

Presidential Candidates

Kelly Cont'd

this campus; the office of student affairs must make that decision. I want to stress that, because it has been the impression on campus that the CYSF can magically grant them permission. It can't be done. It is not part of the CYSF mandate.

If fraternities and sororities do become recognized, the CYSF, obviously, will take a commanding role in ensuring college activities are not threatened or jeopardized in any way. Colleges are very important to me in my mandate. Colleges have nothing to fear from me.

EXCAL: *How will you fix the rift that has developed between clubs and the CYSF this year?*

KELLY: Club funding has always been a touchy issue. I do support clubs very strongly. I have been part of clubs for all of my four years at York and I understand where they are coming from.

I don't believe giving them direct financial assistance is going to be the only answer. What I want to do is work out a system with the vice-president of programmes that will allow clubs to carry on their functions; I want the clubs to sit down with next year's vice-president (programmes), George Sanghera, and the clubs commissioner to work out how their particular events will be carried out.

I want to see diversity among clubs. I want to see a variety of events on this campus. When a club comes to me and wants to do an anti-racism seminar, I'm going to do everything I can to make sure they get the money to do it.

Which brings me to the Women's Centre; I am firmly committed to promoting women's issues on this campus. It is very important to me that the rights of women on this campus with respect to any discrimination policies, with respect to gender discrimination, are protected and the CYSF must play an important role in that.

I am not convinced the Women's Centre is the only appropriate medium to achieve that because I just don't think it is accessible to enough women on campus. I'm concerned about the pro-choice/pro-life problem that seems to be creating this rift between them and the rest of the community, particularly the CYSF. If the CYSF is going to have a limited funding structure for the Women's Centre, it must, at the same time, be promoting women's issues on this campus by inviting others, from this campus or from off-campus, to speak.

EXCAL: *What qualities and experience will you bring to the job that will make you an effective president?*

KELLY: I have worked for four years with the CYSF. I've seen three governments come and go. In those three years, I have worked in the areas of programmes as a volunteer, in the programmes for clubs and in lobbying for more club space for students.

As well, I have always been involved in the underfunding issue. I participated in my first year at a debate and rally at UofT. I've worked very hard with the Ontario Students Assistance Programme learning how it operates. And, in my four years, I have learned how a student handbook should be run cost-efficiently and I've been able to get almost a complete understanding on how the CYSF budget operates.

With respect to my practical experience, as president of the very first AIDS hotline in Canada for the past two years, I believe we have been able to make it develop from a very small part-time counselling operation to a full-time organization. Four years ago, past provost Tom Meinenger said to me, "There will never be an AIDS hotline on this campus, it could never work." Four years later, we have a professional organization with 10 staff members which has recently received service status from the university and from the CYSF.

My work with York's AIDS hotline has proved my resolve and initiative to get things done without having to create too high a confrontational mood.

EXCAL: *How will you deal with the lack of school spirit of York students?*

KELLY: Every cent that we can find in our finances, we've got to put into activities and services that encourage students to get involved. I want to take the volunteer application form that was started at the CYSF this year and distribute it as widely and as far as possible. I want to tell students my office is open and they can come into the CYSF and tell me what they want to see happening on this campus.

Students have been ignored for so long, they have been lied to, deceived in so many different ways, that it's time for a responsible, rational approach to student government on this campus. An approach where we can disagree with the administration but we can get something done, and students must be part of that process. It's the most important thing to me.

We need volunteers to get some events going in theatre, for example. We need the CYSF to talk to phys ed and push

cont'd on p. 14

Kim Cont'd

and, on the side, I go to this frat."

Initially, because of the stage York is in, I don't think frats are appropriate right now. But in the future, definitely. There will come a time when frats are part of the identity of a university.

EXCAL: *How will you fix the rift that has developed between clubs and the CYSF this year?*

KIM: The basic problem is that the clubs are not getting enough money to sponsor their events because they need the initial money to get things started and the CYSF has cut their direct funding from \$60,000 to \$40,000. They did spend \$16,000 in advertising for them however. But that's not what the clubs really want.

From all the club presidents that I spoke to, they want that initial amount of money to get the party going. It's very simple, it's a matter of money. If clubs need more money, then we have to show them that we support them.

I think the CYSF this year wanted to have more of a high profile. In that way, they neglected the fact that the clubs service the same people they are trying to get. It shouldn't be a competition between the CYSF and clubs. Give up a little of your profile and let the clubs service the people. If that means giving them more money, then give them more money.

EXCAL: *What services would you like to see the CYSF provide that it currently doesn't?*

KIM: Ironically enough, I was talking about the fact we should have a used bookstore on campus before it came out in the paper. But I would like to see services that save the students on this campus some money.

When I was putting up my posters, we went to Canadian Tire and bought thick masking tape for about \$3.50 a roll. When we ran out, we went to the General Store and it cost us \$5 for the same tape. The prices are crazy here.

We have to think about services that will save students money and the CYSF can try and give them products. I was talking to some members of the Student Centre who have some inside information, and there is some space still left in the Centre, some space for a confectionery store.

If the CYSF had some business sense and perhaps a more professional attitude, perhaps we could use that confectionery store for alternative sources of revenue, getting students something directly back, saving them money and earning some money for the CYSF.

