

Collins files complaint against Ghomeshi

by Nancy Phillips

A complaint has been filed with the Government Affairs Tribunal (GAT) against CYSF president-elect Jean Ghomeshi.

Ghomeshi won last week's presidential elections by 258 votes with the largest voter turnout in York's history.

Kate Collins, who placed second in the elections, filed the complaint Friday. Collins alleges that Ghomeshi's campaign workers were seen wearing his campaign shirts and buttons, which were printed with the slogan, "Unite to fight for student's rights," on the election days. She also alleges that one of Ghomeshi's campaign workers walked through Central Square saying, "Unite to fight."

Collins states in her complaint that although the shirts

and buttons did not contain the word "vote," and the word



"vote" was not mentioned by the person moving through Central Square, this slogan constitutes advertising, which is not allowed on election days.

She also alleges that Ghomeshi's election expenses were closer to \$1,200 or \$1,300. Election regulations set a limit of \$1,000 per presidential candidate for expenses. She ob-

tained estimates from several different companies and alleges that he didn't pay fair market value for his shirts.

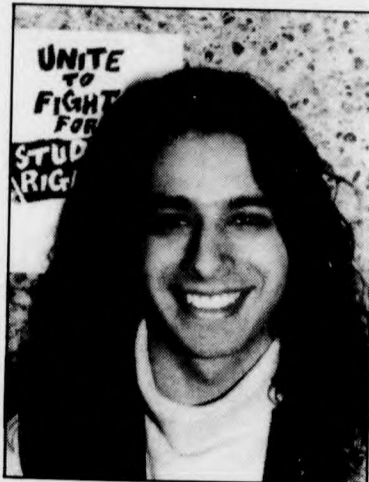
Everyone who ran for president had to sign a declaration stating they had read the parts of the CYSF constitution relating to elections, said Collins. "He would have known the absolute rules."

"Expenditures are the only logical thing to attack me on," said Ghomeshi. "I'm totally clean. The company that I went to [gave me] the same rates as they would give to anybody. There's no question that anybody could have gone to that place."

He said he was told that it was OK for people to wear his shirts and buttons on election day by chief returning officer Garry Choo, but he told people as soon as he could not to wear them. He says there are no rules in the constitution about buttons or sweatshirts.

Ghomeshi said that if it was wrong for people to wear these items, the poll clerks should

have gone out of their way to stop it.



He said he had 500 buttons made and by the end of the campaign period there were about 30 left. He said there is no way to control that many buttons after they are distributed and that he couldn't have stopped everyone from wearing them.

Collins said that as a candidate it is his responsibility to

follow the rules.

She added that her goal with the complaint is not to change the election results. She said she wants people to realize the results don't reflect a fair campaign or election. "This could lead to an even less accountable CYSF than in previous years."

Many candidates broke the election rules, according to Ghomeshi. "There is evidence to show other presidential candidates at or near polling booths. Also, there was a vice-president on the present CYSF executive who was campaigning for a candidate."

Ron Kelly, another presidential candidate, said he saw a polling clerk let people rip off their own ballots in Calumet around 12:15 p.m. last Tuesday.

"There really is no place for these kinds of official complaints," said Ghomeshi. "In general terms, it was a big victory and we should just get on with it. With all respect to Kate, the students have voted for what they want."

Across Ontario

compiled by Donna Mason

Asbestos at Ryerson

Parts of a ceiling collapsed on the seventh floor of the Ryerson Business Building recently, exposing asbestos fibres. Leaky pipes and a weak ceiling appear to be the cause of the collapse. The ceiling and walls are water damaged, said Ron Lunn of the faculty of business and technical communications.

There were asbestos fibres on the floor and two large holes in the ceiling, said Anne Pettypiece, a business and communications professor. The faculty feels they are risking their lives working in the building. The air will be tested in the building this week.

There may be a link between the deaths of some Ryerson instructors and the asbestos in the building, said Pettypiece. She said four former Ryerson instructors have died of cancer after retirement.

from *The Eyeopener*, Ryerson

Solar Powered Car

Queen's University's Engineering Solar Team has received a \$38,000 grant from the Science Culture Canada Programme of Supply and Services Canada to supplement funding for its project, said Craig McMahon, the project manager.

The project includes designing and developing a solar powered racing vehicle for the World Solar Challenge, to be held in Australia in November. This international competition, from Darwin to Adelaide (3,000km), involves 35 university and corporate teams. The project began in May 1989 and is expected to be finished this May.

from *The Queen's Journal*, Queen's University

1 in 4 Canadians lie about income tax

University of Toronto, one of the report's authors. He wrote the report with Neil Brooks, associate dean of law at Osgoode Hall law school.

Wealthy people and self-employed businesspeople are the worst offenders, often inflating or even inventing expenses. Season tickets to hockey, for instance, become "entertaining clients."

These are the people who have the greatest opportunity to cheat because they assess and pay their own income tax, rather than having it deducted from their paycheques automatically, says Doob.

The majority of taxpayers — 15 million of the 17.5 million in Canada — have little opportunity to cheat even if they want to because their income tax is deducted by their employer, he says.

Failure to declare tips, interest earned on savings or investment earnings is another means of dodging income tax, the study revealed.

Cash earned from 'moonlighting' is also frequently hidden from the taxman, says Doob.

"Most workers feel they should pay tax on income from their regular job, but if they have a second job or earn extra on the side they see it in a different light," he says. "Moonlighting is seen as being outside the realm of proper taxation."

Undeclared income is seen as a less bad way of avoiding taxes than falsifying deductions, says Doob.

The study also found that tax cheats consider it worse to steal, vandalize or defraud a government programme of \$1,000 than to hold back the same amount in taxes.

At least part of the problem is that penalties for tax cheating are not tough enough, suggests the report.

So rarely does anyone go to jail in Canada for income tax evasion, it's almost a mystery why so many quietly hand over their taxes, says the report.

"From the perspective of deterrence, the more interesting question may be why anyone complies with the tax laws rather than why some do not," it says.

Generally, the public doesn't regard tax cheating as a criminal offence. That's part of the problem.

by Sally Johnston

Cheating the taxman is fast becoming a national pastime which costs Canada \$4 billion a year, a study has found.

One in four Canadians are dishonest when they fill out their income tax forms, lying about the amount they earn and the expenses they can deduct.

The study was conducted by justice experts at the University of Toronto and York University. The mail-in survey asked 260 residents of Metro Toronto about their tax behaviour. Thirty-three per cent responded — not a high response, but adequate, the researchers say. They believe the findings are fairly accurate, as they are similar to results on tax cheating in large studies in the United States and Great Britain.

Twenty-four per cent of those who responded to the survey admitted tax cheating in the past five years. And they said they knew others who do so too. However, 70 per cent said they wouldn't cheat, even if they thought they could get away with it, as it was the responsibility of good citizens to pay taxes. The remaining six per cent indicated they might cheat if they knew they could do so without being caught.

The researchers believe these figures are not inaccurate; even Revenue Canada says many Canadians are honest when it comes to paying their taxes, says Tony Doob, a criminology professor at



Jason Schwartz

Mr. M'Boob (York student Bruce Russell) tickles the ivories last week in DACARY Hall.