

## staff meeting

**Thursday  
at  
4 pm**

**Attendance is mandatory for all Excal staff members**

## opinion

### Longing for Colombia

by Leonor Correa

Colombia is often referred to by the media as a country of violence and drugs. The following essay is not going to be a statement about political or social issues, but a statement of love; the love for my country of birth so my sons can have the opportunity to be proud of two countries: one as their future and the other as their roots.

Why do I still cry for you, Colombia if I freely choose to leave you, and if my children, my own blood, were born in Canada? When I was living in your soil, I never realized that, wherever I go, I will take with me the colour of my eyes and the things behind them. When I left you, I never thought that I will always cry for you.

How can I forget that the aroma of your coffee is impregnated with your soil? How can I forget the soil which has the ashes of my ancestors? How can I forget the soil which has shaped my own life? How can I forget the reflection of my own life? How can I forget you, Colombia, if you are me? You are part of my own feelings and emotions, so I still cry for you.

My cries for you are like the cries of your music: they do not need translations because music is a universal language; music is the language of the soul. My cries for you are cries of longing: longing for my past, longing for my youth, longing for a home that will never be home again.

After I left you, Colombia, I began to understand what the word "belong" means. It means that I did not have to prove anything to you, Colombia, in order to be accepted as I am. I did not have to be eternally grateful to you because I had the opportunity to live in your land. I could have the right to feel frustrated, angry, sad and disappointed without feeling guilty of having these negative emotions. You, Colombia, accepted my ingratitude and still gave me the name of your daughter. You accepted me the way I was, and I still cry for it.

Because of these thoughts, I still cry for you, Colombia, and I hope someday to be part of your soil again. Ashes to ashes, we will be together, and even if my blood will start another fresh history to fertilize another soil, your soil Colombia will always have the roots of this new beginning. You will be the roots of some Canadian life.

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## CYSF election pointers

by Clare Connolly

**W**ell, it's that time again. Yes! This year's CYSF elections are nearly upon us. Are you ready for the palm-sweating excitement? The brow-furrowing discussions? The finger-pointing debates.

You're probably biting your nails in anticipation of this year's blazing hot, issue-oriented campaign, right? Don't you remember how exciting last year's campaigns were? What? You don't?

Well, I do. I was so caught up in the issues, I could barely sleep at night.

In the hopes of encouraging *another* overwhelming election campaign, I have put together a few pointers for the aspiring politicians out there. Election candidates, read on!

Point number one: Remember to keep your election campaign as streamlined as possible. This means: have a very simple campaign platform. The fewer issues you focus on, the better. Actually, all students are apathetic and wouldn't know an issue if they stood on one, so don't bother pointing out, discussing, or debating issues at all. In fact, don't waste your time and energy discussing *anything*. Issues and the like are just too complex, and God forbid, you wouldn't want students to get concerned about these kinds of things.

Now that we've gotten rid of issues, we can concentrate on what's really important: Your slogan. If you followed last year's election campaign closely, you know what made it so exciting: it

was a "slogans only" contest! No substance, just slogans! If you knew the slogan, you knew the candidate. Clever, don't you think? They knew that trick about keeping it simple.

One candidate was really smart. His slogan was, "No slogans, just work." Thank goodness he never told us what he'd work on — it might've overloaded our brains.

Having created a good slogan, you should now know that not only is it a "slogans only" contest, it's a numbers game! That's right, the candidate with the most posters wins! Yes! Wallpaper that university with at least ten-gazillion posters. Forget about substance, personal contact, and other intelligent ways of reaching your constituents. Use that photocopier! Paper! Paper! Paper! Get those slogans out!

One thing more. You want to show that you are the stable, reliable, consistent sort. This means that you don't jump on any passing fad or trend. Therefore you must demonstrate that you aren't going to imitate the various informative methods used in the Health Care Referendum. The referendum *did* generate a relatively high level of awareness and voter turnout, but you're not the whimsical faddish type, are you? Good. Now you're ready to campaign. Last year's candidates followed these guidelines and I'm proud to say we elected a fine upstanding student government. We have a fair responsible president who says things like, "If I can abuse my power I will," and a mature vice-president of finance who, in arguments says things like, "You don't know who my father is." (Both quotes, *Excalibur*, Jan. 18).

Hopefully, with the help of the above pointers, we can have as successful an election this year.

*Excalibur* will print articles from any political or social viewpoint on any topic of relevance or interest to the York community as long as the submissions are not of a racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous nature. *Excalibur* is here to express the diverse views of the community.



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