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# Listerites showed Residence Services that they're more than Bantha fodder

So this is how liberty dies: with thunderous applause." That's a little snippet from a movie you may have heard of called *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*. Now, while that movie may have sucked hard and fast in all possible ways, this quote carries some significance for two important reasons: one, it's spoken by Natalie Portman, and if she told me to, I'd eat red-hot coals for her amusement; and two, it's an important reminder to us all that we must never take for granted the liberties that our society affords us.

So, what does an obscure quote from a bad movie and a reference to the eternal vigilance that democracy demands have to do with anything? Well, as you no doubt heard, earlier this month Residence Services attempt abolish the elections for floor coordinators and hall vice-presidents in Lister Hall, opting instead to assign those positions. In other words, they had decided to move from a democratic system to one of unelected appointment.

Luckily, this decision has been thwarted since its ill-fated inception by overwhelming student outcry. And while this issue may have been laid to rest for now, there are still many others that haven't been fully dealt with after being brought about by such a regressive idea.

Now, I'm not going to just sit here and list all the ways that this was a terrible thing that flew in the face of 40 years of tradition, not to mention one of the founding principles on which this country is built. However,

what I do want to focus on is the unsettling and dangerous notion that underlies this decision—the idea that the masses make bad decisions and that you have to step in and save them from themselves.

This is the real core of the issue here and the one that deserves the most attention. While Michael Janz simply focused on the deplorable lack of consultation with students—which is another shovel-full on this whole pile of a situation—compared to the the whole “you're too dumb to be part of a democracy, so let me just take away those votes from you” attitude, it's less deserving of scrutiny. By not addressing this mentality, Residence Services is just going to be the little engine that thought it should, forever chugging towards the idea that Lister would be better without these votes.

Admittedly, when I think of the upcoming elections, I shake my head at the foolishness of democracy and the morons that participate in it. And though I might bitch and moan and lament the idiocy of the human race, I'd much rather have the majority of idiots steering events in one direction or the other instead of allowing a small group of people to decide what's best.

Despite the stereotypes that are thrown around about those that inhabit Lister (often by smug assholes like myself), these people aren't children. They're adults who can participate in a working democracy like anybody else. They're seen as being competent enough to make their own

decisions in the provincial election, and likewise, they should be allowed to do so in regards to where they reside. I don't know if Dima Utgoff, director of Residence Services, even considered that he's not simply messing with some sort of community hall for teenagers, but the home for almost 2000 young men and women.

This issue really comes down to whether you think the students of Lister Hall are capable of making their own decisions about who will be influencing a huge part of the their undergraduate career. Residence Services essentially said that they're smarter and better qualified to assign people to run Lister.

This mentality that you're saving people from themselves is the same justification that many a tyrant has used to oppress the masses. While they may not be planning on invading other empires any time soon, Residence Services has nonetheless said that they know best and that they need to protect the poor, idiot student masses from themselves—I only cringe to see what outcome this has for the relationship between them and the LHSA from now on.

Though students sometimes feel powerless against the administration, Lister showed that when push comes to shove, they're still willing to stand up and make the shot on Residence Services' exhaust port. I'm glad that the students won the day (this year); and just hope that they're prepared to fight this battle for years to come.

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