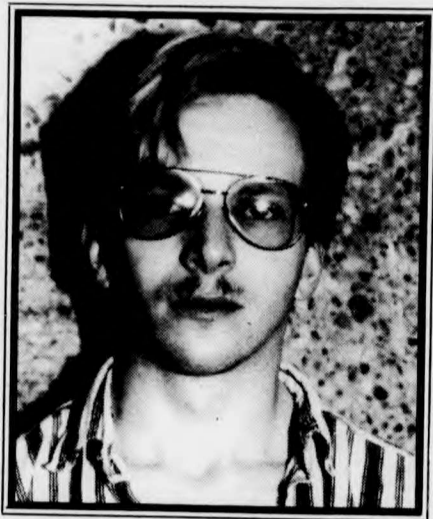


# Presidential Candidates

Ronald Kelly



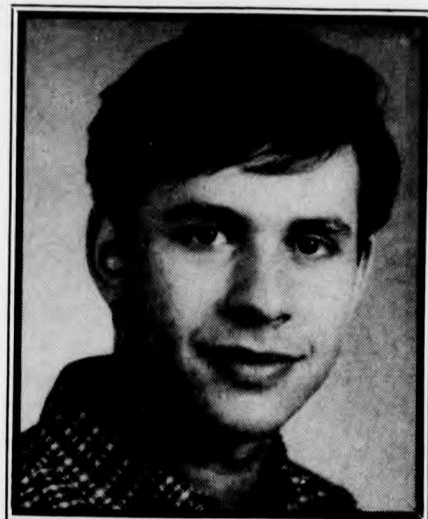
Joan Clement

Ed Kim



Joan Clement

Peter Merrick



**EXCAL:** What are the three biggest issues on campus?

**KELLY:** The three most important issues on campus are the Voice Response Enrolment System (VRES), the increase in residence fees on this campus and the ever-prevailing presence of apathy and disinterest in the York community that is partly perpetrated by the York Student Federation's failure in the past to involve students in their university.

The students see the president as a despot ruler. They don't feel as if they have the chance to get to know their president. It's very important to me, in order to increase school spirit, that the executive and president of the CYSF are out there, as often as possible, shaking hands, meeting people, asking them their concerns. When you are placed in a situation where less than one per cent of the student population will vote, then it is important that we, as the CYSF, push forward the notion that this government is for you. It is written in my platform that the CYSF is not only for students, but is students. Without students, there is no CYSF.

At present, the changes the administration has made to VRES include the implementation of a lottery system which will give students a three-hour window period from 8 a.m.-11 a.m., a grace period from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and another period from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. I'm very concerned that even with this enrolment window option, certain students will not get through anyway. That will probably be due to students who are not eligible to enrol in that window period calling in to see if they can get through, especially during the first week or so the programme is in place.

In order for VRES to be effective, it must have a backup system. The option I have proposed to Sue Salusbury, students records officer, is a manual enrolment system for people who fail to get through the enrolment window and the grace period. I am very concerned we will find ourselves in the same situation as last year in that students will try and call VRES in periods they are not eligible to. Last year, a lot of third year students tried during the fourth year period and first and second year students tried during the third year period and they anticipated no problems at all.

In that regard, I think VRES needs to be changed. It will require a lot of intense negotiation and a very non-confrontational approach. I believe this is a very touchy issue for everyone concerned. The situation it is creating is going to be one of a defensive nature at first. We are going to have work very hard at breaking down those barriers and convince people the system works. The system is not useless; it works at University of British Columbia, it works at Carleton, we can make it work at York as well. But there must be a system of compensation for students.

On the residence fees, the increases proposed this year are somewhere between five and seven per cent. I believe with that kind of increase, it is the responsibility of housing and food services to offer a service in return. I'm proposing an Emergency Response Team which will be a 24-hour service offered through housing and food services. By removing the maintenance contract from the department of physical plant's responsibility, we place it into the hands of housing and food services. I've discussed this with Norm Crandles, director of housing and food services, and he thinks it is a very good idea. I was impressed with his enthusiasm towards the idea.

If we have a 24-hour service for things that require immediate attention, like broken windows and leaking sinks, we can have an effective and appropriate response time of, I suspect, between 30 minutes to an hour at the most. That's the kind of service I believe we have to give back to students. It's important that when you raise residence fees, you give something back to students. An increase in fees must not only reflect inflationary demands, but it also must mean the

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**EXCAL:** What are the three biggest issue on campus?

**KIM:** The student levy, sports and the abortion referendum. What first bothered me about increased student levies was when vice-president (external) Peter Merrick went around to the colleges with a proposal for a student levy in order to get the CYSF more money. I thought, "If he is going to ask for more money, I want to know why." And, his reasons were stupid. I have to use the word stupid.

