

## Hasselfeldt, McRae only viable candidates

The student election campaigns this year are reminiscent of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's climb to power. His strategy was really quite simple: promise everything to everyone, and worry about the details later. It worked. Mulroney walked away with an historical electoral landslide, the likes of which startled the entire country.

The outcome of the CYSF elections next week are unlikely to produce the same results, simply because this strategy only works when one candidate running for office uses it. In fact, the plethora of promises which have been tossed around by candidates detracts from their credibility.

Could you imagine what the University would really be like if all these promises came true? Electing Joseph Berkovits to the Senate will put an end to mandatory natural science. What does Joe propose to do, execute all existing faculty members on the Senate and pass the motion? Or will he convince them to support such a move and change a long-standing university policy, not only at York, but across Canada?

But Berkovits' lofty campaign platform is not nearly as foolhardy as that of CYSF Presidential candidate Nick Nitsis. However, one thing is true about Nitsis' campaign, it may very well be the best organized, judging by the flurry of his posters which hit the campus immediately after nominations closed. And Nitsis seems to be all things to all people. He will increase club funding and also make sure that Council financially supports political clubs on campus. Wonder how many votes Nick will get for that promise? Wonder how he'll actually do both, without incurring a deficit? Nick, are you secretly planning a referendum in order to raise the student government levy to support such financial pursuits? Nitsis' campaign is riddled with unrealistic, backroom promises, and it will be virtually impossible to even fulfill half of his platform.

Adrian Shaikh, on the other hand, has quite a simple platform; he'll use student anger as a catalyst for constructive changes at York. A beautiful Ronald Reagan ploy; when you know absolutely nothing about the issues, wow them with your powers of oratory and your ability to sell almost any irrelevant idea to the masses. It was nice, however, to see that Shaikh reads *Excalibur*. Every time he was stumped by a question, he would quickly refer to highlighted articles that he brought along for the interview. And it is too bad, because even if Shaikh is the most uninformed candidate, he is easily the most photogenic.

By submitting a late application for candidacy, Sasha Bagalovic's campaign has been lost in the shuffle. But again his platform of creating co-ops is completely out of the CYSF jurisdiction. Maybe Bagalovic can get the Bronfmans to install a distillery in the new Student Centre while he's at it.

One candidate who at least does have a realistic platform, though not a very ambitious one, is Bernie Polster. He proposes to rotate CYSF meetings through the other colleges in order to make the student populace more aware of central student government. But how is he actually going to get students to attend these meetings?

The only realistic choices for CYSF President are Tammy Hasselfeldt and Andy McRae as both boast solid records of achievement in student government. President Drew McCreddie enjoyed at the polls last year. But McCreddie had two things going for him: wit and timing. McCreddie managed to run a successful joke campaign at a time when voters were frustrated by the old guard student politicians running for office. He managed to attract those students who rarely vote in CYSF elections. None of these candidates command this type of unique appeal, and since there are four, they will be splitting this politically disinterested electorate.

The only realistic choices for CYSF President are Tammy Hasselfeldt and Andy McRae as both boast solid records of achievements in student government. It certainly is a nice change to see regular students from outside student government interested in being elected to office. But their collective ignorance demonstrates how little the student body thinks of the position of CYSF President, and what an unsurmountable task the President elect will face next year in addressing this dilemma.



## LETTERS

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

### Itwaru affair not only about racism

We (the ad hoc committee of concerned students in support of the appointment of Dr. Itwaru) wish to respond PUBLICLY to some rumours which have been brought to our attention.

First, we regret that our efforts in support of Dr. Itwaru have been reduced to an issue of racial discrimination. We find it disturbing that responsible members of the University community have chosen to isolate only the racial dimension of this issue at the expense of other fundamental concerns expressed. While the question of the absence of minorities in the Sociology department has been posed, we hope this legitimate concern will not overwhelm a number of equally important issues.

Second, we state emphatically that we have pursued this matter openly and publicly. At no time have we had cause or occasion to exert undue pressure on any individuals involved in this case.

Finally, we wish to state clearly what our position is. We feel that apart from his ten years of service, Dr. Itwaru has an important contribution to make to the intellectual life and academic excellence of York University.

It is on these grounds that we urge our administration to act.

The Ad Hoc Committee

### Reader offended by MacMillan

Dear Editor,  
In response to Rita MacMillan's letter of March 3rd, I am a severely learning disabled myself and highly involved in the learning disability community. I was both offended and

saddened by Miss MacMillan's attack on others and by her obvious anger she feels has been perpetuated against her.

If, according to her letter, university was "three or four years of wasted time," might she not have, as a responsible adult, chosen an alternative way to spend her time? I for one am very proud of the achievements that I and many of my learning disabled friends have worked towards. Unlike Ms. MacMillan, I would have loved to have "glided" through the system, as I have never been able to glide through anything. Nevertheless, I have worked hard to maintain my sense of humour and a positive view of my daily struggles.

Although some of those struggles involve social interaction I realize, both as a learning disabled person and as one working in the field, that social skill problems are many times due to learning disabilities and merely exacerbated by negative experiences. They are not, as Ms. MacMillan states, due only to "an inflexible educational system."

Finally I would like to comment that Ms. MacMillan has made gross over-generalizations indicative of her angry, self-pitying perspective on the issue. I only hope that Ms. MacMillan is able to become more forgiving as she appears to be defeating herself more than the system ever could have.

### Hasselfeldt answers Dutka's allegations

Dear Editor:  
I am writing this letter in response to allegations made in last week's *Excalibur* by the Student Senate Caucus.

I really must query the accusational nature of those allegations as I do not recall a single member of the Student Senate Caucus questioning

me about my role in the rally or, for that matter, even showing up to the rally.

I know for a fact that this letter is not representative of the entire Student Senate Caucus and I therefore question the spineless audacity of the individual(s) who lacked the conviction to put their name behind their words.

Aside from the cowardly nature of the letter, the piece is riddled with inaccuracies. Firstly, the "March in March" is not an annual event. The OFS has not had a rally in the last three years. Nor did this event attract 5,000 students; rather, the numbers were closer to 600. Clearly the author did not attend the rally.

Secondly, I am extremely offended to have been misquoted. At no time did I ever suggest that OFS was to blame for York's apathy. Rather, OFS was responsible for the confusion over the timing of the rally.

In terms of the lack of advertising in *Excalibur*, there was insufficient information to meet the publication's deadline for the March 3 edition of *Excalibur*. The following week CYSF had already committed itself to a \$1600+ centre spread and any advertising on the day of the event would have been futile and a flagrant waste of students' money.

I resent the implication that I have been uncooperative with OFS. This is simply not the case, and as the chair of the Student Senate Caucus is privy to External reports and the nature of CYSF's involvement in OFS, I am indeed surprised that he would allow this inaccuracy to be overlooked.

Is this then a cheap attempt at political muckraking??? As the chair of the Student Senate Caucus is ultimately responsible for any letters written on its behalf, I therefore must conclude the letter portrays an unacceptable ignorance on the part of said chair.

—Tammy Hasselfeldt

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