

EDITORIAL

The main event

There's a new kid on the student activist block.

After a month of gathering names on her "Abolish the YFS/OFS/CFS referendum results" campaign, Andrea Shettleworth has emerged as a clear challenger for Jean Ghomeshi's WWF lobbying championship belt.

Shettleworth is ostensibly beating Ghomeshi at his own game. She is lobbying the lobbyist. She is more active than "the" student activist. She is able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

And yes, by the gods! she is consolidating a retroactive "NO-Coalition" to battle the dark forces of the YES-Coalition. (This sounds like a very bleak tale so far, but there's more.)

The Great Ghomeshi has been conspicuously quiet in dealing with what seems to be Sensational Shettleworth's personal vendetta against him and the YFS.

To avoid legitimizing Shettleworth's position, Ghomeshi has chosen to ignore her in the hope that she might go away.

But he's had no such luck.

Shettleworth has been standing by her banner for a full month now, taunting Ghomeshi, building support around her cause, and collecting thousands of signatures in an effort to nullify the referendum.

But there's something even stranger going on.

The Great One has been criticized by some for cocooning himself in the YFS offices in response to the challenge from Sensational Shettleworth.

However, he has also been getting flack from others for being too active in events such as protests (Mulroney, Rae) and organizing (anti-racism day of action, anti-war teach-in).

So what can Ghomeshi do? Is it a Catch-22?

Because Ghomeshi opposes censoring a student's right to express herself (and because Shettleworth's presence seems to be growing), he has no choice but to meet her on the battlefield of debate.

Andrea and Jean can have their opening remarks, a rebuttal, and a question period in the bear pit with a moderator and a definite time limit.

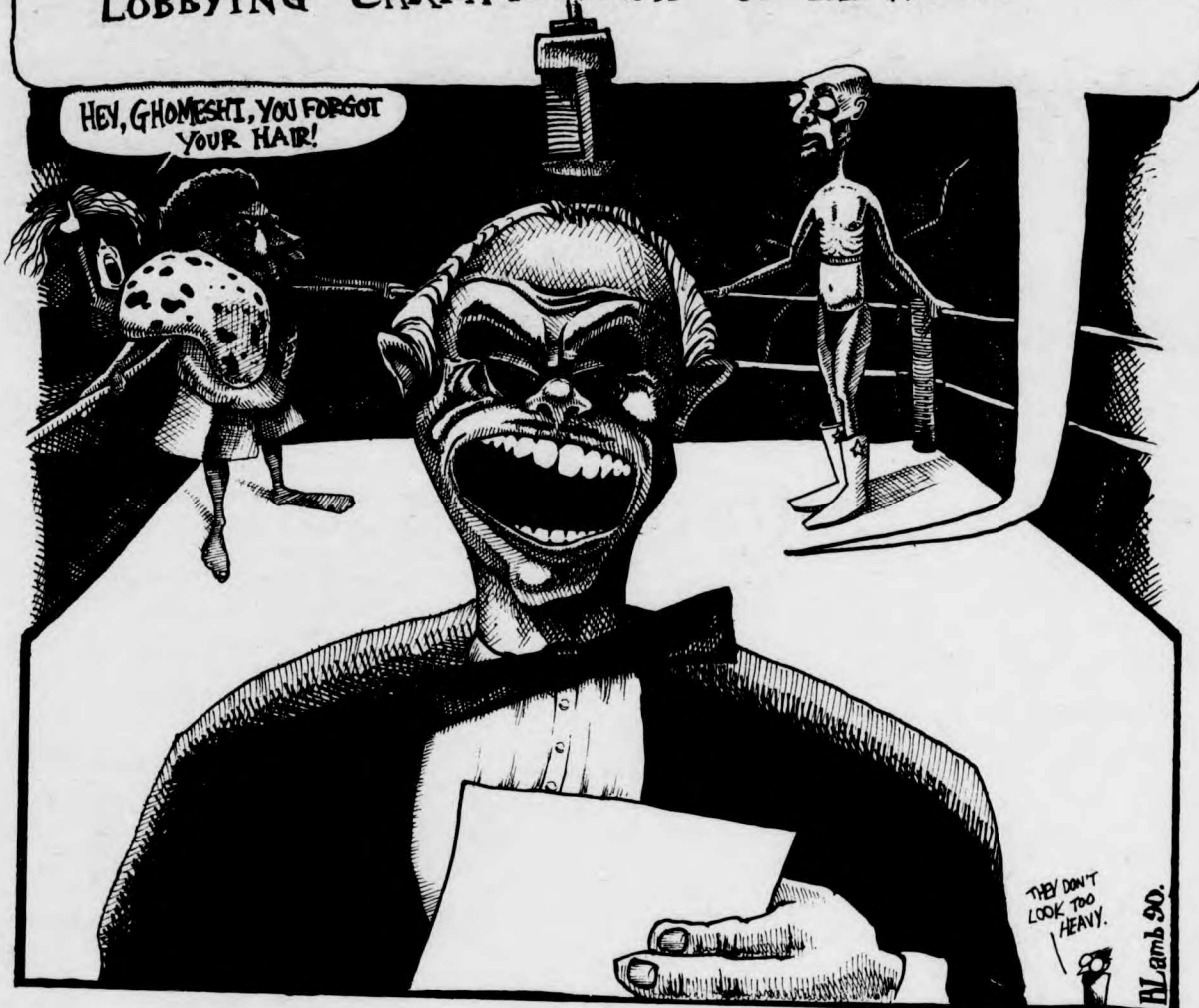
Bottom line: Ghomeshi has to confront this issue head on. It will not go away.

