

# Ghomeshi not guilty of election violations

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by Nancy Phillips

The Government Affairs Tribunal (GAT) has ruled that CYSF president-elect Jean Ghomeshi did not violate the CYSF constitution's campaign regulations.

Kate Collins, who placed second in the election, filed a complaint with GAT last week alleging that Ghomeshi did not pay fair market value for his

shirts, buttons and printing and that his campaign workers advertised around the polling booths on the election days by wearing shirts and buttons with the Ghomeshi's slogan, "Unite to fight for students rights."

The five people who sit on GAT ruled unanimously that Collins did not prove her allegations beyond a reasonable doubt.

In a decision that was echoed by the rest of GAT, Scott

Bezeau stated that although Ghomeshi did receive a low price for his campaign materials from Vantage Sports, there was no evidence to show that the company was not offering the same price to the general public.

In terms of advertising on the election days, GAT member Erez Blumberger stated in his decision that Ghomeshi cannot be responsible for other people who wore his shirts. He wrote, "If he were made re-

sponsible, this would open the door for opportunism and future campaigns could be sabotaged by [people] wearing opposition sweatshirts in an attempt to discredit competitive campaigns."

Chair of GAT, Paul Holmes, stated that although Collins did not prove Ghomeshi violated the advertising rules, "next term's CYSF [should] lay out specifically what constitutes unfair election practices, including advertising, and ensure a strict policing and enforcement of these rules . . . which was not done in this election."

In response to the ruling, Ghomeshi said, "I'm pleased. This restores a bit of my faith that there is democracy at this university. We should make sure the concerns that were brought up are cleaned up constitutionally."

Collins said she understands GAT's ruling in terms of costs.

She is, however, "disappointed about [the ruling] about campaigning around the polling booths. [The rules about advertising] have been pretty clear in the past and have been pretty clear to the other candidates. Ghomeshi has managed to campaign on election day while looking clean. I don't think he's in a position to talk about cleaning up next year."

Collins pointed out that there were many election violations that she or other candidates could have filed complaints about, from the ballot boxes arriving late in the colleges causing a loss of 12 hours of voting time, to unlocked ballot boxes and the possibility of boxes being stuffed because some polling clerks let people tear off their own ballots. She said the whole election should be done all over again because of the high number of violations.

## Scrip may be replaced by 19-meals-a-week card

by Heather Sangster

A recommendation to abolish scrip and all other meal plans in favour of a 19 meals-a-week card for all residence students was accepted by the University Food Services Committee (UFSC).

The meal plan, which would begin next September, would cost students \$2,100 compared to the present \$1,875 fee for 14 meals-a-week, \$1,625 for 10 meals-a-week or scrip, said Russel Hersen, chair of Complex 1, which houses the cafeterias for Vanier, Winters, Founders and McLaughlin colleges.

Norman Crandles, director of housing and food services, said the UFSC accepted the one-year Marriott contract because it was the only option Marriott presented that allowed "the university to reach its financial target for food services, which was to break even."

"Food services needs \$500,000 just to pay its bills for Complex 1 and 2. To continue with the present meal plan system would have meant a \$235,000 loss for the university. If we had accepted the best of the four options Marriott presented at an earlier meeting, the university would have lost \$105,000. This is clearly the most favourable choice."

"I don't think students are going to like sticking to one plan," said Hersen. "The missed meal factor is also not going to please a lot of students. With this card, if you miss a meal, you don't get any food, but Marriott gets your money."

To compensate for potential missed meals, the UFSC has decided to extend meal plan hours for next year, added Hersen.

Breakfast hours will be from 8-10 a.m. with a continental breakfast from 10-11 a.m. Originally, breakfast was planned from 7-9:30 a.m. but as Crandles noted, "In my modest experience as an undergraduate resident, no one is awake for that breakfast."

Lunch hours will be from 11-2 p.m., an extra half hour com-

pared to this year, and dinner will operate from 4:30-8 p.m., an hour and a half more than this year. At dinner, students will be able to have either the entree or items from the grill, a choice available with scrip but not the present meal plans, said Crandles. "And, it is possible for students to have lunch at 4:31 p.m. and go back at 7:59 p.m. for dinner."

Caroline Winship, CYSF vice-president (internal), said, "I've talked to a lot of students and they are happy with the longer hours and the new breakfast but their main concern is that the food is still bad."

Hersen noted that many students feel the quality of food is "horrible" and service in the cafeterias is declining. "The staff are rude," he added.

Crandles said food services needs to "substantially improve

in all areas. We can't introduce this meal plan without realizing that the quality of life for students must improve." With the new plan, students will also get a buffet brunch every Saturday and Sunday from 12-2 p.m., added Crandles.

