

Presidential Candidates

Collins Cont'd

know what you do and you have a reputation. When I was gathering signatures for my nomination form, students were asking what is CYSF?

Students who had read the article about the pay increase in the newspaper couldn't believe it. They wanted them to have less money, cut them back, drop the salaries and give the money back to the students.

I think the fact that the vice-presidents can also take three courses is going to be a problem. I think you are considered a full-time student if you take three courses. Students are going to abuse that. If they are going to be able to take three courses and earn \$13,000 by pulling in 25 hours a week, it is not a very good situation. I guess all we can do is say last year's CYSF has voted it in, they have a year to prove themselves, and if the people aren't happy, you change it.

EXCAL: Do you think the CYSF should be involved in political issues that aren't specifically related to students or universities, for example, abortion?

COLLINS: No. I guess it does depend issue by issue but if it is something that students are going to be protesting in the streets about anyway and they want leadership and they want services and they want publicity and it's a real grass-roots support thing, then maybe the CYSF will have to do something about it.

But if the CYSF brings something of their own accord in response to one small interest group, and imposes this great time expense and money expense over a campus which really couldn't care less, then the answer is no. We've got so many other things to do besides worrying about what the average person thinks about abortion. How could any referendum question possibly satisfy the need for that information?

EXCAL: What are your specific plans for combatting underfunding and rising tuition fees?

COLLINS: It is sort of hard to decide what you can do. I think I overheard CHRY give a report about some students in B.C. having massive sit-ins over a tuition raise. It was surprising because the tuition raise they were actually protesting was less than the tuition raise we get annually. We don't do anything about it, which says something about the average York student.

If you inform the students on the history of tuition increases, then you may get a response. But, if students aren't going to attend these protests then there really isn't much more you can do. All you can do is pass on to the outside media your lack of satisfaction.

The one thing you must do is not to accept the university's excuse for passing the cutbacks on. When you go to a meeting and Harry Arthurs and his vice-presidents all say to you, "We're raising your fees because we have no choice and if you have a complaint, skip us and write directly to your MP," that's just a cop-out.

EXCAL: How would you deal with the lack of spirit of York students?

COLLINS: Students really don't know about their financial commitment to the university. There's always been this rule that as a student government leader, you never talk about money. You never talk about how much your college council has and what you spend it on or how much profit you make because it is not really anyone's business.

All you do is publish an auditor's statement once a year and students really don't understand it, so forget it. During our orientation day, I told students, "You pay \$27.50 to us and \$18.50 to the CYSF, do you have any idea what you get for it?" Most of them had no idea that they were doing this automatically.

The students have to place demands on the government. If you want to see something done, if you are unhappy about our lack of commuter involvement, then tell us. We're going to take your money whether you like it or not. It is set up automatically. I think if people realize they have a financial stake that will always get them to come out because money is something they get very volatile about.

With apathy, you're trying to combat a "societal cynicism." A lot of students don't come here because they believe in what a university is supposed to do. York is in an urban centre, it has a high commuter population and has a large working class. Many students are commuter students because they have to be. They might want to live in residence and be part of the York social life, but a lot of them are part-time students who have to support themselves. You can provide the best programmes in the world and they may try and make it to a few here or there.

I believe if you have academic programming, they will come, because students will rationalize they can't go to a dinner/dance because it's too much time committed but they will go a lecture on Shakespeare because, after all,

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DeMatteis Cont'd

work 25 hours. They should be responsible enough to work and know what they have to complete.

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

DEMATTEIS: I'd like to talk about the relationship between the media, the newspaper in particular, and the CYSF. I believe *Excalibur* and the CYSF need a stronger relationship between them. It would accomplish many things. It would go a long way in portraying that CYSF is responsible.

As I understand it, there are council members and members of the paper that don't get along. That's fine, that's society, that's life, but I would like to see a closer bond between the two; more advertising, more positive things about the CYSF. People never read about the positive things about the CYSF in *Excalibur*. That would go a long way in giving the CYSF credibility.

No one cares about CYSF, you see it in the turnout at the poles. I truly believe if people started reading positive things about the CYSF in the paper, they might look at a club or come into the office and talk about a problem.

Ghomeshi Cont'd

arts. This is, once again, part of the same issue that students should be controlling student money.

And, I can tie this to the Student Centre too. We are paying \$45 into it, and there are some great things happening, but there has to be some accountability for that money. Even Rob Castle, the Student Centre general manager, was surprised when he came out in January with information that the Student Centre was overbudget and wasn't going to be built on time. Now, they made it clear they were going to go public with this, but where was the CYSF? Why weren't they saying, "Hey, students have paid \$45 for this, what's going on?" Castle said Donato asked one question and that was the end of it. Castle was expecting to be grilled and he should have been grilled. We need to know where that money is going.

The point is that this is student money and it should be controlled by students, especially when it comes from the referendum process as a student ancillary fee.

Speaking of elections,

Excalibur's editorial election will be held March 22, 1990. There will be a MANDATORY staff meeting today at 4pm in 111 Central Square to discuss the election. Be there. We will talk about whether or not we are accepting outside applications for editor and assistant editor.

excalibur