When federal finance minister Michael Wilson's budget came out, I said, "Since he is going to freeze federal grants and he's going to make them unconditional, tuition rates are going to go up." Since I use OSAP, I look at the increase personally; it is an increase in my tuition fees. I don't want to pay that much extra because it's getting tough as it is. So, Michael Wilson's budget made me think that we can't be increasing student levies here for alternative sources of revenue.

My ideal of a great university would be something like the University of Michigan. Basically, I'm saying the ideal universities are American universities in that university students feel they are a part of something big, something they are proud to attend.

One of the best ways you can bring your school together, regardless of the different ethnic backgrounds or political leanings, is through sports. If you go to school and you see your school team do well, you forget all the animosity between people and come together for school spirit, in order for that team to win. That's something we are totally lacking at York. I come to York and I don't see that school spirit which, I feel, is usually created by sports events.

CYSF president Peter Donato tried to promote sports this year. I'm not saying he did a bad job, I'm sure he did a great job, but it's just the mere fact that if we don't keep on trying with what he has initiated, then it is just going to get even worse.

We won't ignore the fine arts. First of all, we would have to talk with the fine arts people because as far as faculties go that separate themselves from the university, I see fine arts as doing that far more. Maybe because it is a very individualistic personal expression type of field. It's hard to integrate them if they don't have the desire to be integrated.

I understand that York has an auditorium here — the Burton auditorium — I've never seen it, I've never been to it and I've never heard of any events being held in it. Why doesn't fine arts try to coordinate with the provincial government to sponsor some sort of major event together with the fine arts people to get a hell of a lot more exposure?

I am definitely against having an abortion referendum. I'm not saying I am against abortion, I'm not saying that I'm for pro-choice, to me that doesn't matter because it is an individual's choice. If you have a referendum and you say, okay pro-choicers won, does that mean all the pro-lifers will be ignored when they say York University stands this way? Abortion is just too much of a personal issue to be able to say, "All of York University decides this way."

**EXCAL:** What are your feeling regarding the changes to student government that are in *The White Paper*?

**KIM:** I think President Harry Arthurs' reasoning and the recommendations that he received for *The White Paper* are very good. The sole purpose of *The White Paper* is to service more students.

As it goes right now, our colleges don't do a very good job servicing the students. As I went around and gathered signatures for my nomination form, I specifically chose to reach people I didn't know. I asked each person to write

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**EXCAL:** What are the three biggest issues on campus?

**MERRICK:** The first would be the Women's Centre and its push for an abortion referendum, and then security and photo ID. Those aren't my top priorities but those are the top issues.

This year the CYSF finally recognized the Women's Centre as being a centralized service. That was very beneficial to the women of York University because they do face discrimination on this campus. The fact is that CYSF is now in the midst of setting up a board with the Women's Centre to decide how the Women's Centre will be run and how it will receive its grant.

But many members of the Women's Centre feel the CYSF should take a stand on the abortion issue. Now this is a big issue with post-secondary education institutions across Canada because the CFS (Canadian Federation of Students) had a vote on it which was defeated, and at Queen's University, they had a vote. And at the moment OFS is pro-choice. So if CYSF or York was to rejoin or to align with an organization like that we'd have to go to our students to find out what our students stand for, because student leaders are elected to best serve the interests of the students and not elected to make moral judgements on their own. They are elected to find out what the students want, and the best way to do that is to go to a referendum.

As you know, by reading your own newspaper — there happens to be a Security Beat — and there is a lot happening on this campus. Right now there happens to be security guards who don't have special constable status. That means people can do things and these security guards really can't issue fines, they cannot stop someone in the hallways and ask them questions and hold them. They have to call the police like any other citizen.

That's a problem because we happen to be located at the Jane and Finch corridor and that happens to be one of the most dangerous parts of Metro Toronto. We have to take that into account. The fact is we have more damage done to our university than UofT which is located downtown. Twice as much vandalism happens on our campus. That's why we need security guards who have constable status. Down at UofT they have police who patrol their campus. We don't. They have green hornets who give tickets to their students. We don't. We have our security guards and this is private property.

Until we have proper security with constable status we're going to have people smoking in the hallways where they're not supposed to, we're going to have people breaking the law and we'll have vandalism happening and rapes are going to continue on this campus. It's really important that security be a number one issue on this campus because we're all paying lots of money for it.

I'm not saying it's right for photo IDs constitutionally, but the fact is that the university requires that for people to write examinations they have to produce a photo ID, but the university is not going to provide it. It's going to make you [students] provide it. So, it's beneficial if the CYSF offers it.

My committee asked approximately 200 students by passing out a survey in classes, would people want student photo IDs. (I did the same thing with the discount card last year.) I found that overwhelmingly people want it because they're forced to go to the registrar's office if they don't have photo ID and they're going to have to pay \$2 at the registrar's office to get it to prove that they're that person.

We would probably have to charge or we would probably go to a referendum to raise the money to give this to students. We would have to ask them if they want this. That would be the bulk of the \$13 CYSF would ask for. Five dollars would go directly into the photo ID and the system of having the hard disc drives and a computer network so we

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