Hersen noted that every Wednesday, students will have a speciality dinner which will include sirloin, seafood or hip of beef. Exam treats such as baked goods will be made available during exam period, he added, and there will be made-to-order breakfasts and improved box lunches.

The UFSC has recommended that a business task force be struck to monitor Marriott to, according to Crandles, "make sure they deliver what has been promised. My own office is re-focusing its tasks to give more

service time and less administrative time. The manager of food services operations, Angelina Catricala, will have a new role. She will spend more time in the complexes making sure the food is warm, that there is cutlery and trays and that the managers are doing their jobs."

Crandles said the meal plan is an "extraordinarily good buy. The \$2,100 fee ranks as the second best value out of seven other Ontario universities with identical plans catered by Marriott." Crandles would not reveal which other universities are served by Marriott.

Winship agrees, "When you work it out to a per day basis, you are paying \$10 for three meals a day. Where else can you do that?"

CYSF president Peter Donato

thinks that although students are forced to compromise with the most economically feasible plan for the university, they will be happy with the card. "York is following the example set by other universities that don't use scrip but do use a meal card."

Crandles believes the meal card will "offend fewer people than this past year's programme has." If the one-year contract proves beneficial, Crandles "will be considering all kinds of options [for the future of food services] ranging from food services exiting Complex 1 and 2 forever, right up to building a new food and conference centre."

The 19 meals-a-week card plan is waiting for approval by vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr and the Board of Governors. Farr could not be reached for comment.

## New paper result of *Obiter Dicta* controversy

by F.W. Cameron

Yesterday a new newspaper, the *Ratio Decidendi*, was published at Osgoode Hall Law School, because the *Obiter Dicta* is experiencing editorial conflicts.

The *Obiter Dicta*'s problems originated from a controversy involving its chief editor, Carolyn Amendola. Amendola wrote an editorial labelling Osgoode's Mock Trial sexist.

Amendola wrote, "It seems clear that the organizers of Mock Trial cared little about the portrayal of women in this year's show." Amendola described each skit and stated what she found offensive about each one. She stated, "In the 'Sunday Shopping' skit, a man points a machine gun at a cowering woman. These threats of violence are supposed to be funny. These references to women and exploitation continue throughout the show."

Many students disagreed with Amendola's statements in letters to the editor. Amendola was reluctant to publish these letters intact, and the *Obiter Dicta*'s ad

hoc editorial policy, then in effect, allowed "personally abusive comments" to be edited out.

Teresa Tunnillo and Anne Posno, two other *Obiter Dicta* editors, offered their resignations to Amendola because they felt she was censoring material. Their resignations were not accepted. Two of three *Obiter Dicta* business managers did resign. Their names were not available at press time.

These events caused four students, George Benchetrit, David Colman, Howard Goldberg, and Anna Stancer to solicit submissions for the *Ratio Decidendi*. Its purpose is to "provide the Osgoode community with an open forum in which to engage in meaningful discussion and debate."

Colman said he and the others feel "the *Obiter Dicta* has lots of problems. We (many students) feel they (the editors) are inaccessible." Colman also asserted, "There had been an abuse of policies. One of the functions of the *Ratio* would be to reform the *Obiter Dicta*."

But the *Obiter Dicta* editors have reformed the paper's policy, said Amendola. She added that the editors are aiming for a "specific, fair and balanced policy for all material." The policy consists of statements that the editors will refuse material that is "sexist, racist, homophobic, or libellous." The policy then defines libel, and "fair comment." Five pages of letters, most of them concerning Amendola's Mock Trial editorial, were published in last week's *Obiter Dicta*.

When asked whether the policies had been rushed out because of the controversy, Amendola said, "A series of meetings were ongoing when the controversy broke out." The *Obiter Dicta*, which is published under the auspices of the Legal and Literary Society, had no help putting the policies together, other than "an initial consultation."

Benchetrit, however, said he still wasn't happy with the *Obiter*'s editorial policy, calling it "vague, wordy and boring."

The Legal and Literary Society did eventually intervene, after the

policies were published last Monday. Last Tuesday, there was a meeting involving the Legal and Literary Society, the *Obiter Dicta* staff, and concerned students. The Society voted to intervene in the *Obiter Dicta*'s business, but voted against a proposal to clear the editorial board and to hold early elections for a new board.

These unusual steps were taken, according to *Obiter Dicta* editor Lyle Satok, because "personal confrontations have caused distress in the *Obiter*'s offices."

According to Benchetrit, "The five (members of the editorial board) can't deal together effectively. There are doubts whether they can agree enough on anything to get another paper out. God knows how they got Monday's paper out."

There was another meeting with the Legal and Literary Society, but the results of that meeting were unknown at press time. The Legal and Literary Society offered no comment on any events.

As for the plans of Amendola, "I want to complete my term."