Shettleworth has protected her banner's territory defiantly, fighting back against Student Affairs and the YFS. Now, she has her eyes focused on the biggest quarry of all: the Great One.

Shettleworth has Ghomeshi on the run, backing away for fear of a big scrap. Ghomeshi doesn't even want to give her the time of day. And students are placing bets on midterm by-elections.

Ladies and gentlemen! In the red corner wearing . . .

... AND NOW, "JEAN THE SPIDER" AND "ANDREA THE ANIMAL" WILL BATTLE IT OUT FOR THE HEAVY WEIGHT LOBBYING CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD!



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of Excalibur staff or directors. However, we will refuse letters that are racist, sexist, libellous or those which attempt to incite hatred toward an individual or an identifiable group. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Students not uninformed

To the editor,

Re: Ignorance, information, and one-sidedness.

I'm quite sick of hearing that students weren't informed about the OFS/CFS referendum.

At the registration fair, the week before classes even began, there was OFS information being handed out. When I picked up my copy of *Up York!* there was information there. I even received information in the mail.

No information for the students? Was I having an hallucination?

Then, in October, I was bombarded for a three week period with posters, pamphlets, and articles from both Yes and No sides. I won't deny that there was a stronger "Yes" presence but that doesn't make the information one-sided.

I think some people have forgotten that this university is populated by students and not idiots. Anyone has the ability and the right to question what they see and hear.

The very "over-presence" of "Yes" information should have raised, and to some extent did raise, questions. In any case, those who call the referendum "one-sided" are implying that we, the student body are idiots, completely subject to whatever is presented to us. Not a nice implication coming from those who supposedly speak for students.

I find it funny that as students we can question the propaganda our federal and provincial

governments feed us, and yet somehow it's assumed that we are incapable of questioning smaller governments, whether they represent the whole university or just a college.

Anyone who was bombarded and overloaded with information would have questioned what they were being told — one way or another; and I like that most of my fellow students who voted did question what they saw.

So to those who are insulting our intelligence: put a sock in it! We aren't stupid, and we're sick of being treated as though we are.

Sincerely,
Robin Gurney

Unfeasible proposition

To the editor,

Re: Mr. Ward's letter, " 'strippers' should be given away" (Oct. 17).

I have worked in a chain bookstore for many years and am quite familiar with the strip cover process.

Bookstores buy mass market paperbacks from publishers at a discount. After three months, the copies that don't sell are 'stripped.' That means that the covers are ripped off the books and sent back to the publisher who then credits the bookstore's account. The book husk is then ripped in half and trashed. Not even employees are allowed to take the strips home.

Mr. Wand wants the husks to be given away to students and libraries. I wonder if he seriously

thought about what he is suggesting. The whole system would fall apart.

Let's say that a bookstore is giving away stripped books, what happens? Customers stop buying many books, especially those issued at \$7.95 and above.

Instead, they plead poverty and insist on getting a strip. The bookstore complies, the cover is sent back to the publisher.

Does the publisher give the bookstore credit for that cover? How can the publisher distinguish between those books that genuinely did not sell and those that were stripped on purpose? They can't! They would stop giving credits for returned covers and books would become non-returnable.

New authors would have trouble selling their books. Most bookstores would begin to stock only Stephen King and Danielle Steele, those books that are guaranteed to sell.

Customers would have less choice in the stores. Prices would rise to cover losses incurred when a buyer orders 100 copies and sells only 50. Bookstores' profitability would drop. Many would close. Those that did not would stock only the top 20 bestsellers. I am sure Mr. Wand does not want to force the collapse of the international book industry.

Furthermore, publishers hold back some of the author's royalties in case some books are returned as strips. If a book is stripped and returned, the author does not get the royalty for that book. Stripping books and keeping them is similar to stealing money from the authors.

I hope I have convinced you of the foolish nature of your suggestion to give strips away. But, your

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