

Excalibur's CYSF election profiles

Stand on the Issues

Underfunding and the Bovey Report

Christie's position on the issue of underfunding differs to a great extent from the other candidates vying for the presidential throne.

First of all, while Christie does say students should lobby for as much funding as possible, they should not be surprised, he says, given the present state of the economy, if more provincial dollars are not forthcoming. Instead, Christie said a more realistic goal, and the goal of CYSF under his leadership, would be to strive to maintain the current level of funding, at least in the short term.

Secondly, while most of the other candidates, with the exception of Ted Christensen, stressed a lobbying effort centred around students and student organizations, such as the OFS, Christie saw more potential in a coordinated effort by CYSF and York's administration. Students would do better, he said, to utilize the resources and experience of the administration.

Christie is strongly opposed to the drastically increased tuition fees the Bovey Report calls for, saying the financial burden would drastically affect lower income students' ability to continue their education, especially as many students currently fall through "cracks" in the OSAP program.

Above all, Christie said, he believes in the concept of universal accessibility, and is against any measures that would affect accessibility.

Stong College Council representative on CYSF; Stong College Student Aid Committee; Stong College Planning Committee

- Stong College Council Chairperson and Executive Officer; Stong College Budget Committee; Orange Snail Management Board; Stong College Council Disciplinary Committee; York Campus Security Committee; York Student Fund

Stand on the Issues

Underfunding and the Bovey Report

Calling the Bovey Report "a masterful piece of work . . . that will take the pressure off the provincial government and place it on the (separate) university administrations." Ellies said one of his greatest fears is that the commission's recommendations will force universities to cut entire faculties, rather than just individual professors and support staff.

For that reason, he says, CYSF must lobby not only the government, but also York's Board of Governors (BOG) and administration.

Denouncing the proposed tuition increases and measures that would affect university accessibility, as well as the present problem of underfunding and the current OSAP system, Ellies outlined several strategies he would undertake as president of CYSF: First of all, Ellies said he would attempt to involve York students more at the provincial level, primarily by raising students level of awareness, and encouraging York students to province-wide demonstrations and lobbying efforts.

As president, Ellies said he would also try to elicit support from the business community in the battle over underfunding, meet on a regular basis with York's administration to keep up to date on their views of the situation, and hire a researcher through a government subsidized employment program with funds saved by dropping CYSF's membership in the Canadian Federation of Students—Ontario (CFS-O). This researcher, he said, would aid both the Directors of External and Internal Affairs in their portfolios.

On Non-Member Colleges

Ellies said that he believes the non-member colleges could, and should be brought into the CYSF fold, but asserted that the federation must first make joining worth the college's while.

For example, Ellies said that to bring in Osgoode, CYSF could consider funding CLASP directly, rather than through the college's trust fund, and to entice Glendon College they could provide French Language services to the bilingual college.

Other Issues

- Introduce fiscal responsibility in CYSF's office, by, among other things, freezing office salaries for one year, and no longer providing free coffee. Ellies said \$700 worth of coffee was drunk this fiscal year.
- Build on shopping bus service initiated this year by Ellies.
- Ensure new cafeteria 'credit card' system being considered by Food Services is beneficial for students.
- Keep informed of present negotiations with York's faculty union (YUFA), so that "if there's a strike we won't get caught with our pants down like last time."
- Help fund Radio York's bid for a cable transmitter and FM license.
- Lobby administration to provide a second security van to continuously patrol the York campus, and for more designated crosswalks with overhead lighting.
- Lobby for changes in parking areas for residence students.
- Lobby for one year freeze on prices, and to hold subsequent price hikes to inflation levels. Failing that, attempt to bring a second bookstore to the York campus.
- Use Metro Student Caucus to lobby for issues such as a half-price Metro-Pass for students.
- Upgrade Manus and reduce salary costs.
- Improve Orientation by bringing a popular band to the Tennis Center, and staging a Yeomen football exhibition game.
- Bring representatives for foreign students onto CYSF council.

