

Presidential Candidates

Kelly Cont'd

their programmes, encourage people to go out to the games, encourage people to participate in model parliament, etc.

With the new Student's Centre creating so much life and vibrancy on this campus, we need to also encourage the traffic not to forget to move back into the fine arts building once in a while. It's such a wonderful place. I want my office to be open to fine arts people coming to me to promote their activities, especially music. We do have a wonderful music programme and it should be promoted. I'm very strongly committed to ensure that dance, theatre, film/video and visual arts are promoted.

EXCAL: Should York University belong to the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS)?

KELLY: I believe the OFS has its own divisive problems to deal with. I don't see it as an effective lobbying group to the Ontario government.

However, it is not the right of the CYSF to decide for students whether or not we should be part of this organization. I'm firmly committed to having a referendum in October to ask students if they wish to join the OFS. The CYSF was part of OFS in the past and pulled out in 1987, and the referendum will ask if York students wish to join now and have the CYSF as their representative to the OFS. That's the fairest thing to do. Some people will want to join, some won't. But, that is not something for me to unilaterally decide.

EXCAL: How do you feel about the CYSF vice-presidents receiving \$13,000 a year salary for a 25 hour work week during the school year?

KELLY: I'm very upset because we can't afford it. I'm looking at the budgets and I don't know where the money is coming from. It looks like we may have a cutback in services and that would really bother me. I think the increases were dramatic and somewhat unnecessary. \$13,000 is far too high.

I'm also not too pleased with the president's salary increase. I would roll my own salary back first before I would even dream of asking the others to do the same.

On the basis of the vice-presidents working 25 hours a week, it is unconscionable and unacceptable. We can't afford it. How can a government which is talking about increasing the level of service to the York community, increasing the level of involvement by the students, raise salaries to a level that will, essentially, be giving someone a support salary for a year who is not president?

The president should have a salary that reflects an ability to at least be able to survive the year financially with rent and food etc.

I like the past year's honoraria system and I think all the vice-presidents worked very hard. Vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship didn't have any trouble getting a health care plan this year. I think if one wishes to be involved in student government, there is going to be an academic sacrifice that is going to be made for that year.

We have a very large council, we have constituency reps from all the colleges, we have a four-person executive and we have a president. With the creation of the volunteer application form and more than 200 volunteers coming into the CYSF, we don't need four full-time vice-presidents to get the job done.

EXCAL: What one question did we not ask that you would like to answer?

KELLY: Well, the meal plan is very unfair to students in that once you miss a meal, it's gone. I hate to hear that students are paying for things that they can't derive benefit from.

The easiest example of that is a student who has a class late on Wednesday nights and can't have their meal at Marriott's at Winters, for example. That meal is gone and it's over and they've paid for it. I have worked very hard on this all year and I believe abolition of the meal card is not an impossible situation. It can be done, we can see a return to scrip. We can eliminate the meal plan.

It won't be so hard to convince housing and food services but it will be difficult convincing the caterers. They want their revenue and they want their profits, but I told director of housing and food services Norm Crandles, quite frankly, that if you are going to increase fees to students, you damn well better give something back. There are two things I want to give back to residents students: abolition of the meal card and the emergency response team to fix their apartments.

The CYSF has always been seen as some sort of "thing," something that exists but doesn't have much to do with the students at large. I've always been concerned about things that are elitist. I've had times in my life when I have been rather confrontational about things. But, at the same time, I have always been committed to seeing that students' rights come first.

Students have a right to a specific quality of life, a right to a specific quality of service and a right to a specific quality of

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Kim Cont'd

KIM: What kind of animal would I like to be. I would like to be an elephant because an elephant never forgets and if you remember your past, it will prevent you from making mistakes in the future.

But I also have something else I would like to address. The position of equality commissioner last year was a joke. From what I have seen with Osgoode and all its problems, it is very important that students express how they feel about equality.

The equality commissioner is a very respectable and honourable position. Last year, Brian Archdekin did not do his job. He did not do even close to what he was supposed to do. He did not make equality rights on this campus an issue, on a campus where equality is important. If the equality commissioner is going to do nothing, and I'm sorry to say this, slag women the way he has done, the way I have heard him do, and slag races the way I have heard him do, he is definitely not doing his job. He doesn't have the mind-set for the job.

Equality between the races, it's an age-old fight, but we've got to continue it. If you have to explain what affirmative action is to an equality commissioner, something is wrong.

Merrick Cont'd

EXCAL: What is your stand on fraternities and sororities on campus?