In terms of the Women's Centre and the Sexual Harassment Centre, they definitely need higher profiles. I'm sure there are lots of people on this campus who have had problems with sexual harassment and if you don't even know where the Women's Centre is, how can you get help? The Centre is way down at the end of the hall. First of all, you have to put the Centre right in the middle of the Student Centre with a big, bright sign. You've got to hand out pamphlets to increase awareness.

EXCAL: *How do you feel about the CYSF vice-presidents' new status as full-time for 25 hours a week during the school year for \$13,000 a year?*

KIM: I think it is a pretty crazy jump from \$5,000 a year. If they are going to take absolutely no courses and dedicate their lives to being CYSF vice-presidents, then it might justify the salary. I really don't think they will be more accountable and more responsible with this raise.

If an increase in salary is going to be the only thing that is going to make you more accountable for your position, then you are not the person for that position. It is not a position for money, it is a position where you help students. Helping students does not mean you draw money from the students so you can go out and get a new car.

If I were to do something about it, I think I would have to talk to each vice-president about cutting down their wages. The way we can cut down on these wages is to take into consideration the amount of hours spent in the office and the amount of hours spent in class and studying. Then we'll work out the hourly wage, and if it is determined that 15 hours will be spent in class, then we will cut down their wages accordingly. The hours you spend in the office are paid for and that's it.

That can be used as a negotiating point for decreasing salaries. I think we could also decrease the amount of courses vice-presidents take. If you do take a course, there is going to be a definite amount of time spent away from your work and your portfolio. If we can negotiate on how many courses vice-presidents are allowed according to wage, and if I feel that they are not doing enough work because of their school, then obviously one of them has to go, either school or the job.

EXCAL: *What one question did we not ask you that you would like to answer?*

cont'd on p. 14

Merrick Cont'd

I sat with one politician, the NDP critic for education, and he pointed out one thing that really stuck in my mind. If you're going to go into one of these lobby sessions to go and get something, or get money, you have to make sure that people are aware of you.

OFS at the moment has not done that. They go to lobby sessions and people don't know about it. There is only going to be more money given to students for post-secondary education if the government officials know that these students, who are voters, are going to make sure that the government gives more money and will not make cutbacks. That's the only way — protesting them has to be done. OFS and CFS were both founded on a protest.

In 1972 the government was going to raise tuition and all the students, without a central organization such as OFS, went on strike. More funding came. Now look what's happened. The OFS has become pro-active. They go to these lobby sessions. Five out of the past four OFS chairs have gone directly over the fence into politics. Two of the past chairs of the OFS happen to be working for Clifford Lincoln. We need to go back to the grass roots and remember that we're students and that we have to put aside our differences and remember this.

EXCAL: *What is your position on the OFS?*

MERRICK: The principles the OFS is founded on is fantastic. But there's a problem. My predecessors decided to pull out of OFS. I tried my hardest to get us back into OFS and to try to have a settlement. But there are certain problems. We, as CYSF, receive the funds from the students, and are supposed to decide how this is going to be spent in the best interests of the students. The problem was we went to OFS and told them the CYSF wasn't a member because it was a different situation and they recognized it was a different situation. So, we told them that they have to remember the CYSF pulled out.

This has always been our stance and we can't change it, and I wasn't here when we made it but it's been explained to me by my predecessors, it's been explained to me by the CYSF and I agree with the fact that the CYSF is not a member. If OFS is willing to go to a referendum on the issue of York students rejoining the OFS, I'm all for it, because I think it's fantastic as a central student organization. But this would only be if the OFS, in the referendum, was going to state that the CYSF pulled out legitimately and that students are going to pay \$3 to join OFS and this is what they're going to get in return. And, the OFS should also guarantee it is not going to come to CYSF asking for money saying that we are members and always were members. If they say to CYSF that they'll allow a referendum next year to become full members in 1991-92, and they'll get a direct levy and be in the same situation as every other university — because we're not at the moment — at that point, I'm all for it, because if that's what's done it's a York student that's the member, not the CYSF. There's not the special circumstance.

EXCAL: *How will you deal with the lack of spirit at York?*

MERRICK: The most important would be awareness. Students want to be contacted. This year the CYSF has been very successful in making people know about CYSF. Our president, Peter Donato, put up a big CYSF sign out in the hallway. That helped because people couldn't miss it.

There is also the fact that we sent out the mailers. The mailers are very important for the commuter population. If York wasn't competing with the city of Toronto, we would have more activity. Also, a lot of students are older — the average student at York is 26 years old, so we have to take that into account.

We also have to start mobilizing our promotions committee. This would be made up of students who would go to classes to tell people what's up. We would also mobilize our mailers even more, because we're now starting to make profits on them without costing the students anything, by putting advertising in them. It's really regrettable that we have to turn to advertisers, but we were very careful about what we put in the mailers. The fact is this doesn't cost the student anything and we get our message across to the students.

I would also try to increase participation through the colleges. Now that the CYSF is an umbrella organization, we can co-ordinate the colleges. The colleges should become more social bodies and the CYSF should then become a political body. That's what's meant by *The White Paper*. You have to have a spearhead, and CYSF should be the spearhead. And it needs a proper leadership to do this. It needs someone who knows what CYSF is all about and knows the direction that it's been going in, because it takes a while to know exactly what's happening. It took me four months to know my position this year and that's four months wasted.

cont'd on p. 14