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in T.O. p.9**



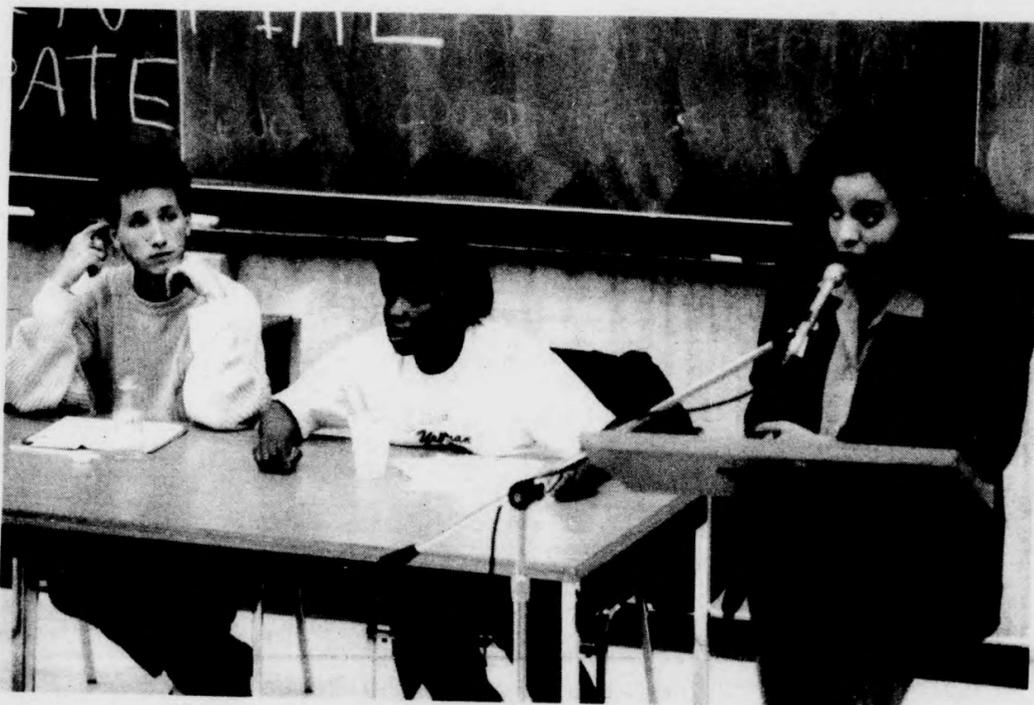
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excalibur

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



A. CLIVE COHEN

Presidential candidates from left Joe DeMatteis, Andrea Shuttleworth and Michelle Hughes (speaking). The candidates debated issues on racism, OFS, Student Centre Corporation and tuition fees, etc. The three-hour debate occasionally turned into a shouting match between differently opinionated factions, but on the whole was a relatively educational forum for voters and candidates.

Candidates state their platforms

by Brent Poland

The three candidates running for YFS president took the stand last Thursday to debate and answer questions from the York community.

The debate was run by the York debating society and proceeded smoothly, with the notable exception of the crucial question of racism and how the delegates proposed to solve it.

The candidates also answered questions on how they would deal with the administration, further the Green movement, and treat problems with space allocation at the Student Centre.

More than half an hour was spent dealing with how the candidates intended to fight racism. York student Martin Bracey persistently grilled the candidates, demanding to know how they intended to solve the question of racism on York campus.

Andrea Shuttleworth answered Bracey's question by telling the audience that the *Excalibur* newspaper did not reflect the York community. Shuttleworth suggested that the newspaper editor should be chosen in a campus-wide student

election, that a racism watchdog committee should be established, and that the paper return to one issue per week.

Michelle Hughes proposed that a race policy should be implemented, school curriculum be reviewed by students, a media watchdog committee be set up and that students become more sensitive to the issue of racism.

Joe DeMatteis felt that the York community should recognize their differences and work together to solve them.

There was a consensus that racism is a very large problem and each candidate promised that the issue would continue to be addressed.

Several questions to the candidates were direct and personal. Peter Merrick, VP External two years ago, questioned Hughes about running on a slate. Sidestepping the question by asking, Hughes asked Merrick what slate he was referring to and if he himself had run on a slate in previous elections.

On furthering the Green movement at York, DeMatteis listed three solutions. He suggested that the YFS organize a car pooling scheme, work on reduction over recycling and move to fight against the cutting

down of the Kaiser-Stong Hedgerow.

Shuttleworth proposed corporate sponsorship for Envision York and raising environmental awareness on campus.

Hughes suggested that vice-presidents should follow through on their recycling plans and that recycling programs such as the ones started at Vanier and Stong should be expanded.

The three candidates were questioned about the Student Centre Corporation, specifically about the procedure of space allocation. Unfortunately, all three candidates missed the point that it was the SCC that was responsible for allocating club space, not the administration.

In her closing statement, Shuttleworth stressed that the YFS was disorganized and it was time for a change in the existing structure to make the YFS more powerful.

DeMatteis promised to keep an open mind to student concerns, to bring the York population closer together to affect change and to be accessible to all students.

Hughes promised to stick to her platform and mandate, to mobilize and educate, to be accountable and to fight systemic racism.

A week of Arab culture

by Faisal Kutty

The West Bear Pit in Central Square was the site of the annual "Arab week" exhibitions sponsored by the York Arab Student Association (YASA) from March 4 to 7.

The event was held to promote an understanding of the diversity of Arab culture.

"It was also intended to offer a legitimate and alternative view with regards to the issue of regional stability in the Middle East," said YASA President Bashar Abdul Qader.

YASA is a fairly new organization which has quickly become an active group on campus. This is the second year the group has organized "Arab week" at York.

Each day of the exhibition dealt with a different theme beginning with cultural Day on Mar. 4. Day two and three of the exhibition were called Lebanon Day and Gulf Day respectively. The presentation ended on Mar. 7 with Palestine Day.

The presentation offered the sights, sounds and taste of the Middle East (including dancing) as well as Arab political perspectives on the issues in the volatile region.

One of the most popular attractions aside from the politics was the food table which enabled students to try Middle Eastern foods including falafel. The proceeds from the food sale were to be sent to Lebanon and

Iraq and to support the Palestinian intifadah (uprising).

According to organizers, everything went smoothly except for a small demonstration that pro-Israeli students held across from the Bear Pit on Palestine Day. The protesters waved Israeli flags and held up signs supporting Israel.

"We want to bring our concern to the University community," said Menahem Neuer, program director of the Jewish Student Federation (JSF) when questioned about the protest.

"Whether you like it or not most Jewish students regard a Palestinian state as a potential terrorist state with little guarantee for Israeli and regional stability," Neuer said.

"There was nothing on the table against Jews. Everything focused on human rights violations by the Israeli government," said Mazen Bourri, who along with other organizers and sympathizers waved Palestinian flags in opposition to the demonstrators.

Qader said that one aim of Palestine Day was to "expose the Israeli government's intransigence in arriving at a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem."

Aside from articles that were critical of Israeli practices, there were also petitions to re-open universities in the occupied territories and to stop the deportation of Palestinians in violation of international law.



A. CLIVE COHEN

YASA hosts events

Arab culture, clothing and food is displayed at last week's Arab week. Members of York's Arab community hope to promote their culture and an understanding of the diversity within the Arab community. In light of the events in the Gulf War YASA hoped that the event offered an Arab political perspective on the issues in that region.