

EDITORIAL

McCreadie's credibility harmed by insatiable appetite for attention

To the students and administration of York University, Drew McCreadie is fast becoming an enigma. His CYSF presidency thus far has been the topic of several heated debates, and the mention of his name provokes a response from almost everyone on campus. That's unusual for a CYSF president; chances are the vast majority of students couldn't even remember the name of last year's central government leader. Essentially, that's the downfall of most CYSF presidents: they can't carry out their mandate, because of their inability to attract the attention of their constituency.

For McCreadie, though, after only four months in office, his name is already commonplace around campus and the immediate area, especially with his Progressive Conservative campaign posters plastered all over Downsview. McCreadie's candidacy is a perfect example of the controversy which his attention-getter schemes evoke out of predominantly complacent student body.

Elizabeth Newhook, a York student, believes that McCreadie should be ousted, and that he has always possessed aspirations for higher political callings (see letter below). Reya Ali, student representative on the Board of Governors, is concerned about McCreadie's conflict of interest between his PC candidacy and his role as CYSF president. How, Ali asks, can McCreadie overtly affiliate himself with the same party which has chronically underfunded York for over half a decade?

Technically, McCreadie can run for whatever party he wants, and unfortunately critics of McCreadie's candidacy often overlook one fundamental point. According to McCreadie, his intention for running as a PC candidate was to bring student issues to the forefront of the campaign agenda. The issue should be: how successful has McCreadie been in this pursuit?

First, one rarely envisioned the government neglect of post secondary institutions upon seeing McCreadie's name in print. Instead, when one passed a McCreadie sign or saw McCreadie mentioned in the media, one thought about a rather smirky 20-year-old who runs joke campaigns to get into public office. Even the newspapers (the *Mirror* in particular) failed to highlight McCreadie's campaign focus, and instead concentrated on his young age and what a joke candidate he's been in past campaigns.

McCreadie's performance on the Rogers television network was admirable for an uninformed candidate on many locally salient issues such as workman's compensation. As one York professor noted during the all-candidates debate on campus, McCreadie was way out of his league.

Second, and even more importantly, by participating in the campaign race McCreadie lost his power to lobby all three main political parties on behalf of York students. But that's the problem with the strategies McCreadie uses to attract attention: while they raise his profile, they obscure his original intentions and distort his mandate in the eyes of his constituency. Why does this occur?

Perhaps understanding McCreadie's failure can best be seen in how he decided initially to run for political office. According to McCreadie, because of the *Toronto Star's* refusal to show interest in his concern over the timing of election for students, McCreadie thought it was time to add to his credibility by adopted the title "PC candidate for Downsview." Now they me, said McCreadie.

But McCreadie's little attention-getters are in fact undermining his credibility to be an effective CYSF president. Who's going to take this president seriously as the speaker for student issues after reading his opening address in *Manus*? Even the humour was terribly lacking. Why didn't McCreadie evaluate the ramifications of his candidacy before he accepted?

Really it's unfortunate, because McCreadie has the drive, energy and now student attention to finally make student government an effective voice at York. But that voice may just turn out to be Drew's—telling one bad joke after another, all year long.



DREW'S TAKING US TO THE ZOO TOMORROW, ZOO TOMORROW, ZOO...

LETTERS

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Reader wants to see McCreadie given the boot

Editor,
Today (Sept. 10th) is election day, and as everyone has noticed, Mr. McCreadie is running as the PC hopeful. Well, I think this is crap! Not only was I disgusted when Jill Shibou got kicked out after the Kangaroo Court incident when she was obviously the best person to head the CYSF, but Drew McCreadie stepped in. Who were the idiots who voted for this jerk?

But, ah!, an interesting twist... working at the Conference Centre this summer, we (my fellow employees and I) often ate at the Cock and Bull. One day, as I sat with a girl from Vanier, she called Drew over to talk. Now I was not impressed with Mr. McCreadie from the start, but in all fairness I listened to what he said. He started off with ideas for York, which to my chagrin, impressed me. Then he started spouting off sums of money in this job and that job... all politically connected... and stuck his foot in his mouth two seconds after. When asked what would he do upon obtaining one of these positions, he replied, "Leave York—the money's better out there."

Now that the signs are all over Downsview, I want to rip each and everyone down. I think he should be forced to resign or we could oust him. This constitutes conflict of interest and I ask that every self-respecting York student to get rid of McCreadie. Would you trust this two-faced stereotypical politician with your money? Not I!
Oh yes, Mr. McCreadie, I'm sure

you're reading this. Learn to rue the day that you were honest in front of myself and my friends. I intensely dislike abusers, and you sir, are one of the worst offenders. The political system is not a joke, and nor is York University. This institution generally does not produce people such as yourself—Thank God!

—Elizabeth M. Newhook

McCreadie unlike other students

Editor:
Stuart Ross' letter ("Ludicrous" Drew power-hungry," September 10) is right on the mark. I can attest to Ross' observation that "McCreadie seems only to want to be in power, with little thought given to ideology..." On September 3, at the all-candidates meeting for the Downsview riding in the provincial election, McCreadie responded to a question regarding the philosophical reasons for his membership in the PC Party by saying that unlike most students, he was not "against society." He went on to explain that business is the "way to go today." This is the man who is supposed to represent York students even though only 379 of them actually voted for him. Some mandate.

—Cosmo Vecchiarelli

Winters prez blasts SRC paper

Editor,
The Student Relations Committee have made an eager attempt to give undergraduates the choice to choose between faculty or college affiliation. The SRC's recommendations would create false democracy as students are being forced to join facul-

ties and colleges in their first year (recommendation 4). Atkinson, Bethune and Calumet would be forced to join CYSF (recommendation 1).

This summer presidents from Bethune, Calumet, Glendon, McLaughlin, Vanier, and Winters together with top brass from Atkinson, the CYSF executive, a Board of Governors rep., and one faculty association leader discussed for two days the future of student governments. The result was the Blue Mountain Accord. The Blue Mountain Accord guaranteed faculty and college governments basefunding.

The second recommendation concerns the Grads, who will make their own disagreements known.

The Third recommendation is impossible. Since faculty governments have no basefunding it would be hard to keep campaign promises. If they can't make promises then there will be no beef after a referendum so everyone will vote no to faculty governments since nothing is guaranteed.

The fourth SRC recommendation raises school fees for foreign students as well as everyone else.

The fifth and sixth recommendation try to justify something called choice. It's the end of the roll.

Reya Ali, an SRC member, doesn't realise when student governments fail to put on good orientations or don't have a winning team in the intra-murals league or make residence life a drag that students don't sit around and let their leaders get away with incompetence. Leaders have enough energy in the system without the so-called Faculty/College competition put forward by the SRC.

Yours sincerely
GARY TARQUINI
PRESIDENT,
WINTERS COLLEGE

excalibur

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(... and Liz Flagal as Patty Duke)

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