

**Candidates continued**

**Joseph DeMatteis**

Coalition. I am actively involved in student politics and I am aware of everything that goes on in the YFS office.

**2. Cite two examples of things that the YFS did wrong this year and how you would do them right.**

I have no problem with democracy if they [YFS] let it take place. One thing that I definitely did not like or think was right was the fact that Jean Ghomeshi kept shoving policy down people's throats.

I really felt that it was wrong for him to take a stance on political issues. He does not represent the York population as a whole, he represents a minority and it is wrong for him to come up with statements such as we are for abortion or against the troops in the Gulf.

I would definitely refrain from any such statements that would have a binding agreement to the York population as a whole. Those are personal issues and should be dealt with in a personal manner.

The YFS also did not on broad terms, encourage the York community as a whole to participate in their events. They always had the same people working on the same referendums and issues. It would be interesting to see other people or getting the student community as a whole to participate in some of these issues. They failed to do that this year. One of my biggest concerns and what I would do differently would be to put the student back into York University.

**3. Do you think there is any backlash from Jean Ghomeshi's year. If so how would you reconcile any alienated groups?**

Yes, I think there is a big backlash. He has seemed to alienate quite a few groups on campus, although he has given LGAY and the Women's Centre recognition and status as a service, which I feel was right.

Talking in political terms he was very political this year and has managed to alienate the whole right side or anyone who has views other than their [YFS] social views.

**4. Do you think the president should take an official stance on issues such as the gulf war, GST, abortion?**

No, absolutely not. They are personal issues, the president cannot come out with a harsh statement such as we do not like the GST or we are pro-life or pro-choice and expect that the statement binds the York community. These issues should be addressed but in a broad sense, the president should refrain from making such statements.

**5. Would you advocate a more centralized YFS or would you decentralize power back to the colleges and other constituencies?**

I would definitely decentralize power back to the colleges. We have a big problem on campus in so far as the college events do not seem to attract many of their constituents other than the resident students.

How do we get the commuters to actually participate in some of the college events? The decentralization of the

YFS, giving the colleges more say on the policy that goes on in the YFS offices will go a long way in bringing the community closer together.

**6. What clubs have been given service status this year and are their current funding levels justified?**

The Women's Centre, LGAY, and the Peer Support Centre.

Only ten thousand dollars were spent this year on clubs. More money should be allocated to the clubs so that they could engage more time and energy on fighting racism and holding such events as a multi-cultural festival that would promote their own culture and allow other clubs to understand more about the other cultures on campus.

**7. How will you fundraise money to maintain current levels of service?**

The idea of bringing students closer together is an important one and what better way than to promote the YFS through some social events that would create revenue.

Instead of colleges running a dance, why not the YFS having some sort of get-together, or conferences based on issues such as racism or sexism, anything that would seem controversial or need to be discussed in a university environment.

Reactivate the American Express Card deal to provide the YFS with more revenue. We can allow other corporations to come in on campus and promote their services. At the same time as we are providing outside services, we would be generating revenue for the YFS.

**8. How will you combat underfunding and tuition increases, including residence increases?**

A major restructuring of OSAP would be required. We would put pressure on the minister of colleges and universities to put his heart and soul into some kind of plan that would help the average student who needs the financial help.

Insofar as residence is concerned we [YFS] along with the colleges would definitely lobby the residence budget committee to put a hold on their eight per cent increase. As far as raising the residence fees, they should not take away any of the services that already exist.

**9. Do you support York's membership in OFS/CFS or do you support membership in York or metro-Toronto-centred groups?**

As far as OFS and CFS is concerned I was advocating that the students should be more informed. I do not think that the average student knew exactly what OFS and CFS was. This year's YFS executive took a stand that I felt was wrong and although I agree on the concept of the OFS/CFS it has not been viable for us.

The OFS/CFS does not inform its constituency of what they have done, such as the 97 motions that were passed at the last general meeting. They passed all those motions and if you ask an average student what those motions were they wouldn't be able to tell you.

**10. Do you see the Student Centre Corporation emerging as a threatening player in student politics in relation to the YFS?**

No, simply because the YFS has four representatives on the programs committee of the board of governors in the SCC.

**Michelle Hughes**

(VRES). There is supposed to be a fee that we're paying for each course and it's hard to get information on that. That sort of thing should be out already.

