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EDITORIAL

S.R.C.-Paperwork or Leadership?

The Students' Representative Council is in a sad state. It depends on the colleges for hand-outs. It has no specifically defined role in the university and because of this it's even unrecognized by the administration.

A week from today elections will be held for seven positions, including that of President on the S.R.C. What kind of council will the students be voting for? It is imperative that the candidates make clear what kind of council they want to sit on.

It should be a council which can effectively represent the students as a whole. To this end, it must insist on financial independence from the colleges. No

more doles.

It should demand that it and it alone appoint students to the administration-faculty-student Advisory Committee on Student Affairs (A.C.S.A.) being set up now by President Ross. The colleges will already be represented on the S.R.C. (2 members each). There's no justification for the independent college representation on ACSA unless it is to undermine the S.R.C.'s role of the voice of all the students.

The S.R.C. must be more than a mere "paper-work" organization, serving the college councils. It should be a dynamic initiator of policies promoting the interests of York students.

We Should Be There

Residence bursaries are, it seems, about to be cancelled. We are led to believe that there will be no York at all next year. The Student Aid Program, in spite of supposedly involving a \$100 increase in bursary money, is somehow contriving to shortchange students. The 10,000 federal scholarships for \$1,000 have been cancelled.

Our bookstore prices texts exorbitantly. Our residence fees are

the second highest in Ontario (despite the fact that the university skimps on phones and furnishings at Founders). Tuition fees at York are hardly bargain basement.

York students should need no prodding to protest. A week last Wednesday, students from U. of T. marched on Queen's Park to protest the Student Aid Program. Where were the York students? If they march again we should be there--in strength.

Mooo...

Contrary to what certain people seem to believe, York University students are not cattle. They should not be herded into an inclosure where elbow-room is at a premium, disorganization is rampant, and assistance is non-existent. The book store on the York campus is a virtual farce.

Each student is required to purchase a certain list of books for each of his courses. Unfortunately, few students are able to acquire these lists until after registration, and still fewer students visit the book store before classes

commence. The exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt could not compare to the invasion of the students of York into their book store in the first few weeks of school.

The size of the store is an insult to its customers. While its present space may suffice after the first few weeks of school, the demand of the enrollment during the initial part of the session certainly warrants a larger area in which to make acquisitions. Freedom of movement within its confines is a purely mythical imagining.

No normal or sane person could possibly spend an hour in there without developing acute frus-

tration and profuse disgust; his dilemma only compounded by the lack of willing assistance and the seemingly random placement of books. English literature is available on shelves on both sides while French literature may be found either at the front of the store or the back room.

An alternative must be found. We are not Argonaut backfielders out to practice our footwork. Why not convert a closely connected and larger section of Steacie basement into an interim merchandising area? Or just simply arrange all volumes alphabetically under their topic, whether by title--or, if necessary--by author? A Donnybrook Fair has no place in an institution of higher learning.

Gerry Bloch

Paradise Lost

Carter Hoppe

"Residence fees are too high for the poor services offered," say students at Founders Residence.

The administration maintains that the residence must exist on its own financially, as a business proposition. The university apparently minimizes the financial plight of the average student, and ignores the possible result of continued high fees.

Our fees are \$815 per single room, which is high, possibly the second highest in Ontario. Western's are \$825. Founder's does not compare favourably with other much cheaper residences whose maid services are often more complete, and whose lobbies, common rooms, and magazine libraries are provided in much greater abundance and quality. One wonders why the new Glendon women's residence is much more luxuriously appointed than Founder's.