MERRICK: This university should accept students who want to start different student groups. The fact is that this university does not have so much happening socially. If students are willing to form a fraternity or sorority, that means there's a need for it. And as students, we have to remember that we are students. And if a student wants to do this, as long as it's not racist or discriminatory, we should allow it. If it happens that means there's a need for it and we should not look down on it.

Fraternities are not in the same circumstance as clubs. We're going to recognize that they exist, that's what the CYSF has done. If they get tables from us they're going to pay for tables, the same as the administration. We're going to treat them much differently than the clubs because the university doesn't want them and they have their just reasons. But the fact is that CYSF and the department of student affairs have strict guidelines and these groups just do not make these guidelines, so they're not going to get the same privileges as clubs.

EXCAL: What services should the CYSF provide?

MERRICK: The photo ID card and the Metropass. I've been working with Lois Griffin, the chairperson of the TTC for the past nine months now. They've been working on it for the past 40 years. We're very close to it because we've done a letter campaign to all the Metro councillors, and out of 34 of them, 25 responded saying they're in support of it. We're pushing for it.

This year was the first time the TTC held photo sessions for Metropasses to York. Now our plan is for the TTC to come here at the beginning of the year and do a photo session for the special student card and then students will be able to purchase a special rate student pass from the CYSF or at subway stations near York. We'd like to offer that next year.

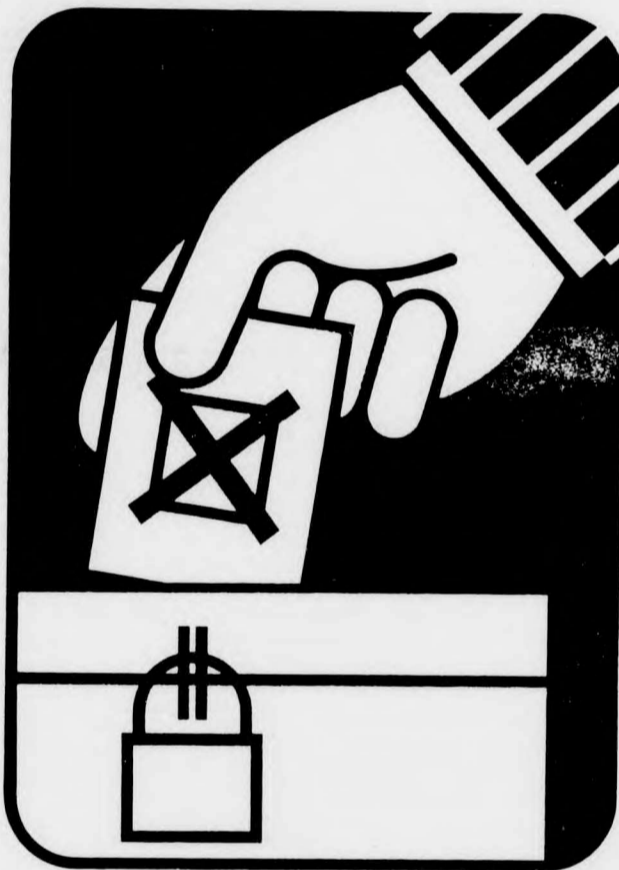
EXCAL: What is the one question you would like to answer that we have not asked?

MERRICK: Why I am running for the Board of Governors (BOG).

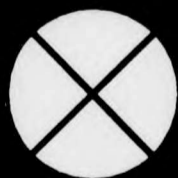
I am running for BOG because it is the highest governing body at York, which controls the money. At almost every other university in this country the presidents of both the undergraduate and graduate student councils are automatically on their respective boards. These presidents know what the students want. The Board of Governors does not. George Cohon is the president of McDonald's and doesn't know what the students of York want. President Harry Arthurs is on the ninth floor of Ross; he isn't down here dealing with students.

It's very important to be able to say, "I don't like what you're doing" right away and not have to find out what BOG has done after the fact. Half the time they don't tell CYSF where their meetings are and they keep switching locations. As a member of the BOG and president, I would be able to set it up so that eventually the president of the CYSF and the Graduate Students Association would automatically sit on BOG. The only way to change things is from inside.

Also, the BOG representatives who are now "students at large" should eventually be members of the CYSF. Being a BOG rep is a very powerful position. I'm running for both positions so I can work for the students from within. Then students will have a voice on this campus.



Tuesday, March 6, 1990



YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

1990 CYSF GENERAL ELECTIONS

Wednesday, March 7, 1990