

CYSF presidential candidates

Paul Axelrod



I believe that all members of the York community have similar basic needs which have not been fulfilled by the decision making bodies at this university including the Council of the York Student Federation. We propose that the council recognize and attempt to solve the problems arising out of these important issues.

We see the following, as problems demanding immediate attention on this campus.

- Americanization of York University

Problem: course content centred highly around American themes; faculty disproportionately American; not enough Canadian research done at York; students do not have adequate understanding of Canadian problems.

Possible solutions: new course content centring on Canadian studies (Quebec independence, the Canadian Indian, Canadian-American relations etc.); adoption of recruiting system

which gives priorities to Canadians, who are qualified in terms of knowledge in Canadian content; university funds provided specifically for Canadian research.

- CYSF involvement in student academic problems

Problem: students with grievances in Nat. Sci. 176 and Poli. Sci. 311 received no backing from council; present committees in which students "participate" (faculty council, senate) are not representative of students interests at York since the committee members are responsible to one one but themselves and students have no effective decision-making powers on these bodies.

Possible solutions: CYSF strongly support student interests in courses; CYSF strongly support course unions; council be both accessible and responsive to students who have any academic problems; council undertake an investigation and

recommend temporary withdrawal of students from all university "committees" until such time as council defines precisely what student interests are at York, and then recommend formation of structures in which students have real decision making powers.

- Pollution from smokestack

Problem: We are all dying from pollution.

Possible solutions: mandatory filters in smokestack; use of natural gas instead of currently used low-grade oil which is a high pollutant.

- Bookstore

Problems: prices are higher than in other Toronto bookstores (e.g. Student Christian Movement Bookstore in Rochdale;) York bookstore lost over \$50,000 last year (inefficient management?)

Possible solutions: comprehensive investigation by students into all aspects of bookstore problems; new company?

- Parking Problems: parking lots provided free by government — yet we pay to park, recent "automated gates" lost \$55,000 of your money — WHY?

Possible solutions: free parking; explanation by administration concerning "automated gates."

- Daycare centre

Problems: faculty, staff, students need a daycare centre for their children; present facilities inadequate.

Possible solutions: more space provided by university; financial support from CYSF and university administration.

- Wasted money on social activities

Problems: Festival and Winter Carnival lost over \$6,000.

Possible solutions: reduction of council sponsoring of such activities; social coordinator (in cooperation with college councils) to handle these activities, as well as being responsible for distribution of "club" money.

David Beatty

I am running as an individual candidate concerned with some aspects of "university Life". I believe that some of the following policies will help rectify the situation here on campus.

- Give the senate final say in all academic affairs at the university. Increasing student membership in the senate to a total of 20-25 per cent. This will give the students more say in the policies which affect them. More student-faculty cooperation in the areas of hiring of personnel, course material, and examination methods. Hopefully this will reduce the American influence on campus and lead to the Canadianization of more courses taught at this university.



- Give each student a five dollar rebate of the \$10 "tax" he pays to CYSF. This would be possible by putting an end to financial aid to the various clubs and/or organizations which do not cater to the whole student body. The remaining \$5 would be used to support EX-CALIBUR, Radio York, etc.

- Better quality food through: redirecting profits back into the buying and preparation of the food; complete control of the caterer by the food committee; and looking into the possibility of replacing Versafood.

- Changing the bookstore administration to ensure that books will be sold as close to cost as overhead permits. The Student Christian Movement (SCM) could be approached concerning this.

- Efforts should be made to have anti-pollution devices installed in the physical plant. The possibility of using cleaner fuels (eg. natural gas, electricity) for heating should be investigated.

George Orr

It's time York grew up. I think it's time that the central council made use of the facilities it's got. And as full-time president, I'm going to do it.

Everybody knows what the problems are. They're mentioned on all the posters. So what is needed is somebody qualified, competent, and willing to take them on, full-time. Activities at York need better coordination, publicity, and finances. Social and academic problems are crying for solutions, and I think I can solve them. Several worthy causes have gone without support because of poor financial planning. Social events have been damned because they lost money, even though they did what they set out to do.



The York Student Federation currently gets \$10 per student. This money has to be properly allotted and supervised. All the candidates promise solutions, but I am the only one who will take the time necessary to see that proper solutions are reached.