Another thing I would have to say with the involvement with the OFS is that they received a lot of information on campaigns that they could have acted out throughout the campus and they didn't. If we are going to belong, we're going to have to use the material that they give us, so not really filtered but actually use the stuff that they give us and use it for the students.

**3. Do you think there is a backlash from Jean Ghomeshi's year? If so, how would you reconcile any alienated groups?**

Yes I feel there is a backlash. However, I think what he did in politicizing the YFS was good and I think it should continue because there were a lot of issues that people didn't think about before like racism and it's something that continues through the years. I think I would continue to do the same sort of thing.

**4. Do you think the president should take official stands on issues such as the Gulf war, GST, or abortion?**

Yes, because all issues are student issues. The Gulf war does affect students because there were students at York that were on 24-hour watch plus when the government is putting a lot of money into things like the war that affects the money that is going into education.

**5. Would you advocate a more centralized YFS or would you decentralize power back to the colleges and other constituencies?**

I would put the power back into the students and that is into the colleges, into YFS, into the clubs. Everybody has more of an input into what's happening. (Where would the real authority be?) I would say YFS.

**6. What clubs have been given service status this year and are their current funding levels justified?**

The only one that was given status this year or requested status was LGAY [Lesbian and Gay Alliance] and I think that was justified. I also think that we should try and have [it] because every year we get a different government coming in which means that they will decide how much every service group will receive. I think it would be a good idea to have a direct levy for student services. In that way they would always be assured of funding.

**7. How will you fundraise money to maintain current levels of service?**

I guess it would have to be through advertising, through different businesses to try and get people involved in the university. It's something I thought I would work with the VP Finance on.

**8. How will you combat underfunding and tuition increases, including residence increases?**

I think the residence budget committee has to be switched so that it is under the landlord-tenant act. I think students need to start lobbying the government so that they will start putting education on the top of their priority list.

In the recent budget, the government was willing to put up to a billion dollars into Canada's involvement in the war, and at the same time cutting the money they were giving to the province. So I think that it's a matter of students lobbying both the federal and provincial governments.

**9. Do you support York's membership in OFS/CFS or do you support membership in York or metro-Toronto-centred groups?**

I support York's involvement in OFS/CFS. Toronto-centric doesn't work. It needs to be a broad-based thing because we're looking at the federal

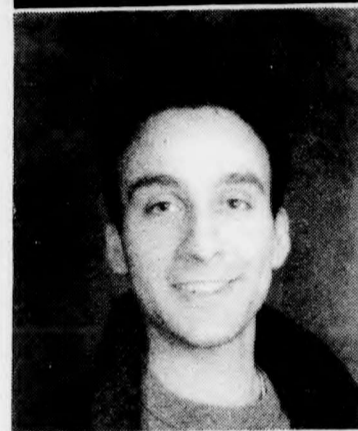
government on a whole because they're the ones cutting back the money to the provinces.

I think that it's important for York to belong to OFS/CFS because we have one of the biggest populations and we can get students to Queen's Park faster than University of Guelph or Trent or those places that are further [away]. I think that it's important that York is not only in it, but involved as well so that it will be more effective.

**10. Do you see the Student Centre Corporation emerging as a threatening player in student politics in relation to YFS?**

They've made some pretty bad decisions in that they are supposed to be for the students. It seems in the clubs that it was who ever had the most money would get the most space. At the same time, they've delayed and delayed the opening and there are students who are graduating that are not getting any benefit from it. I think there will be a problem with YFS if they don't smarten up.

**VP Finance**



André Souroujon

**Paul Brienza**

I am a third year Economics and Political Science student with an active interest in student government. I was involved in running a small business for three consecutive summers.

My agenda involves three major points. They are further financial disclosure, streamlining YFS operations and raising funds, thereby lowering the levy burden on students.

I do not believe in personal agendas for student government. I feel that students are tired of having their student leaders act unprofessionally. In a democracy, you listen to all. That is what I intend to do.



André Souroujon

**Ziad Hafez**

Hi! My name is Ziad Hafez and I am presently acting Clubs Commissioner, chair of the Clubs' Coalition, voting member on the Finance Committee and Winters College representative. As a candidate for VP Finance, my platform is as follows:

- \* maintain or increase funding for clubs and services
- \* mobilize the Clubs' Coalition and ensure self-determination
- \* students (YFS) should grant

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**Andrea Shettleworth**

Andrea Shettleworth, the third candidate running for position of YFS President, declined *Excalibur's* solicitation to provide a platform, interview and photograph to appear in the election preview.