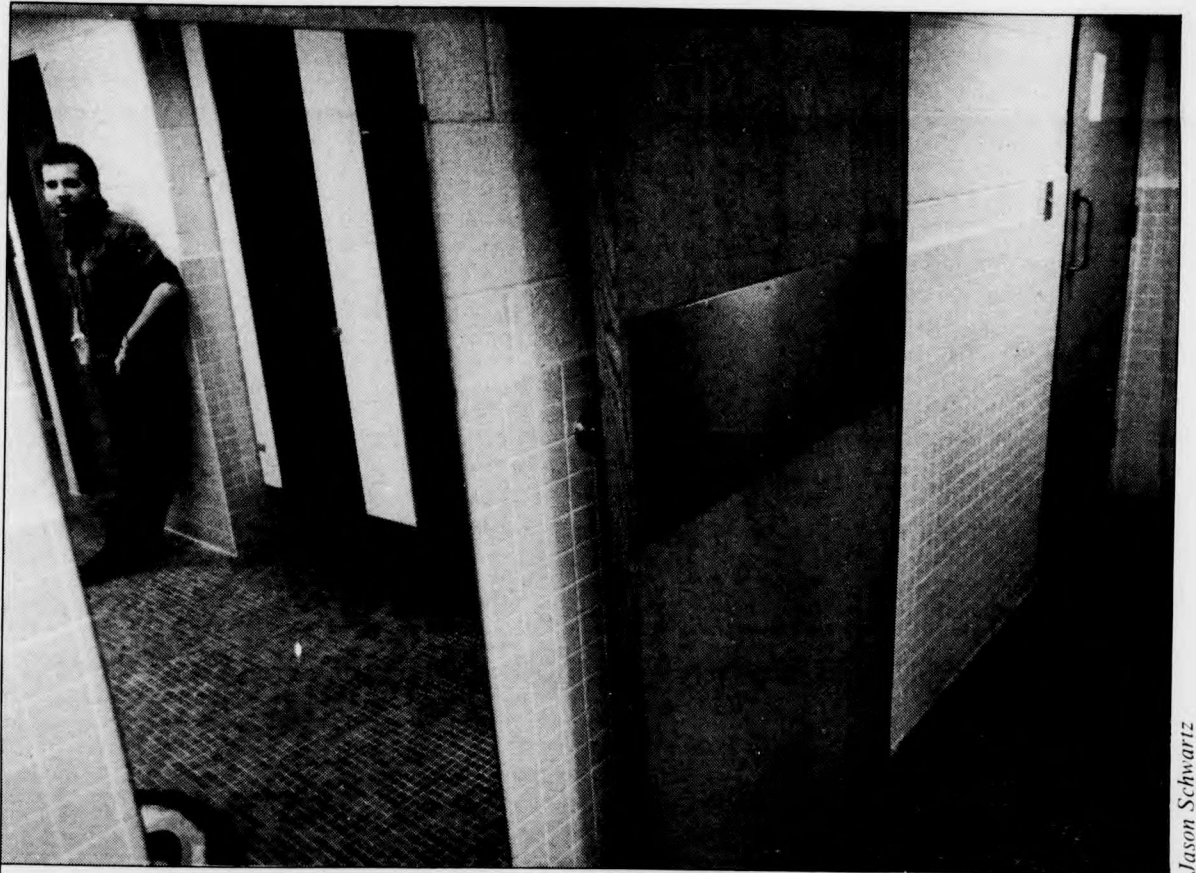
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Marshal Beier stands in the Vanier bathroom where a wall has been unnecessarily retiled three times in four years. Other walls in the bathroom are still in their original crumbling condition.

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