

Panel grills CYSF candidates

Excalibur hosted an open Question and Answer Period for the two CYSF Presidential Candidates on Monday in the Newsroom. Participating in the discussion were: incumbent Maurizio Bevilacqua; his opponent Chris Summerhayes; Barb Taylor, last year's Chairperson of CFS; Greg Gaudet, last year's CYSF President; Paula Todd, current *Excalibur* Editor; and Ellen Leibman, a Winters College representative and former CYSF Finance Director.

Taylor: Why did you decide to run for President?

Summerhayes: Well, for a couple of reasons. There was a rumor going around that nobody else was and I thought if there was only going to be the incumbent he should have at least a little competition. Seriously, I am worried about what happened to all the money this year.

At this point, Bevilacqua arrived, 40 minutes late.

Todd: Which of your goals will have the most priority next year?

Summerhayes: Keep an eye on funding.

Todd: Are there any specific groups you are interested in funding or are there any groups that are receiving funding that you feel shouldn't be?

Summerhayes: I think the Campus Connection isn't receiving funding this year and I think that it is a worthwhile organization that should be supported. And *Excalibur* certainly should be funded. I know there are a few other groups and associations that would like some funding.

Todd: Do you anticipate having the same problem getting quorum that CYSF had this year and if you do, how do you feel you could overcome that problem?

Summerhayes: Well, one of the things I wanted to try next year is to have regular meetings, on the same day perhaps every two weeks. Say on Monday at 5 o'clock, to let people plan ahead so they will know when they will have to attend a meeting. And hopefully with greater contact with the college councils we won't have that problem.

Todd: What do you think about the present sentiments of the colleges toward the CYSF? Do you think they feel positively about CYSF?

Summerhayes: No.

Todd: Do you believe in central student government? How would you promote better spirit among the colleges?

Summerhayes: Just to get the CYSF profile up a little more. They don't know what it does, who is in it or even how to contact it most times.

Gaudet: I have a couple of questions for both the candidates concerning their positions on the upcoming referenda for OFS-CFS and Radio York.

Bevilacqua: Okay. As you know I am a supporter of the OFS for students and will be running a "Yes" OFS campaign if the referendum in fact will be included on the ballot. As far as Radio York I believe that funding should be allocated to Radio York because I believe that we should let York University have a radio station; one that doesn't have to worry about financing and should be concentrating a lot more on organizational structure and programming rather than worry about their last dollar.

Todd: How much money did you allocate to Radio York this year?

Bevilacqua: \$12,000

Todd: And do you anticipate allocating more next year if you were elected?

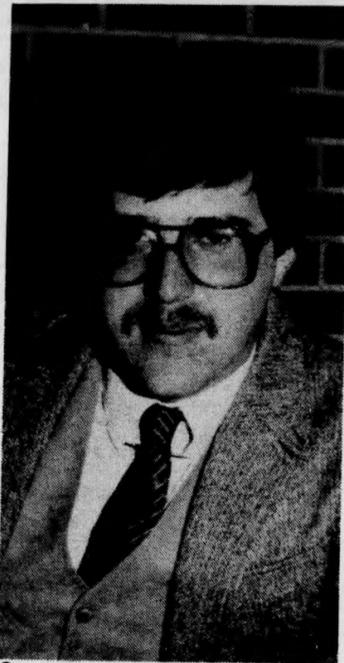
Bevilacqua: Yes.

Todd: How much more?

Bevilacqua: If the referendum goes through, it's a dollar each. Obviously it would be that amount or less.

Todd: So what is that amount?

Bevilacqua: Well, there is \$12,000 this year.



Summerhayes

Todd: Yes, but if the referendum goes through...

Bevilacqua: Well, if the referendum goes through they will receive "x" amount.

Todd: Do you know what "x" amount is? What is the formula? How many students are there times one dollar?

Bevilacqua: If it's through the CYSF it will be about \$15,000.

Todd: Will that be in addition to the \$12,000?

Bevilacqua: Yes.

Todd: Could we get Chris' response to that?

Summerhayes: As far as CFS and OFS are concerned I think that they are excellent organizations. I think it does, however, need a higher profile on this campus. Next year I would hope that they could get an office where they could come in and spend time--an hour or two a week so people can come with their concerns specifically to them. As far as Radio York's concerned, from what I've seen, it requires a lot more organization than it's got right now.

