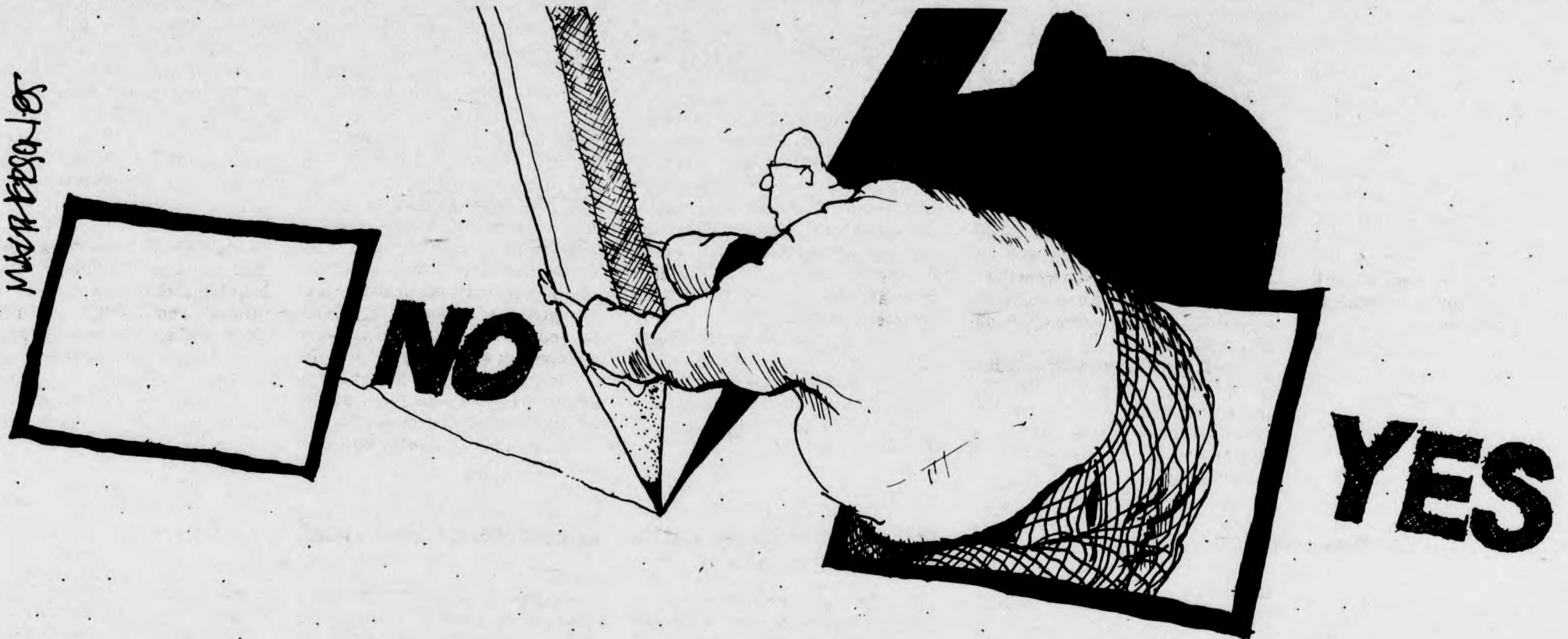


# editorial

*It is vain to suppose that a free trade system will be beneficial to a new and struggling colony which has nothing to export but raw materials. It is rather calculated to enrich an old commonwealth, whose people by their skill and labour make such raw materials valuable, and return them for consumption. The result of the system has been that the suppliers of the raw material at last become hewers of wood and drawers of water to the manufacturers.*

Abraham Gesner, Industrial Resources of N.S., 1849.



CURIOUS NATURAL SELECTION: THE LOUDEST SURVIVE.

## Excal picks Ali or Ellies for president

The students of York University have a tough decision to make. In the past few years, choosing a CYSF president has not required a thorough examination of the candidates and issues. Over the past two years, Chris Summerhayes was the clear cut choice, particularly as a relief from the Bevilacqua administration.

This year, students must choose between two excellent candidates: Reya Ali and Valance Ellies. With widely differing personalities, they offer York students a choice between two distinctive styles of leadership. Both are well-qualified and demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the functioning of student government.

The three other candidates quite simply do not measure up either in their understanding of student politics or the quality of their ideas.

Of the three, John Christie has the least experience in student

politics. This is amply illustrated by the fact that he feels he can handle the job of CYSF President while at the same time taking at least three full-time courses.

The job is more than full-time and is paid as such.

His concerns about CYSF's accessibility and internal organization are not necessarily valid. Worse, his solutions to these perceived problems are both intangible and unworkable.

Christie's policies with respect to clubs are unsettling; so is his idea to divide the responsibilities of CYSF's business manager among two or three York students, a situation which invites unfinished business and favoritism. In fact, past experience of having a York student as the business manager has proved to be disastrous.

