

The men who would be president:

Stand on the Issues

By GARY SYMONS

When York students go to the polls on March 13 and 14, they will be taking part in what may be the single most important election in CYSF's history.

York University, and universities across Ontario, are in the midst of a crisis that has and will continue to affect every student in the province. Already, while a better educated populace is needed to deal with the increasingly complex issues of our time, the post-secondary educational system is drastically underfunded, and there are more proposals on the government's slate that could make the situation even worse. Academic standards in this province have declined, tuition fees have increased, and may almost double by 1990, classrooms are overcrowded, and recommendations from the government-appointed Bovey Commission may end Ontario's long-standing policy of universal accessibility for qualified applicants.

Perhaps in the past York students could afford to be apathetic and uninformed about CYSF elections. Now, when strong leadership is so badly needed, it is in every student's best interest to know and to vote for the best candidate.

To make that task at least a little easier, Excalibur has provided this profile of 1985's Presidential candidates. Unfortunately, because of the brevity of the campaign period, we could not provide profiles of the candidates running for other positions, but it is our hope that students will attempt to make themselves aware of what the various other candidates represent.

In this profile, each candidate was asked to provide details of his qualifications for the job, and his stance on some of the important issues facing CYSF, York students, and other Ontario universities. The profiles do not cover the candidates' entire platform, but hopefully will provide at least the basis for an informed vote.

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| ALI, Reya | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CHRISTENSEN, Ted | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CHRISTIE, John | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ELLIES, Valance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| WALMAN, Bob | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Reya Ali

Experience

- Helped revive York's History Association and was Constitutional Committee Chairman for the association.
- Currently in second year as Winters College Council representative in CYSF.
- Two years on Absinthe Pub Management Board.
- Presently sitting on committee to stage a Medieval Festival at Winters College.
- Director of Social and Cultural Affairs for CYSF.

Stand On Issues

Underfunding and the Bovey Report

"The Bovey Report," Ali says, "I think surprised (Education Minister) Bette Stephenson more than anybody else, because it basically said not only are we underfunded, we are down to our bare bones."

Ali also said he agrees with some aspects of the report, specifically in the areas of "increased capital expenditure of government funding research, and of spending more money on universities," but sees others as potentially harmful. Three problems in particular he is concerned with are the proposal to increase the proportion of user funding for universities, or to put it simply, tuition increases; a lack of support for special programs such as Medicine and Law, and limiting federal funding of foreign students to five percent of their educational costs.

Ali said that, as president, he would lobby the government to raise tuition increases at the level of inflation, but suspects a compromise would be necessary. He says he would also try to force the government to fund the 9,000 students who are not currently covered under the provincial funding formula.

To combat university underfunding, Ali said he would begin by setting up an external affairs system that would:

- lobby the government directly
- Work more closely with the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS)
- Hire a student, from funds saved by dropping CYSF's membership in the National Union of Students (NUS), as a researcher and lobby to work with the Director of External Affairs.

Ali said he would also set up a system whereby he and members of the administration could combine their research and their lobbying efforts.

CCOY and Non-Member Colleges

Ali says that bringing the non-member colleges into CYSF would be a priority if he is elected, but added it is also a priority to involve the present member colleges to a greater extent.

A recurring problem in CYSF, he said, has been that a lot of the council's work has fallen to the executive, where Ali believes it should not be. "The college council representative's mandate is to participate in the work of the CYSF," he said. "Unfortunately, that has not occurred."

To rectify the situation, Ali plans to directly involve general council members with the portfolios of CYSF's executive. He would do this, he says, by assigning two or three members to each director's portfolio, and "if necessary I would embarrass them into taking part."

Ali also plans to have CYSF executive attend college council meetings, and to publish a one page news sheet consisting of a weekly CYSF executive report.

By creating a mutual flow of information and an atmosphere of cooperation, Ali believes greater participation in CYSF affairs will be made possible, and might simplify the task of involving the colleges.

Ali also said there are already negotiations taking place with some of the non-member colleges, notably Summerhayes' efforts to draw Osgoode and Calumet College into the fold, and believes most colleges could join CYSF during the next year.

