# Health plan called fair to people with AIDS

by Jodi Hazzan

AIDS activists are being told not to worry about an alleged discrimination by a company which provides health insurance for York students.

An article published recently in the Globe and Mail had York Federation of Students executives worried that Blue Cross had a new travel insurance policy which discriminated against people with AIDS.

"Blue Cross [will not] cover travellers who have been diagnosed as having a terminal illness or expenses incurred directly or indirectly as a result of acquired immune deficiency syndrome or acquired immune deficiency syndrome complex," the article stated.

The company covers most York undergraduates through the federation's health plan.

"If the Blue Cross doesn't cover people with AIDS, we would seriously have to consider changing companies," David Taylor, health plan administrator for the federation said last week.

The revised version of the policy angered AIDS activists who believed AIDS was being singled out as the only terminal disease mentioned that is not covered under the policy.

In the article, Robert Martel, executive director of the AIDS Committee of Toronto, said "What [the Blue Cross is] saying is that someone with AIDS doesn't have the same right to mobility as everyone else."

According to Monica Federau, Blue Cross Director of Travel Sales, people who have AIDS will not be denied the coverage to travel. If a person with AIDS breaks an arm or leg, for example, Blue Cross will cover those costs, but they will not cover expenses "relating to treatment of that pre-existing condition," she said

"The nature of travel insurance is to cover unanticipated emergencies and or accidents when travelling," added Federau.

This is not a new policy according to Federau but a rewording of the company's old policy. Due to the ambiguity of the disease, she said the wording was necessary to "be as clear as possible about what we cover so that there won't be any nasty surprises."

AIDS is a pre-existing condition like terminal cancer which has never been covered by Blue Cross travel insurance, Federau said.

## **Small Headline**

TORONTO — Four convictions in acquaintance rape cases involving university students have set ground breaking precedents for court treatment of sexual assault, feminist groups say.

Three of the four cases at the University of Toronto lead to convictions even though they occurred under circumstances which have historically lead to acquittals, said Susan Adario, personal safety awareness officer at U of T...

The convictions make it easier for women to come forward when they are assaulted by men they know, but the convictions only represent a fraction of the real instances of acquaintance rape.

### Small headline

TORONTO—The U of. T Women's Centre is suing two former employees in small claims court for the return off \$14 500 taken from the centre.



Last year's Women's Centre treasurer and coordinator admitted to the centre that they paid themselves cash advances without the knowledge of collective members.

This is outright theft — not overspending said a collective member of the Women's Centre.

As a result, they were forced to pursue the case in small claims court.

#### Small headline

Montreal — Concordia Univer-

sity will strike a committee to examine allegations of research fraud made by Valery Fabrikant, the associate engineering professor charged recently with three counts of first degree murder.

A lone gunman walked into one of the university's downtown building's Aug. 24 and fatally shot three of his colleagues and wounded two others.

"Fabrikant had leveled accusations of fraud against his colleagues, which others found deplorable, given they had good academic records," said Concordia president.

Fabrikant launched a suit last August, accusing his colleagues of including their names on 35 academic articles he wrote.

They in turn filed contempt of court charges against him.

The day of the shooting, Fabrikant was to have appeared in Quebec Superior court to answer to the charges.

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Tuberculosis Sufferer on Outdoor Cot, 1912, Arthur Goss, City of Toronto Archives.

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