Christie also favors a referendum "to pull out of OFS." However, he has no ideas of where to reallocate the \$30,000 that would become available, or of how to fill the void that dropping out of OFS would create. His concern for increased school spirit is admirable, but his idea for an orientation week in a beer tent does not a president make.

Finally, Christie is an active member of the PC Party. While this in itself might not be a problem, we wonder just how effectively he can represent students' interests when the very government he has worked to elect actively pursues a policy of underfunding to post-secondary education. What action would he be willing to take against the provincial Tory government?

Bob Walman sees himself as a "moderate" and a "populist": hazy labels which are accompanied by what can only be described as vague policies that have not been well thought out.

His desire to financially assist partisan political clubs on campus, for example, poses several potential hazards for CYSF. The council is a non-partisan political organization and should stay that way by steering clear of special interest groups.

Walman has had experience at the college council level and is knowledgeable about the politics of those bodies. His suggestion that CYSF should offer services to entice non-CYSF member college councils into joining is an indication of this. However, his hope of "de-politicizing" CYSF is hopelessly naive; the council by its very nature is political. All in all, his vague understanding of the wider issues, both at York and in Ontario, make him the wrong person for this position.

Ted Christensen is a concerned and thoughtful third candidate. He is aware that the CYSF Presidency is a full-time job and his willingness to put in a "10 to 12 hour day" demonstrates his commitment.

He has some good ideas, most notably an investigation into the distribution of student activity fees. He would also encourage elected council members to "campaign all year around," thus earning the council a high profile. Finally, his unique idea of turning the president's office into an office to be used by the whole executive is one which has unlimited potential.

It is disturbing, however, that Christensen does not understand CYSF's membership in OFS. He would like to see an improvement of OFS services to York, or else reduce CYSF's financial contribution. OFS fees are calculated per student; so CYSF's choice is simply one of staying or going; there is no halfway alternative.

Christensen would also reduce CYSF's direct involvement in social activities. Unfortunately, social events are how student governments gain recognition and provide their constituents with a return on their activity fee investment. Any move to reducing the social aspect of CYSF would run directly opposite to Christensen's goal of increasing council's profile.

The real choice for CYSF President is between Reya Ali and Valance Ellies, both of whom are head and shoulders above their competition. This is not simply because of their considerable experience and grasp of the issues, but also because they have clear, workable ideas which will serve to improve CYSF, not just change it.

Reya Ali has a talent for organization. His analytical ability to precisely articulate and determine his goals is exceptional. His "no-nonsense" attitude and knowledge of what motivates people—specifically a volunteer executive—will serve CYSF well.

As organizer of the Multicultural Festival, Ali demonstrated his ability to work with and unify many diverse interests at York. As CYSF President, Ali could apply these skills to bringing non-member colleges into CYSF and to making the council more accessible to a variety of groups.

Working behind the slogan "Organization and communication equals impact," he plans to closely monitor all the executive portfolios, making sure each director's work (or lack of work) is made known in a report published regularly in *Excalibur*.

He would also see that honoraria, given out twice a year, would be based on performance rather than the simple holding of a position.

We have little doubt about Ali's leadership abilities. His style is more "bottom-up" oriented, with his executive arriving at ideas through his motivation and overseeing.

His only limitation might be the lack of range of ideas, something that Ellies doesn't have a shortage of. But this drawback is more a matter of style than substance.

Valance Ellies has an impressive background in student politics. As CYSF Director of Finance, together with his involvement on several levels at Stong College, he has achieved a solid grasp of politics at York. Also, as an OFS executive member who has visited all of Ontario university campuses, he has a good handle on the factors that affect student life and what other student governments have done in response.

Ellies' approach is from the "brainstorming," ideas-oriented style of leadership. His interest in making "proper crosswalks" on campus and his concerns with student security and parking serve to illustrate the thought he has put into responding to students' needs.

Ellies has also proved he can implement his ideas. This year he brought a security van on campus and would like to add a second one. A shuttle bus service to shopping plazas off campus was also initiated by Ellies this year.

Ellies has more ideas for the Fall. He already has a commitment from Labatt's to sponsor a concert at the Tennis Center during Orientation Week. The profit from such a venture would go toward a "Yeomen Fund" which would be used to bus students to athletic events involving York teams.

Ellies' work with OFS has taught him much about political organization, and he has ideas from other campuses which would work well at York. He wants to implement a "chain of responsibility" system used at Ryerson, where every class would have a student representative to provide an information network between OFS, CYSF and students. He also plans to hire a researcher to act as a resource person and assist CYSF in achieving its goals.

While he emphasizes his ideas, we are slightly wary of Ellies' ability to work with those who might disagree with his views. His "top down" style is not always conducive to encouraging the involvement of others, although it is certainly a way to ensure that things get done.

It is unfortunate that of the two candidates we have decided to support, one must lose. Both deserve to win.

We would suggest that, once the election is over, Ellies and Ali combine their particular skills, experience and ideas. With such an alliance, CYSF can only benefit.

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