Bob Walman

Experience

- Two years as Faculty of Arts Senator
- Two years on McLaughlin College Council; one year as CYSF representative, and one year as Director of Internal Affairs; initiated 1981 Food Boycott
- Student Centre Steering Committee member
- Member of Network Political Action Committee; Network is an organization representing Jewish Student Unions across Canada at the College and University level

Stand on the Issues

Underfunding and the Bovey Report

Walman's basic position is that, to combat university underfunding, CYSF must take a more active role in the student lobbying groups, OFS and CFS-O. While admitting he is not satisfied at present with the services of the two organizations, Walman said this due more to a lack of leadership at CYSF. As CYSF president, he said he would ensure that York was represented strongly in both groups.

Walman also pointed out that student lobbying groups must ensure that Federal transfer funds intended for education are used for that purpose, not redirected to other provincial projects as they are now.

As for the Bovey Report, Walman said that while the commission's recommendations have not yet been implemented, student lobbying groups must keep the pressure on the provincial government.

Walman was most concerned about the way the report's recommendations might affect accessibility and academic quality, and said that York, as a university oriented towards the Arts and Humanities, would suffer more than research intensive universities such as U of T.

It would be a priority of his administration, he said, to advocate getting back to the academic and funding standards of the 1970s.

CCOY—Non-Member Colleges

Walman said enticing the colleges into CYSF would be a priority of his administration, asserting that "for CYSF to be effective outside, it must be effective inside."

Walman says a collective community spirit is needed, and that the proposed Student Centre would help create that sense of a collective campus spirit or identity. He also said the colleges must be bargained with consistently and fairly if they are to be expected to consider joining CYSF.

OFS and CFS-O Membership

While Walman claimed York is currently "being raked" by the OFS he cited the fact that OFS fieldworkers have not been active on campus over the last year—he said the fault lies with the lack of leadership in CYSF rather than with the OFS executive. "How you use OFS is the responsibility of the student government," he said, adding that if York is not receiving the services it is paying for, then CYSF's executive "must formulate demands and if they don't come through . . . then drop (OFS membership) in an extreme case."

Walman said, however, that York does need OFS's services, and to a lesser extent those of the CFS-O, and rather than seceding from the organizations he would force them to live up to their commitments.

Other Issues and Priorities

- Involve commuter and residence students in functions together to create a sense of community spirit.
- Establishment of new criteria for club funding that is more fair, consistent and flexible. Also, open up funding to political clubs with the aim of involving students politically.
- Walman said he is running on a slate because he and his running mates saw so much "bickering and political in-fighting in council." By running a slate comprised of people with a variety of views—ranging from the political right to the left—but with a common commitment to student concerns, his administration could prevent interpersonal politics in CYSF's executive while still presenting many different views and ideas. Walman stressed that he would run a non-partisan council executive and that he and his running mates would cooperate with other Directors whether or not they came from the Walman slate.

CCOY—Non-Member Colleges

Like the other candidates, Christie felt the non-member colleges joining CYSF would increase the federation's effectiveness.

To make participation in the central student government more attractive, Christie said CYSF must first prove it is an effective governing body, and more specifically, involve more students in its day-to-day operation. He would do this, he said, by using the resources of the students for CYSF functions.

One example Christie outlined was to replace CYSF's regular business manager with a group of commerce students, and have their activities monitored on a regular basis by a paid accountant to ensure accuracy. Such proposals would also cut down on office costs, Christie said.

OFS and CFS-O Membership

Christie said York isn't getting its money's worth for the \$40,000 paid annually to the two student organizations, and he plans to promote the holding of a referendum to let students decide whether or not CYSF should maintain its membership status. He added, however, that he would invite OFS "to argue their side."

Other Issues

- Ensure council works together well. Christie cited CYSF's record of interpersonal bickering as the reason for his running a slate of candidates. He added, however, that he and any of his running mates would cooperate with whoever else won a seat on the CYSF executive.
- Heighten CYSF's profile on campus and make the federation more accountable by publishing a monthly report on where students' money is being spent.
- Cut the administrative costs of CYSF by replacing the current business manager and secretary with students, having representatives "brown bag it" to conferences, cutting the amount of money spent on coffee.
- Look into improving housing services on campus. Christie says the rental cost per square foot at college residences is higher than for prime downtown office space.
- Lobby for the abolishment of the mandatory scrip system.

Valance Ellies

Experience

- 1984-85: Director of Finance, CYSF Treasurer, Board of Directors of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS); Member of Metro Half-Price MetroPass Coalition
- 1983-84: Stong College Council executive member;