

NEWS

Allegations of referendum improprieties

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In parts three and four the petition alleges that on the days of polling the BOR did not stop people from campaigning or trying to influence voters to vote yes.

Replying to this charge, Abrams maintains that, as per our constitution, we made every reasonable effort to remove all materials that would sway voters. Also, I believe there were infractions on both sides of the question."

In response to alleged violations by the BOR, Ghomeshi feels that the representative nature of the referenda board would counter any favouritism.

The BOR contains one member from the constituency, the provost's office (Student Affairs), a student-at-large, a graduate student, a Glendon representative and one YFS/FEY representative.

As for the undemocratic nature of the referendum, Ghomeshi states out that the OFS/CFS referendum had the fourth highest voter turnout in York's history.

Peter Merrick, student member of the Board of Governors is in favour of the petition. He is currently preparing a report for the Student Relations Committee of the BOG, and feels that it will help close many loopholes that exist in the referendum process at York.

"We are supposed to set an example for society, said Merrick. "If things are corrupt here, how can we expect society to be any

different?"

Tim Evans, who supported the No-side, said that he saw polling clerks telling voters that, "it is silly to vote no," which he feels is the same as advocating a yes vote.

Another student, who prefers not to be named, say that she too saw YES Coalition posters by polling stations and polling clerks telling students how to vote.

Robert McLean, chief returning officer at Vanier College sent an official report to the BOR stating that Peter Merrick had been distributing pamphlets advising student "not to vote" within 20 feet of the polling station.

Finally, part five states that the actual text of the question to be voted on was not provided to the students three weeks in advance.

The BOR stated that there was an add placed in *Excalibur* three weeks before the referendum.

The only ads that could be found were full page advertisements on October 10 19 and 22 from the YFS telling students to vote.

To counter all other allegations of improprieties, Abrams points out that the referenda board's constitution states, "Referenda will not necessarily be considered invalid for minor technical breaches of this regulation."

"We acted in the best interests of the student body," said Abrams.

Even if the organizers of the petition were to bring 2,000 signa-

tures next week, the "decision of the BOR is final," said Abrams.

The organizers of the petition have one week after the official acceptance of the results to present their case. Since the petition has already been submitted and dismissed, the BOR feels that matter is now closed.

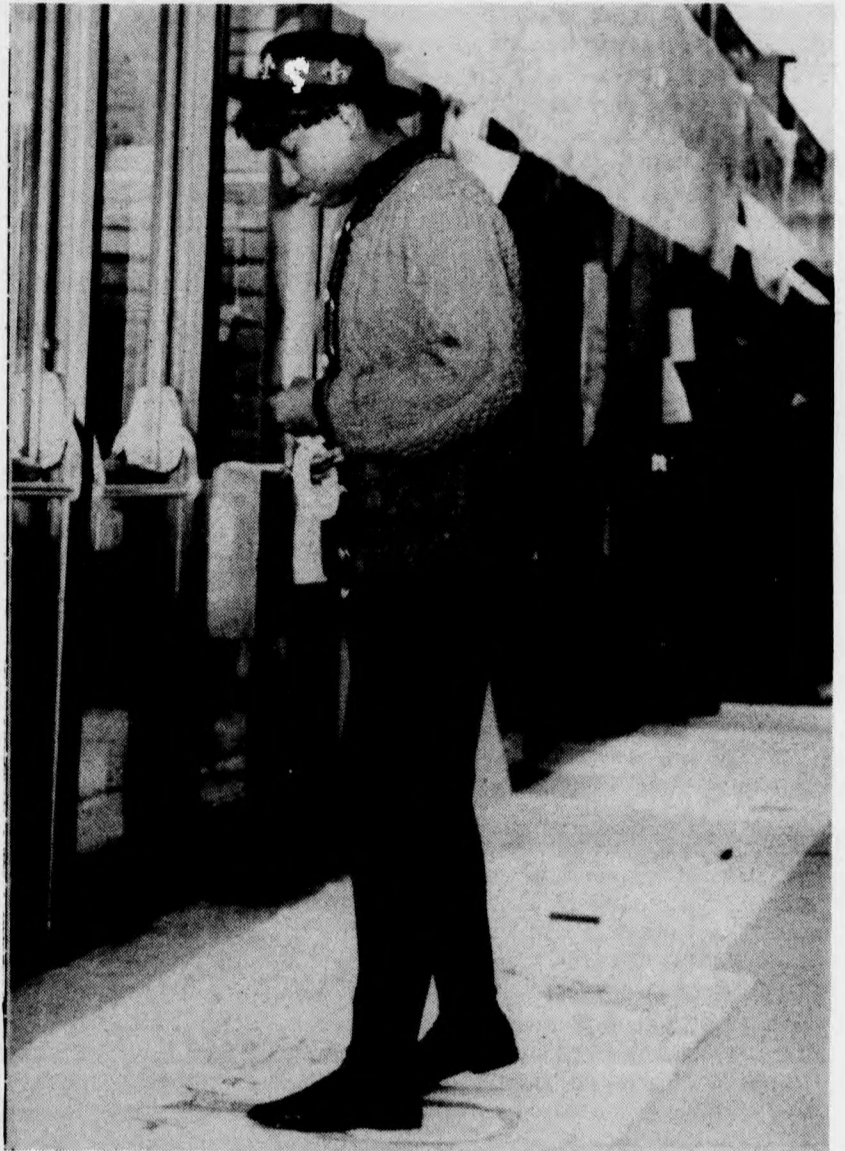
Those responsible for the petition, Andrea Shuttleworth and Melita Vidovic are still collecting signatures in the hopes that someone will listen to them and the students they represent.

