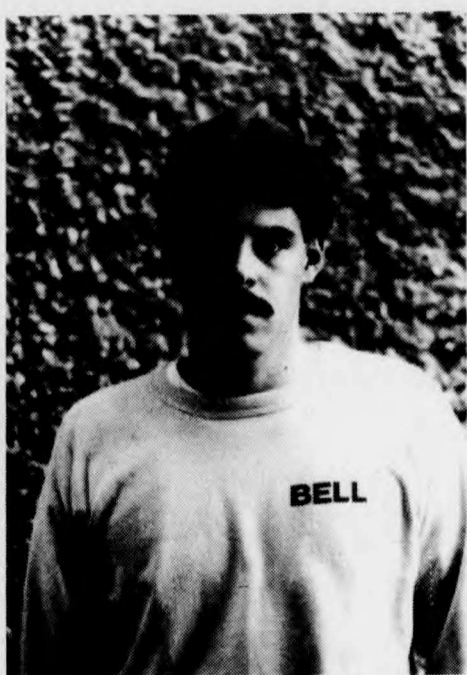


GRILLING THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



LISA OLSEN

KELLY RAMSAY

Improvement needed in student services

EXCAL: What are the reasons you chose to run for CYSF president?

RAMSAY: The reason I chose to run was because there were some major internal problems with CYSF. Because of that I felt that with the knowledge I have I could perhaps aid with the problems plaguing CYSF. I see the problem within the CYSF as being twofold; the first being that they do not create a comfortable environment for students to study in and second, that they do not provide a voice for the students.

EXCAL: How would you correct things?

RAMSAY: I see the corrections with the environment as being threefold. First of all there needs to be increased student services; some of my proposals include a student medical insurance policy. The policy contains three clauses. The first covers 80 percent of all prescription drugs for students. The second covers hospitalization and includes ambulance fees, orthopedic appliances. Also, if a student becomes sick for a long time the policy will provide for professional tutoring so the student doesn't fall too far behind. Third is accidental/dental insurance with coverage of up to \$1,000. The cost of the policy would be less than five dollars per student per year.

EXCAL: How does this differ from OHIP?

RAMSAY: OHIP only covers hospitalization, it doesn't cover prescriptions or dental accidents. There isn't a policy tailored just for student needs.

EXCAL: What specifically for better student servi-

ces, aside from the medical plan, do you have?

RAMSAY: I also have a computerized home location service, which will provide service similar to "Home Locators" or "Speedy rental." Also a word-processing centre, student photo ID, and more student discounts. There are more, but these are the major services, the most important to students.

EXCAL: Given the CYSF's fixed budget, will there be enough money in the budget to provide these services, or will you be forced to go to a referendum?

RAMSAY: Home Locators would be set up as a business; there would be no direct cost to us as it's set up as a non-profit service to the students. The word processing centre could be set up at little cost. There would be no reason to go to a referendum to allocate funds for these services.

EXCAL: What do you see as the role of CYSF, especially your role, if elected?

RAMSAY: I see the role of CYSF as being a central student body which acts as a lobbyist group, on behalf of the student members of the university, and depending upon what the issues are, and what the students want, the CYSF will lobby the appropriate groups.

EXCAL: A criticism of the CYSF has been that it has just handed out money over the years, and that CYSF doesn't really have any policies. What should the CYSF speak up on, and should it include political matters outside the University?

RAMSAY: That's kind of a hard question. There are some issues floating around now that I think CYSF should address, one being underfunding. Again it's a question of whether students are going to come forward and want CYSF to do it. What I'm saying is that CYSF will be prepared to do that, but the students will have to come forward and want it to act on their behalf. It (CYSF) can't do it on its own.

EXCAL: What about your opinion?

RAMSAY: My opinion will play more or less a resource for them, but my opinion would not in any way influence their decisions.

EXCAL: What are the things you want to change? What are the priorities that you would like to address?

