

Board of Governors candidate praises outgoing rep

By now many of you know that I am a candidate for the Board of Governors. I want to state from the outset that the ideas contained in this letter are not exclusively related to my candidacy.

Firstly, running for this position has allowed me to make continued contact with the two existing BOG representatives; John Weston and Pamela Fruitman. Speaking extensively with them has given me an incredible insight into the responsibilities associated with the position. In addition, it has been a rather enjoyable experience being associated with these people. In John's case, as his term is quickly coming to an end, this upcoming

election has given him a chance to assess his efforts. Personally I want to thank John not only for his hard work, but his invaluable insights on BOG (Student Relations and the Appointments, Tenure and Promotions Committees) and on CYSF. John's work on the UFBSC and other bodies has meant that he has made a successful impact in his eighteen months as a representative. In addition, by speaking with John and having access to his files, I will be able to continue on some of his work without starting from the beginning. And I must say John has quite a few excellent ideas.

Secondly, a situation that concerns me greatly is the lack of

student participation in University affairs. Of course, it sounds so passe and worn out, but situations are arising directly due to lack of responsibility and involvement, where students' rights are being trampled upon. As a Board representative I can help you, but I need your help. While campaigning through residence, I have found that everyone has a particular beef. These complaints must be acted upon and followed up by students or else future infractions will increase. When wronged, it is a student's responsibility to act, not talk. As a BOG rep I can help you, but I need you to contact me and take the first

step. Thirdly, I just want to ask all York students to vote on Tuesday and Wednesday (April 5th and 6th). This is perhaps the most important part of my letter. Traditionally about 1,000 students at York vote, whereas 7,000 students vote at the University of Western Ontario during their elections. A candidate is only as good as the constituency he/she represents. I would even say that voting in any case is more important than voting for me. But if you examine the issues, experience and motivations of the candidates objectively, your obvious choice is myself. In any event please do vote, it is important!

At the beginning of this letter I thought that it would be worthwhile to extol my virtues or criticize my opposition but much larger issues loom that needed to be aired. By speaking with many students during the campaign I have been given a new perspective of what a Board of Governors representative is. The BOG position is a flexible role easily able to assist students in all areas of University. I hope you are informed of the issues by reading both mine and my competitor's literature and attending all candidates meetings. Make an informed, educated choice, one that will benefit all students.

Martin Zarnett
Student Senator

My campaign slogans "should not be taken as statements of fact"

On Friday March 25th I lost the election for President of the Graduate Student Association (G.S.A.) to my opponent Mr. Terry Conlin by a vote of 77 to 68. As the election was so close, and as the issues invoked were undeniably heated and controversial, there is some concern among many Grads that their Association has been irreparably divided - i.e. that it will be next to impossible for the "pro-

union" and "anti-union" forces to work together. Well as ringleader of the anti-union forces I wish to go on record as saying that despite Mr. Conlin's connection to the union executive I am certain that he will not run roughshod over the democratic process. A proven diligent and conscientious worker for Graduate student interests, Terry Conlin will no doubt introduce many positive and novel ideas into

the G.S.A. Though I strongly disagree with the principle of a single individual serving concurrently as a high ranking executive officer in both C.U.E.W. and the G.S.A., the Grads on this campus must now get together behind Mr. Conlin in order to best address their common interests and concerns. Having been fairly elected by the democratic process, Terry deserves the chance to put certain of his policies and ideas into action.

excuse what was said in the heat of battle, the past election can be seen as a shot in the arm vis a vis a long time apathetic and politically non-involved G.S.A. That over 20 per cent of the Graduate Student Body should have taken the time to vote in the elections of March 25th is indeed

a step in the right direction. Confrontation and heated debate, when properly employed and even "instigated", can do much to give new life to sagging institutions. So having now survived our wild orgy of political namecalling, red-baiting and "dust-slinging" (we didn't quite make it to mud-slinging) I urge all graduate students to rechannel this enthusiasm towards the creation of a more effective Graduate Student Association under Mr. Conlin. Maybe if next year the anti-union coalition burns flaming crosses on the doors of C.U.E.W. execs living in Grad Res we will be able to get a 30 per cent turnout at the polls! (I'm only kidding Terry - at least I think so.)

Ron Moore
(The losing candidate in the G.S.A. elections)

An appeal for Holmes

In the past two weeks, and, indeed, over the course of this term, the decision not to promote, Prof. Chris Holmes (and thereby force him to seek other employment) has come

under fire from a large section of the student population. It seems totally incomprehensible (not to mention intolerable) that those in whose hands the decision rests have disregarded these criticisms, and have not found them important enough to warrant a response. I had thought that the days were gone when the dean's office had to be occupied and the university shut down in order for students' opinions to be given serious consideration. I suppose I was wrong. Nonetheless, this is not merely a commentary on the situation, it is a direct appeal to the authorities for a reply to those students who found the issue important enough to question in the first place.

In the process of electioneering and campaigning it is unfortunate that the desire to win often clouds one's reason and judgement. Although I strongly question the ideological premises inherent to a great deal of union activity, the truth of that is a lot of the rhetoric I employed in this campaign was undeniably exaggerated and overstated. In order to gain attention for one's message a certain degree of sensationalism and "Madison Avenue" seems to be necessary. Thus my campaign slogans "free choice vs. no choice", "reasoned action vs. radical action", etc. should not be taken as statements of fact, but simply as reflective of a certain amount of political license which is commonly employed by those who endeavour to win elections. To those in C.U.E.W. (and especially Mr. Conlin) who took offence to the excesses of my campaign I apologize - perhaps a little more diplomacy and "reasonableness" was in order. However, provided that we forget and perhaps

Accessibility and equity

I am sure that the students and faculty of York will endorse the principles of accessibility and equity (without disregard to quality) affirmed by the letters of President Macdonald and Professor Tom Traves (Chairer, Social Science) published in the *Globe and Mail* of March 23.

However, it is as well to be aware of the fact that not all administrators in the University are prepared to support accessibility based on merit alone.

It has been suggested recently (not by the President's Office) that, should York have to restrict enrollment in the future, preference must be given to Canadian citizens or landed immigrants before "visa students". Surely this proposal runs counter to the principle of university entrance based on ability without reference to nationality, race, etc.?

Chris Furedy
Associate Professor;
Division of Social Science

Pucker-up

Hardly a week goes by that the Excalibur Letters page doesn't sport yet another mindless echo by some one else's opinion by Mr. Pearlman.

Perhaps if he had an opinion of his own he could sign his letters Mark Pearlman, CYSF President, instead of simply CYSF Director of Academic Affairs.

Donald M. Sugg

P.S. Pucker-up

R. Tischler

Gypsy

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