

## **SELECTED QUOTES FROM AUDIO FILE "OPIRG.mp3"**

(8:18) *Aaron Lee-Wudrick* : If it's possible if, in one fell swoop, to take over the Board of Directors [of OPIRG], I think that it would be pretty impressive, and you'd be a hero to the Conservative movement if you can pull that off.

(14:03) *Ryan O'Connor* : You create your spin about what is the real issue, and it's nothing else. It's not an ideological bone the Conservatives are picking.

(14:20) *Ryan O'Connor* : So, how do you address PIRG? PIRG is doing something on your campus, it's a cause that maybe you and your friends in the Tory Club dislike ... It's always the Tories and WPIRG, every two years something happens.

(15:20) *Ryan O'Connor* : We're just using this as an issue to attack the PIRG. You've got to grasp onto something that's salient in the eyes of the campus community ... it was just three Tories having a beer at the pub one night saying what are we going to do about this?

(17:00) *Ryan O'Connor* : Sometimes you can't attach the Tory name to it, and you have to be sensitive to that.

(17:26) *Aaron Lee-Wudrick* : If Norman Finkelstein comes to campus, find your allied groups ... get [the Jewish students' association] involved ... if it's a radical feminist who's very pro-choice, [your allies are] going to be the pro-life people on campus.

(22:35) *Ryan O'Connor* : Pretend the Campus Coalition for Liberty is a large organization ... We had branches at five campuses. Yeah, we had five people; one at each of five campuses. And they're all Tories! ... I founded a chapter of the Campus Coalition for Liberty. It was a guy with a computer and a press release.

(24:17) *Kevin Wiener* : So, um, how about instead of necessarily fighting them we just get our own non-profit corporation that receives student fees, and just have our own student funding to fight them. Or the alternative, if you can get student government which in some places you can, because OPIRG is a non-profit and not a club or a charity, **just amending the student funding rules, like, "in order to receive funding you must be a club or a charity," and then, bam, they're just not eligible to receive fees.**

(27:27) *Ryan O'Connor* : Get them off the fee statement, which should be the

ultimate objective.

(34:53) *Aaron Lee-Wudrick* : Find out what those rules are [for fee referendums], and in some cases that's a pre-issue for you to worry about. So let's say there are no rules. You can, the year before, say you had a three-year-plan, the next year you could -- **without mentioning anything about PIRG** -- get a referendum process in place which says, if you are able to collect three percent of all signatures of the student body, then you can trigger a referendum. Very few people in the abstract would oppose that, because they'd say "oh, that's a great idea" ... and then, a couple of years later, use it to bring forward the issue.

(36:35) *Aaron Lee-Wudrick* : **You will be surprised at what people will sign if you put it in front of them, especially if you put it in benign terms.**

(37:10) *Aaron Lee-Wudrick* : I say we, because, even though [Ryan O'Connor] was the forced neutral [as Student President] and me as the Tory president, **It was all orchestrated obviously behind closed doors, and it actually worked out well because it looked like different groups of stakeholders, like I'm the outsider coming in, and you guys were just the responsible student government and we had other members of council**, a guy he appointed to council, he got speaking rights but he wasn't an elected member, but just as another voice at the table, **it made it look like there were all kinds of different corners where in fact we were all on the same team.**

(42:14) *Aaron Lee-Wudrick* : Campus Radicals for Action on Zimbabwe Yes, or something like that, **they were a great shell group**. Feel free to use Campus Coalition for Liberty, that's ours so we have a logo and everything. You can use it now and it would be like established in 2002 ... we joke about these shell organizations, and some of you might think "well, isn't that a little bit disingenuous? Aren't you just inflating your numbers, isn't that kind of underhanded and sneaky?" My answer to that is no, not really, because that is exactly what the left does ... I'm just trying to level the playing field.

(45:18) *Aaron Lee-Wudrick* : Use groups that might be jealous of what OPIRG gets ... that's how you pitch it, just look up the president of the chess club, and say "hey, how come you don't get money, wouldn't it be fair if we all did?" and build allies that way.

(50:05) *Ryan O'Connor* : When Aaron was doing the petition campaign, which "I knew nothing about;" I was printing them in my frickin office in student government, **of course I knew about it, of course we were behind it**, I couldn't

take a public position on that issue because although I wasn't running for re-election, this was three months before the end of my mandate, that's sort of the picking your battles ... **if we had made them an issue, no Tory would ever get elected to student government again.**

(54:18) *Ryan O'Connor* : A lot of people aren't involved in partisan politics, and they don't know about messaging, they don't know about get out the vote, they don't know about things that you guys are exposed to on a regular basis whenever we have to campaign for the legislature or Parliament ... we were doing things that we learned from our involvement in politics ... take those lessons and apply them on campus.

(58:34) *Ryan O'Connor* : **All the Tory [student] councillors were all voting the same way, and all had the same speaking points, it was really hilarious and really transparent, but you have to do what you have to do. We had a game.**