RAMSAY: (I would address) the internal workings in CYSF, like private members' reports which are not tabled 24 hours in advance (of CYSF General Meetings) like they're supposed to be. That's an example of an internal inefficiency which should be addressed. On the other hand in the external problems of CYSF, the student government often does not pay enough attention to the students at York. It does not take in the input they have to offer.

EXCAL: What would your position be on security issues?

RAMSAY: Obviously there is much room for improvement with security on campus, the specifics of which, again, I have not concentrated

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LISA OLSEN

JILL SHIBOU

CYSF must take firm stands on the issues

EXCAL: Why did you decide to run for CYSF president, and what can you bring to that position?

SHIBOU: I decided to run because I see a lot of structural problems within CYSF, CYSF has all this unlimited potential which is right now being completely wasted. An example of this, is the fact that Bethune and Calumet right now aren't even under the umbrella of the CYSF. And if they're not under the umbrella, and that's two out of the seven colleges, then there's got to be something wrong with the structure of the CYSF. And they shouldn't be forced to join, they should be coming into the council voluntarily, and because of that there should be some structural changes done. CYSF can only be effective if it's representing all undergraduate students centrally.

By running I obviously believe I could do the best job, otherwise I wouldn't run. I don't have the time to waste, if somebody else could do what I have planned. But there needs to be a lot of energy behind something such as CYSF presidency which I've seen to some extent only in relation to the Student Centre, recently.

EXCAL: Your views on OFS?

SHIBOU: I don't think we make enough use of our membership in OFS. We spend \$30,000 a year on OFS and it's about time we got our money's worth on that. I mean if we have a problem right now with visa students paying more... (and with York being very underfunded, what's being done with that in OFS? We must have strong people go in there, pushing them to lobby the provincial government to make the change; but

I don't see that happening... I think we have to make OFS do the job...

You have to start looking, to see who are the key people around OFS, who are the key people in the provincial government to start lobbying. You have to start directing it right at the top, and not worry about the bottom. York has to take the initiative, and it has to have that drive behind it.

EXCAL: What other specific proposals do you have if you become president?

SHIBOU: The restructuring of CYSF would take a major part of the time, and I think that would filter through to a lot of other areas. I believe that it would cure a lot of the problems with lack of communication going on between the president and everybody else in this university. I mean, who is Gerard Blink? I'm sure a lot of people knew who he was, but does anybody really know what he does?

EXCAL: What is the role of CYSF, and what is the role of the President of that organization?

SHIBOU: The role of CYSF should be to be the central voice, within the university, on issues that pertain to all students. There are, to some extent, overlapping of responsibilities (with the colleges), but that's going to come with anything. If the colleges have some problem, they take it to CYSF. But that's not really happening right now, because there are problems that all of the colleges encountered that aren't taken to CYSF, because CYSF has for too long taken a sort of fence-sitting policy. They don't like to make a stance on anything because it's going to piss somebody off. Council can't go along worrying about pissing somebody off because it's never going to get anything done. Council should be setting up ad hoc committees right at the beginning of every school year with certain goals. Those committees should meet until December, and take (the issue) again back to CYSF in January when they will go through discussion and come out with a firm policy not there early on in the year, when something can be done about it. There are no policies made in CYSF (right now)... Administration is dealing with all those problems (underfunding, financial aid and academic accessibility), and the students really aren't making a say on that. That's where CYSF should be coming in... It's no wonder the Administration is doing just whatever they want because we're letting them.

EXCAL: How do you get the students more involved in that?

SHIBOU: That's one of the reasons for the restructuring of the CYSF. You need more representation. I would like to see all heads of student governments sitting on as directors on CYSF to some extent. Right now I believe there are only two of us that are actually CYSF reps, and presidents (of Colleges), and other areas of student governments too aren't even falling under the umbrella of CYSF. And no wonder people say, "well I don't want CYSF to be taking care of that," because they don't even represent all the students. Well, if they don't represent them, then it's about time they should change...

I think all directors should have several major projects each to be doing throughout the year, so that if you have six or seven directors,

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