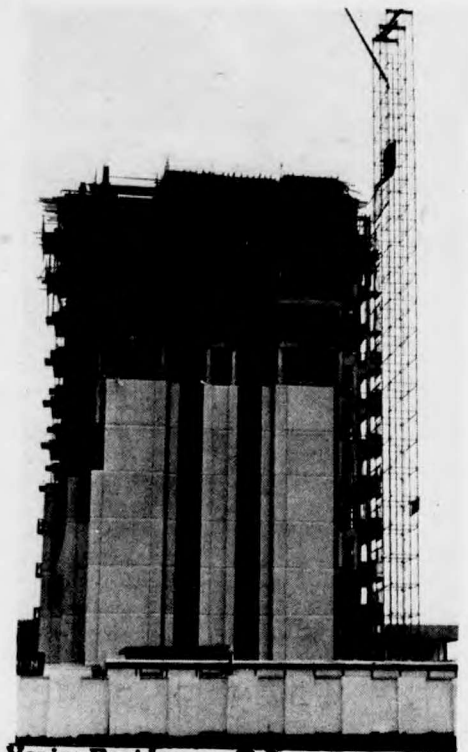
Other universities provide telephone and/or individual intercom services, which are essential. Our one to every thirty-six student pay phone ratio is as farcically inadequate as the one buzzer per house. One waits wistfully in the near non-existent girl's lobby or outside the (what lobby?) boy's houses, hoping that someone (perhaps even the person desired) will emerge. It is said the mails get through the fastest. Are our liberal and greatly appreciated visiting hours the result of broad-minded planning, or are they a cheap communications system?

In an interview, Vice-President of Finance Parks explained that the residence is expected to pay for itself. "Actually we lost money last year," he said "and operational costs have increased." We are glad the fees did not go up this year, especially since bed-making service has been discontinued.

A merely polite ear was turned to a request for a proper communications system. The university has nothing planned at all, but "would appreciate a definite student proposal on such a system."

Actually a plan was advanced last year to put a private phone in every room for \$4 per room per month. The university was to pay half. Though not unreasonable, the plan received no interest from administration.

Will there be a residence bursary fund this year? "No decision has been made as yet," says Mr.



Vanier Residence: We're paying for it!

Parks. Why not? It's October already. A bursary-seeking student must apply for the general in-course bursary fund whether he is in residence or not.

Financial Aid Director Wright says, "This is the fairest way. A special residence fund is not needed, because a residence student has already received special consideration from the Student Aid Program."

This sounds fair enough but many students were simply short-changed by the SAP this year.

Why does the university charge so much and give so little value? Mr. Parks explained that the university has a building programme to finish and the huge mortgage on Founder's to pay. In effect, we are subsidizing the Vanier residence and future students at York.

Murray G. Ross, our president should hold a tea honouring the Founder's Residence Students as patrons of the university. Perhaps colleges, lecture-halls and scholarships should bear our names.

Where will all this stop? Should fees continue to rise, poorer students will be forced to leave residence, and the sad part is (and administration knows this) that their places will be filled immediately by students with all the trappings: rich parents, cars, and stereos.

Such a crass philosophy of financing may lead to a rift in communication between day and residence students. Imagine the class conflict and strife:

Committee Controversy

Doug McArthur

I recently interviewed the council presidents of Vanier and Founders colleges and also members of the S.R.C. to ascertain their views on the proposed Advisory Committee on Student Affairs.

The purpose of this body, as outlined in a letter from Dr. Ross

to the councillors, is "to advise and recommend policies and practices to govern student activities at York University".

Since the terms of reference of the committee will not be made clear until a future meeting is held with councils, student leaders understandably adopted a cautious "wait and see" attitude. There were however, several conflicting and controversial points of view expressed.

Howie Nemtin, Founders president, Greg Barnett and Ken Johnston of S.R.C. all felt that unless students obtained a 50-50 representation on such a board, there would be a distinct possibility of students' rights being infringed. Since Dr. Ross stated in his letter that equal representation is not advisable for this year, at least, their concern seems justified.

Al Caplan, Vanier president, stated however, that equal student representation should not be necessary as long as the faculty representatives were not hand-picked by Dr. Ross, but rather selected by faculty members, themselves.

Concerning the method of choosing students to serve on the committee, we had an interesting view of the power struggle between the colleges and the S.R.C. On the

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