Gaudet: I'd like to ask both candidates how much time they each intend to spend in the office--actually in the office during the summer and also during the fall.

Summerhayes: For my part, during the summer I'll probably be in there between 6-8 hours a day because I have to learn the job. During the school year I'll have one or two classes, but I'll have to work that out... but I plan on spending at least 4 hours a day in the office, being available 4 hours a day.

Bevilacqua: First and foremost, I spent quite a bit of time at the office last summer. Some days I spent 12 hours.

Leibman: And out of any given week, how many hours would you say, approximately, that you spent in the office?

Bevilacqua: I would say that I averaged close to 45-50 hours.

Leibman: A week?

Bevilacqua: Yeah.

Todd: What about during the year? **Bevilacqua:** Well during the fall I'll be spending close to 6-8 hours a day but that's not counting meetings that a president is involved in.

Todd: How much did you spend this year?

Bevilacqua: I would say I averaged between 25-30.

Todd: 25-30 what?

Bevilacqua: Hours... a week.

Todd: Were you in the office every day this year?

Bevilacqua: No

Todd: How many days a week do you think that you were in the office this year?

Bevilacqua: On the average?

Todd: Yes.

Bevilacqua: Four.

Todd: Four days a week? Which four? Does that include weekends? You must know that one of the major complaints about you is that students couldn't find you, even for set appointments.

Bevilacqua: Well I could tell you one thing, that for every person that couldn't find me, I could name ten that could find me.

Todd: Well that's not the point. The point is that you weren't in the office four times a week.

Bevilacqua: According to who?

Todd: According to many people. According to me. I'm there every day and I know that you weren't there four times a week, at least not during the day--the most important time to keep office hours.

Bevilacqua: Well that's one thing I plan to change and that is my office hours and the times.

Todd: Do you plan to continue to spend 25-30 hours a week as you claim to have done this year, and are you going to change the times?

Bevilacqua: The time structure, yes.

Todd: Why are you changing the time structure?

Bevilacqua: Well, I'm just changing the time allocation simply because if there has been a criticism of availability, it's the availability between two particular hours from 10-11 those are the two hours that people have not been able to get me.

Gaudet: Has Jorge Garretton (past CYSF External Affairs Director) been chased for the money he allegedly owes on long distant telephone calls? (Garretton was accused several months ago of charging calls to the CYSF credit card. He resigned from his External Affairs post immediately after the incident).

Bevilacqua: Well this problem here with Garretton. I've been trying to get ahold of him... we just can't find him. It's really out of my hands, but now I'm waiting for Council direction.

Gaudet: How long ago was this? **Bevilacqua:** Well there was a problem with the Telecommunications Department here. It's really a government lag because we got a bill that we get this month, is really from 2 months back and we were trying to trace the call without making accusations about anybody.

Todd: Well, there are at least two council members who I believe would be willing to testify that he made the calls. Do you know where Jorge is at this time? Do you intend to collect that money?

Bevilacqua: Yes.

Todd: How are you going to collect the money--if you don't believe that he did it?

Bevilacqua: Now just a second, the fact that Jorge did it, we did find out.

Todd: Oh, so it is fact. How did you find out?

Bevilacqua: We phoned the number that he had phoned and questioned if they knew people from CYSF. After a while he said Jorge Garretton.

Todd: What is the amount owed CYSF?

Bevilacqua: We think it's close to a thousand.

Todd: How do you plan to collect it? **Bevilacqua:** I think we'll have to take legal action.

Todd: I spoke to you two months ago about this and you thought you'd take legal action then. When will legal action begin?

Bevilacqua: I was just explaining to Greg what had happened at a Council meeting--if Council is going to say go ahead, take legal action, I will.

Todd: Is it true that you campaigned for an alderman during your term as President?

Bevilacqua: It's true that I helped an alderman, yes.

Todd: And you actively campaigned?

Bevilacqua: Actively campaigned? I would say I helped him.

Todd: What does that mean? What



Bevilacqua

was the nature of your help?

Bevilacqua: I think that's neither here nor there.

Leibman: I think it's very relevant. We had a whole issue about whether outside political involvements were acceptable for Council members.

Bevilacqua: I don't recall any...

Leibman: Bipin Lakhani.

Todd: Are you willing to outline for us the nature of your involvement with this alderman?