Shuttleworth says that she is against the undemocratic way in which the referendum was held, not the results. If the results had been in favour of the No side, would she still be protesting? "Probably, yes, absolutely" said Shuttleworth.

"Students have a right to be informed as to what voting yes and voting no means," said Vidovic.

Jean Ghomeshi, president of the YFS/FEY and member of the YES Coalition, said that students were informed about the nature of OFS and CFS long before the referendum.

There were 20,000 pamphlets included in the September mail out, the *Up York!* handbook contains a description of the OFS and CFS and there were thousands of pamphlets all containing the Canadian University Press's impartial description of the OFS and CFS.



Clive Cohen

Andrea Shuttleworth collects names for a petition to protest which she believes was an undemocratic referendum.

York Lanes

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YFS president Ghomeshi said that this was not very realistic.

"The fiscal benefit, aside from the material benefits [from the Student Centre] will go to students," Ghomeshi said. "We [the YFS] would hope that students would be more prone to use the Student Centre."

"The speed with which York Lanes is being constructed relative to the Student Centre is a testament to the power of capital at the disposal of the administration," said Ghomeshi.

Castle is cautiously optimistic heading into the meeting.

"Direct negotiations with Farr's office have improved our chances of coming to a mutually acceptable solution," Castle said.

Campus Chronicles

by Jennifer Lim

University of Calgary

A 30 hour famine was held on campus to raise \$15,000 for medication, irrigation, food and education in third world countries.

The famine was sponsored by World Vision and the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship on November 2. Almost 80 per cent of the funds raised will be sent to Haiti, the Philippines and Ethiopia.

University of Western Ontario

Karen McCaffrey, a victim of rape and pornography condemned the University Student Council (USC) for delaying to pass a decision against pornography.

McCaffrey lashed out at about 70 council members repeatedly saying "fuck you" and calling the council "gutless yuppies" before she finally walked out.

Jenni Bolton, the director-at-large moved to ban six pornographic magazines. She explained that pornography contradicts what the university stands for and is degrading to women.

University of Toronto

A survey done by the University of Toronto Committee on Homophobia revealed that almost 70 per cent of residence students have unreceptive responses about gay and lesbian issues.

61 per cent responded negatively to having a gay or a lesbian for a roommate and 27 per cent know of a gay or a lesbian resident.

Jackie Tripp, who organized the survey believes that there is a need for educating students about homophobia. Even heterosexuals do not realize that homophobia exists for them too.

University of Waterloo

A phone call was made to the Waterloo Region Emergency Centre threatening to detonate 18 bombs on campus.

All students, faculty and staff evacuated the campus and a thorough search was conducted by the UW Police and the Waterloo Regional Police.

Although the threat proved to be a false alarm, it attracted the media including CKCO-TV, AM109 and CKMS, the campus radio station. On the same evening, "I survived the Bomb Scare" t-shirts with disclaimers stating, "It wasn't me" printed on the back were seen being worn at Fed Hall, the campus pub.

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