

# Voter turnout highest ever

**"People unequivocally voted for change."**

by Sid "Midnight" Tyson

In a landslide victory, Jean Ghomeshi has become the next CYSF president. "The scale of this victory has shown that people are ready for the ideas I've been talking about," he said immediately after the unofficial results were announced early this morning.

Ghomeshi defeated his nearest competitor, Kate Collins, by 258 votes. A record 3,426 people voted in this election, compared to 1,603 last year. Peter Donato won the presidential election last year with 420 votes.

"People unequivocally voted for change. The task ahead is to mobilize students," said Ghomeshi.

"It was one hell of a tough campaign for all of us. I have a lot of regrets about this being a dirty campaign. There were a lot of personal attacks on people. Every other candidate seemed to me, quite honestly, to be committed to a clean campaign. It was a shame that people around each candidate took it much further," he said. He would not elaborate on why this was a "dirty campaign."

Ghomeshi thanked the people who helped him in his campaign, saying, "I'm just the medium for people who want student government. I'm looking forward to working with all of the people who were elected tonight. I should start listening to a lot of the ideas Kate was talking about."

Ghomeshi said some of his goals are to unite students and fight for increased accessibility



CYSF's new president Jean Ghomeshi

and a freeze on tuition fees, and against underfunding and racism. He also said, "I've got to catch up on my school work."

Ghomeshi invited all of the candidates to put their posters together so they can be taken to a

recycling plant.

He also said, "As a result of [Tuesday] *Excalibur's* editorial I feel bad for Joe [Dematteis]. He went through a lot of personal anguish."

The new vice-president (exter-

nal) is Mitch Blass and the new vice-president (finance) is Brad Abrams. Caroline Winship has been acclaimed as vice-president (internal) and George Sanghera has been acclaimed as vice-president (programmes).

## "Norm" calls Vanier stay "amazingly successful"

by Susan Vanstone

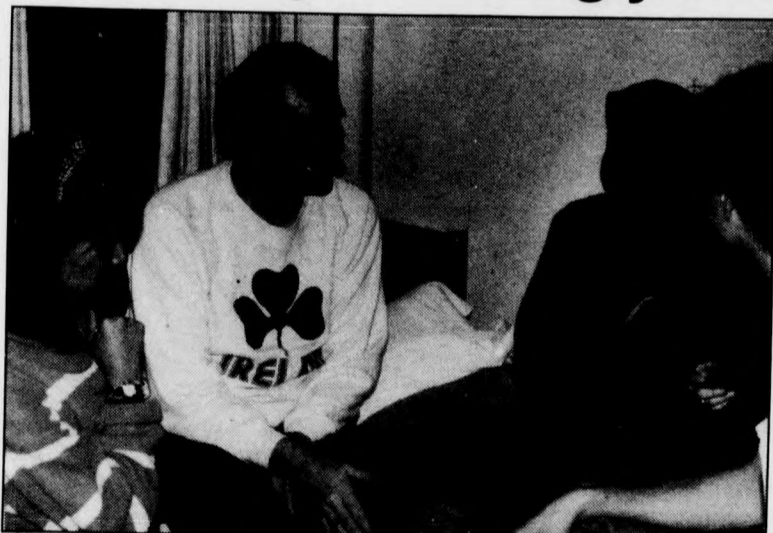
Director of housing and food services Norman Crandles accepted a request by students last month to live in undergraduate residence for a week, and has spent the past seven days in Vanier Residence's *Le Toit House*.

Crandles called his stay "an amazingly successful experiment," and said he plans to stay in Complex 2 (Stong and Bethune) before the end of the school year. He recommended that other administrators live in residence.

At the February 21 open forum, Crandles accepted an invitation from *Le Toit House* don Arlen Vranic and assistant don Marshall Beier to stay in an unoccupied room on the 12th floor.

Known as "Norm" to other residents, Crandles said, "It's fascinating. It's one of the most worthwhile things I've done, and I've enjoyed it thoroughly. I've been up rapping with students until 3 a.m. They know what's constraining [the administration] and I know what's bugging them."

Crandles added that because of his stay, he will be better equipped to resolve problems concerning residence. The way in which student concerns are uncovered and



Crandles "rapping" with housemates in his residence room. "It's the first time I've walked into a washroom and found a woman there that wasn't my wife or mother," he said at Vanier's co-ed facilities.

responded to have already begun to change, he said.

"It doesn't matter how much you know, are told, or understand about problems residence students encounter. You can't fully comprehend [them] without the experience of living there. I now know more than I have in my previous 17 years at York," he said.

Vranic is optimistic that Crandles' stay will effect improvements to York residences. He emphasized the importance of ongoing

communication between students and the administration, which is "the key to making this university a better place," he said.

Crandles said he received a positive response from students during his stay. He credited them with allowing him to encounter problems for himself, rather than approaching him with a list of complaints.

He cited "a really bad cafeteria service encounter [I] had" as an

example. Crandles said the incident involved shortages of plates, utensils, trays, glasses, serviettes, the lack of a manager on site and a "general *malaise* about the place." This made him depressed since students said it was typical and that he felt responsible because of his portfolio.

Students took Crandles on a tour of Vanier Residence Sunday night. Beier said they pointed out the poor conditions of bathrooms, which, he added, are especially unclean in the top half of the residence. They also noted poor quality of window seals, improperly-constructed fluorescent light lenses in the residence common room, malfunctioning vending machines, and broken lint screens in laundry room dryers which are fire hazards.

Beier stressed the importance of smaller, cumulative problems such as inoperative vending machines, since larger issues such as food services are better documented.

CYSF vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship, who helped initiate the letter campaign encouraging Crandles to live in residence, said he should write a comprehensive report on the experience and the changes necessary to upgrade residence conditions.

### Unofficial election results

#### Presidential Candidates

Ghomeshi	1,051
Collins	793
Merrick	580
Kim	427
DeMatteis	402
Kelly	152
Spoiled	21

#### Vice-president (external) candidates

Blass	1,195
Fortini	854
Preyra	768
Spoiled	156

#### Vice-president (finance) candidates

Abrams	883
Meharchand	844
Balatbat	543
Spoiled	132

#### Board of Governors

Merrick	1,638
Hamilton	1,281
Spoiled	88

#### Student Centre/ Student at Large

Chua	1,307
Hargreaves	1,106
Reid	757
Denberg	678
Rainford	674
Feduck	491
Spoiled	136