

Decision making flip-flop for CYSF

Ghomeshi frustrated by no fault stance

by Josh Rubin

The CYSF has voted 7-3 in support of a resolution condemning the provincial government's proposed no-fault car insurance legislation.

The resolution, made the day after an open forum on the topic, was introduced by CYSF vice-president (external) Peter Merrick.

The CYSF's decision came despite prior refusals to take a stand on political issues not directly related to universities, most notably on abortion. That left some students, including

CYSF president-elect Jean Ghomeshi, both frustrated and angry.

"There is certainly a conflict here. I find it interesting that the bill was introduced by the same people who were the most opposed to the (CYSF) taking a stand on . . . political issues," said Ghomeshi.

The open forum on no-fault, (where an accident victim's right to sue is limited to instances of permanently debilitating injuries) was attended by several members of the CYSF executive, including Merrick and CYSF president Peter Donato.

Also joining the forum were

several members of Fair Action in Insurance Reform (FAIR), a lobby group opposed to the current no-fault legislation.

During the forum, the provincial government was slammed by litigation lawyer Saul Levinter.

Levinter said the government at Queen's Park is trying to pass a bill which would give insurance companies savings of \$143,000,000 next year alone.

Levinter was referring to provisions of the bill which eliminate major stumbling blocks for automobile insurers. Gone are both an annual lump sum payment by each insurer to OHIP and also an insurer's income tax

on premiums.

Levinter's figures were disputed by Stanley Griffin, a spokesperson for the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Griffin told *Excalibur* in an interview that FAIR members are "fighting for their own interests. They are driven by a core group of prominent litigation lawyers, who would have a lot to lose if this bill was passed."

FAIR is also spreading misleading information, according to Griffin. "It claims to represent any group that comes forward to testify at the government's hearings into no-fault."

One of those groups, said Griffin, is the Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC), which publicly censured FAIR after CAC's name was advertised in a list of

FAIR support organizations.

In a later interview, Donato agreed that lobbying groups such as FAIR are often not really interested in those they claim to be protecting. "They're playing a political game."

Donato also said, in answer to questions about whether or not council should take stands on political issues, "We decided that we should."

Across Ontario

compiled by Donna Mason

Students Mark Their Own Exams

About 225 students who wrote a physical education mid-term marked each other's papers because the professor said she did not have time to mark them. The multiple choice and short answer exam was worth 30 per cent of their final mark.

Shauna Thomson, a student, said they had an hour to write. Then they were told to pass their exam to the person behind them. "People were stunned. There was a lot of opportunity for people to look at their textbooks and the only proctor left the room before the exam was over."

The professor, Jan Colwell, said she has used the method

before at other universities. Thomson said people were uncertain if they were marking the exam correctly. The phys. ed. undergraduate chair has met with the dean and Colwell, but nothing has been decided.

from *The Gazette*,
University of Western Ontario

Laurier Faculty May Strike

The second step towards a Laurier faculty strike was taken by the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA). WLUFA president Edcil Wickham informed Laurier president John Wier that the faculty was applying for conciliation.

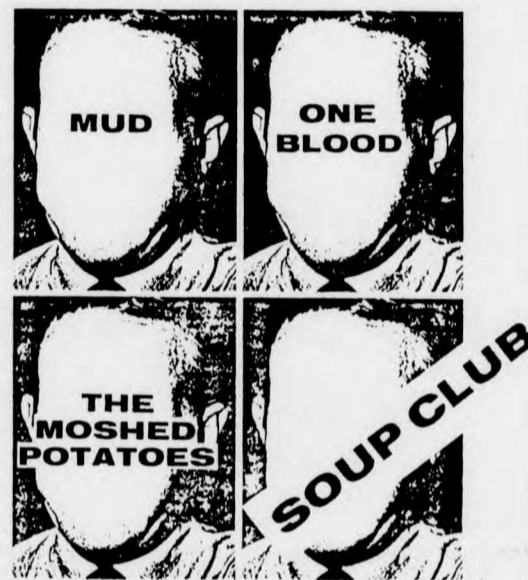
Once the conciliator is appointed, there are 14 days in which to work with the two

sides. If the conciliator cannot work things out, then the Minister of Labour is notified and a no-board report is issued. Approximately 16 days after this report is mailed, the bargaining unit is in a legal strike position.

The two sides have agreed on a percentage wage for the 1988-1989 and 1989-90 years but have yet to decide on the 1990-91 increase. The WLUFA team wants the 1990-91 increase to be equal to its counterpart's at the University of Waterloo, but if they could come somewhere in the middle of other Ontario university salaries, this might be acceptable.

from *The Cord Weekly*,
Wilfrid Laurier University

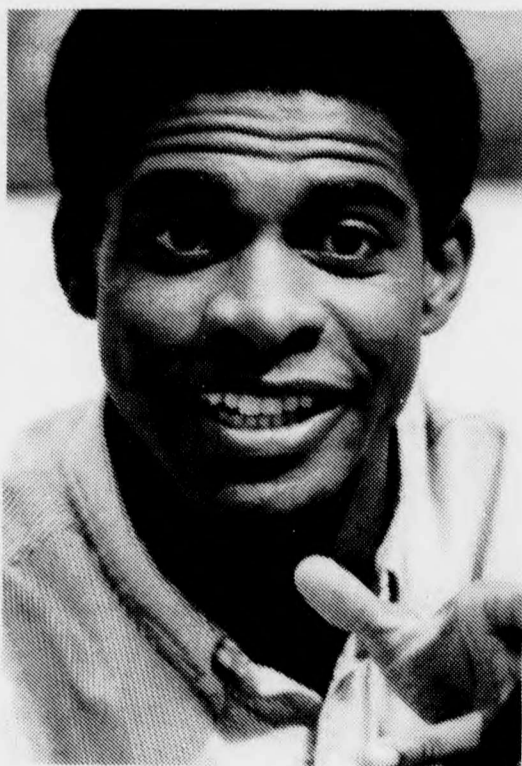
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