Bevilacqua: Yes; if anyone would question which alderman I would support, I would say the name.

Todd: Can you outline some of the duties you performed for this alderman?

Bevilacqua: The duties? Since he lived in my ward, I might have campaigned a bit for him.

Todd: Did you?

Bevilacqua: Sure.

Todd: What about posters, things like that?

Bevilacqua: Posters? Nothing.

Todd: You didn't have any posters made for him?

Bevilacqua: Well, sure I made posters, but what does that have to do with it?

Todd: How do you feel about the Bipin Lakhani incident--about how your council handled it?

Bevilacqua: I think that what happened was the result of democracy.

Todd: There was a point at which someone on the Council had to take the initiative to have Mr. Lakhani impeached when the Council demonstrated that's what they wanted. Is there any reason you failed to take that initiative?

Bevilacqua: Well, the other person took the initiative.

Todd: What person?

Bevilacqua: Whoever, it was Jacque Altman and Mark Pearlman.

Todd: Is Lakhani still a member of your Council?

Bevilacqua: Sure he is.

Todd: Are you pleased that he's a member of your council--that, given what happened, he is still a member?

Bevilacqua: Well, I think you have to be a little bit more wide scope about what you consider political freedom is. This person has obviously been limited, as Social and Cultural director, after that incident.

Todd: Limited in what way?

Bevilacqua: Limited. He cannot deal with certain organizations, in which case I step in and deal with them. The fact is that everyone in this world is in some kind of political ideology. What might seem racist to you is not racist to another individual. Do you understand?

Todd: We don't want to argue the issue again. I think we've done that fairly well. What I want to know is,

you've just told me that one of your officers is not able to perform in his portfolio because of a particular incident. Are you pleased that that person is sitting on your Council?

Bevilacqua: I'm not pleased with the outcome of the fact that he can't perform his duties properly, but it was Council's decision. A vote was taken. It failed. Council has to deal with that decision whether I'm happy with the fact or not. I'm not happy with the fact that he's limited.

Leibman: But it's acceptable to you to have directors that cannot properly perform their duties?

Bevilacqua: Ms. Leibman, I don't know where you've been, but I did ask for Lakhani's resignation.

Gaudet: I understand that there was some question as to whether or not he was actually a representative of a college council at the time he was elected to the executive. Was he in fact a college rep. at that time?

Bevilacqua: No he wasn't and there was an issue raised about the constitutionality of Bipin being a member. That was never resolved and there were questions raised to the speaker about whether this person should still sit in Council that was never resolved and never came up again.

Todd: Chris, how do you feel about the present government?

Summerhayes: They haven't done anything for students for the money they're getting from them. A lot of people don't know what CYSF is, a lot of people don't know who Maurice Bevilacqua is or where the Council office is.

Todd: Are you familiar with the Bipin Lakhani incident? How do you feel about the Council's decision--about the fact that Bipin still sits on Council?

Summerhayes: I think it's terrible, as Maurice said, you can't expect him to do his job. Maurice should have pushed for his impeachment or resignation because you can't have someone on council who can't do their job effectively.

Todd: What would you have done if you were in Maurice's position?

Summerhayes: I would have done my utmost to get his resignation.

Todd: Is there any reason that you didn't adhere to the constitution this year?

Bevilacqua: I think if there have been times that the constitution has not been followed, it's been due to special circumstances.

Gaudet: There was problem about the lack of interviews for the CRO and there was also some problem as far as Manus editor was concerned. Why were no interviews held?

Bevilacqua: We received the profiles from different individuals; the resumes--sorry--and what we felt was that, I think it's really the choice of the organization as to whether or not they will interview people. It's really only an administrative task. Given the characteristics of the individuals involved, the individual that we did finally pick, Larry Till, will represent justice during our next election.

Todd: Do you feel that his political situation within the university, his affiliation with a particular college and a particular newspaper will, in any way present a conflict of interest?

Bevilacqua: I think with the *Vandoo* trying to run a referendum, although they're not any more, so I don't really see any.

Todd: Except what about the letter Till wrote to *Excalibur* condemning the newspaper? He has made public an opinion about a referendum question about which he will have to make an impartial decision.

Bevilacqua: Well, I...

Todd: Do you feel that that is problematic?

Bevilacqua: I can't see any problem.

Todd: How do you feel about

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