

COLUMN

Elvis politicians

by Brett Gellert

This university has got more politicians and campaign managers per square foot than Las Vegas has Elvis impersonators, there being approximately 350 Elvis lookalikes to every one audience member.

Anyway if you look at all these numbers, you'll realize that there are far too many Elvis impersonators, and more importantly a large glut in the political market.

Now I know this is university, and we as students should be taking our elections seriously, but university politics lacks the kind of hard hitting excitement that people want. People see politics around here as slightly less exciting than a documentary hosted by the late Lorne Greene. We need some enthusiasm.

I hold Ronald Reagan as my evidence. Here was a guy who turned his friends over to a public witch hunt and eventual blacklisting during those wacky McCarthy years because he wanted to protect his country from a communist takeover of Hollywood. Yet, he still got to be president of one of the most powerful countries in the world because he made some really cute, but extremely bad, movies with a monkey and happened to have a wife with a really good head for politics. He gave people a little showmanship. Even Trudeau occasionally gave people the finger just to spice up his speeches.

Clem, my assistant, decided after reading the mounds of political material around campus that we need a president who is highly visible and isn't going to get really boring talking about politics all the time.

Having my own column and being able to talk publically about people getting naked and cannonballing in water polo tournaments does, in Clem's opinion, make me a public figure of some sort. The president's

I WRITE WITH AN
AXE

job, however, doesn't come with enough of the perks needed to make it attractive; namely, you have to listen to people constantly complaining about things like International Potato Week and you don't get a reserved parking space.

So my proposal, and I honestly think it's a good one, is to promote another personality who has her own television show. Anybody who has seen YTV, I think it's channel 25, probably knows who I'm talking about. Her professional name is DJ Jazzy Jan, which just shows you that she has the kind of show business savvy that makes the office of President worth paying attention to.

Now what you're probably saying, as you wonder why you've read this far, is: "How does making crafts on television qualify someone to make major political decisions." It only makes sense that someone who can hold the attention of small children who have just ingested a few cans of Coke and some Count Chocula cereal would be perfectly able to keep a few thousand university students at bay.

When tensions increase due to some big political controversy, she could stop people from burning down buildings on campus by sitting them down and making things with popsicle sticks. It would be a great way to ease the tensions that fly around here.

Jan, if you want to run for president, and I honestly think you should, stop by the *Excal*, I'll be glad to be your campaign manager. If, on the other hand, you want to sue me, talk to Clem. It was his idea.

by Tiina Leivo

For a few years now, the York University chapter of the Ontario Greens has been actively involved in educational and awareness-raising events on and off campus.

This green movement originated in western Europe (Germany) in the 70s where it became very strong. In Canada, it took political form in 1983 centred in British Columbia. Green parties are also very active in Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Votes for Green Party candidates have steadily increased in Canadian elections over the last ten years. Provincial elections are no exception: Ontario's last election (summer 1990), signified a 1000% increase in Green party votes since 1987 (33,000). However, local autonomy and decentralized decision making are the guiding forces behind the Green movement.

Greens promote ecological awareness, social responsibility, non-violence, equality between women and men of all races and broad-based involvement in decision making. Green philosophy embraces the "Politics of ecology" which recognizes the interdependence of all processes that make life possible and serves as a foundation for decisions of a social, political or economic nature.

The enrichment of local responsibility and community building is threatened by modern industrial values that favor a system of unlimited growth and material progress. In this competitive struggle, human life is simply mechanized while our earth is exploited.

Greens encourage a shift to human relations which consider

Green Scene

the long-term consequences of our actions. Obviously, this entails involvement with a wide spectrum of issues. Some examples of activities undertaken by the York University Greens include, an invited speaker who discussed "Eco-Feminism." Issues like participation, empowerment, control of people and nature were discussed.

The York Greens were recently visited by a representative of the L.E.T.S. (Local Exchange and Trading System), a network of Torontonians engaged in an exchange system that relies on offered goods and services rather than currency. Many Greens in Metro and elsewhere have expressed an interest in the L.E.T.S. system and have joined.

More recently, the York Greens have been following the work of North York's Action Committee on Pesticide Use and will support representation to city council to encourage the decrease of pesticides used in public parks.

Most importantly, Greens promote an alternative way of thinking and an alternative way of doing things. If you'd like to explore these themes further an open invitation stands to any York Greens meeting, held every second Wednesday in S701 Ross at 6pm.

You may also leave your name and number in the York Greens mailbox at the YFS office in Central Square and your call will be returned.



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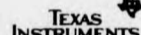
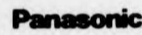
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