The cost of a full-time president, less than \$2,500, is nothing compared to the savings that constant supervision will give. It's time we grew up; stopped playing in a sandbox, and fulfilled our role as a major institution in our country.

The community has to be made aware that York students can be heard in decisions that affect them.

The administration has to be made aware that as students, we have rights that are still due us, such as a meaningful membership on important administrative bodies.

Issues like an adequate day care centre, improved parking, proper information centres, ombudsmen with administrative bureaucrats, and improvement of the quality of a Canadian education; these are all crying for attention.

Jerry Zahloer

1) There should be an attempt to introduce the credit system whereby a student could take extra courses that would count towards a degree. A student with academic ability should be allowed to complete his education quicker if the opportunity exists.

2) Internal issues should take a predominant role over externally centred issues. i.e. Course problems are more relevant to York's council than international problems.

3) There should be a closer link between CYSF and the councils of each college.

4) There should be a close relation between graduate and undergraduate students and faculty.

5) Councillors and



advisors should be more aware and be able to relate more to students about the different departments and graduate schools. Too many students are in the dark about course moves and future education at York.

6) Some type of coop should be created that is either non-profit or that uses profits to further the role of the CYSF or school activities. N.E. i.e. bookstore.

7) Students must be told what the money taken from tuition and used by CYSF is being used for. There must be such an awareness.

8) There should be no parking charge in the York parking lots. The land was given to York without charge and should not be used to exploit the students.

9) The food offered to both resident and non resident students is sub-standard and should definitely be improved. Complaints have not so far been adequately dealt with.

10) The revitalization of the links between the council and the members of the student community.

York University is in a state of crisis! The search committee is unable to come up with a nomination for president that can be ratified by the board of governors. The people who were nominated have withdrawn their names. A general feeling of inadequacy and a questioning of the nominating procedure, expressed by the former nominees themselves, is in the air.

The root cause of the crisis is that the operation of the university, the choosing of a new president being only one part of it, lies completely outside the control of those whose lives it most affects and who are most competent to control it — the students, faculty, and support staff.

The academic staff has only a token consultative vote in the present selection procedure for the president. They don't even find out the results of the vote — their own collective opinion. Officially the chairman of the search committee and the chairman of the board of

governors are the only ones to find out.

Students, faculty and support staff are faced with the serious situation at York of having the president of the university imposed upon them from outside the university by the board of governors representing big business, the corporate power which rules this country. We propose CYSF initiate a campaign for the formation of an elected nominating committee and the election of the new president by the students, faculty, and support staff.

Article 13-2C of the York Act allows the university president the ultimate authority to call the cops on the campus anytime he is worried about "disruption" or "violence." It arbitrarily characterizes disruption in very loose terms applicable to almost any situation. A campus-wide elected disciplinary committee, subject to immediate recall should be called for by the CYSF to control discipline. Individual cases should be judged without

arbitrary biased definitions of disruption and violence imposed on the committee. The decisions of this committee should be binding.

The educational system discriminates against women. The university is no exception. Streaming women away from technical or scientific courses and implanting ideas of male superiority into society insures this discrimination will continue in all aspects of life.

Women are directed into courses that insure low wages after graduation. No effort is made to free mothers from the home so that they can attend university. Means are not available for women students to have control of their own bodies.

Women should have access to free birth control devices and free legal abortions. We demand that the university play a leading role in ending the oppression of women. CYSF should call for the formation of a department of women studies to investigate the myths and misconceptions of

women's inferiority and place women in their rightful place in society and history.

A massive daycare program for all women (student, faculty, and support staff) should be undertaken. All discrimination against women in hiring advancement and job classification must end. We call upon CYSF to support struggles for women's liberation.

At present York University is aiding the Pentagon's war in Vietnam. Companies such as Honeywell which produces anti-personnel fragmentation bombs are allowed to recruit employees on this campus using university facilities. Research occurs here for the U.S. military.

The university must sever all its connections with the war makers and become active in the fight against the Vietnam war. CYSF should actively aid the fight against the war facilities. The university should be made readily available for the use of opponents of the war.

Dennis Lomas