CFS and OFS Membership

A central plank of Ali's platform involves dropping CYSF's prospective membership status with the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, but he hopes to work more closely with the Ontario Federation of Students.

CYSF's prospective membership in CFS-O costs York students approximately \$10,000 a year, and Ali says there is little or no return on that investment. For that reason Ali plans to drop CFS-O immediately and use the \$10,000 saved to hire a full-time student researcher who would work primarily with his Director of External Affairs and the OFS.

As for OFS, Ali said he would attempt to participate more actively in the provincial federation, but if the OFS does not respond in a like fashion, he will hold a referendum asking students to vote for CYSF's withdrawal from OFS as well.

Other Priorities

- Organize Radio York more effectively
- Have CYSF's Director of Academic Affairs do course evaluations for the Faculty of Arts
- Increase Club funding, but clarify criteria for funding to prevent the duplication of clubs on campus

Ted Christensen

Experience

- Founders College Council representative on CYSF for past two years
- Faculty of Fine Arts Senator (one year)
- Sat on Fine Arts Senate Caucus' Physical Resources Committee and the Committee for Exams and Academic Standards
- Director and co-organizer of York Film and Video Students Association

Underfunding and the Bovey Report

Saying the fight over underfunding and the implementation of the Bovey Report "is not a battle for any one organization," Christensen envisions CYSF coordinating its efforts with the OFS, CFS-O, and particularly with York's administration, which he said has the expertise and "political clout" to lobby the government effectively.

As well as criticizing the Bovey Commission's recommendation to double tuition by 1990, Christensen was concerned that the proposed increase of emphasis on research and development in universities might harm the general Arts faculties, and even more so, Fine Arts faculties.

OFS and CFS-O Membership

Christensen said he would definitely retain membership in the two groups over the short term, but would suggest appointing a three-person committee to review their services and judge whether they are worth the money CYSF spends for membership.

Basically, however, Christensen supports retaining CYSF's membership, seeing the task of lobbying the government on issues such as underfunding as too large and complex for a single student government to deal with effectively. He would only advocate withdrawal from either OFS or CFS-O, he said, if repeated requests for improved services were consistently ignored.

Also, Christensen would push for a review of the amount paid to OFS complaining that on top of the \$30,000 annual membership fee, CYSF must also pay a fee to send a representative to OFS conferences.

Non-Member Colleges

Unlike other candidates, Christensen does not advocate attempts to bring non-member colleges into CYSF. Instead, Christensen suggested that CYSF could be made a more effective and representational governing body by simply giving non-member colleges a single vote in council, as opposed to the three votes allotted member colleges.

By doing so, Christensen hopes to make CYSF a more representational body while avoiding any move the non-members might perceive as a threat to their autonomy.

Other Issues and Priorities

- Aid Radio York in its drive to get on the FM airwaves. Christensen said he would attempt to raise approximately \$100,000 to buy the station a transmitter and would increase Radio York funding. He said he would not, however, raise the money through a student levy, which he called "the easiest and perhaps the sleaziest way to raise funds."
- Better organization of CYSF's day-to-day business operation. Christensen said he would require the executive to hand in their reports four days before each council meeting, and replace the honoraria awarded directors with a wage of the same amount. A wage system would help make directors more responsible, Christensen said.
- Return social and cultural events to college councils, possibly with increased funding. CYSF was not originally intended to be a social and cultural organization, and Christensen would like to reduce the council's workload in this area so as to better utilize CYSF's resources for what he called "the real business of government," while improving the college system.
- Draw on the expertise of business and law students to "improve the inner workings of CYSF."
- Lobby for more bus stop shelters at York.

John Christie

Experience

- Involved with several election campaigns at the federal and provincial level, including the federal York-South Weston Riding Association where he was Social Director (one year), Treasurer (two years), and President (one year).
- Worked on Brian Mulroney's leadership campaign last year, a split his time between Miller and Grossman camps during the provincial leadership campaign.
- Worked as an administrative assistant in York's Office of the Mayor.