

Panel on buyer protection

Some lawyers "rip off" consumers, says prof

By ROSEMARY McCracken

Most people feel that it is an oversimplification to say that the consumer is on a one-to-one relationship with big business. Because of the latter's expertise in law, advertising and business practices, the consumer is often outmatched by business companies.

A panel presentation on Consumer Protection at the St. Lawrence Centre last Wednesday, attempting to redress the balance between consumer and corporation, came up with many divergent philosophies.

Michael Trebielcock, Professor of Law at the University of Toronto, said that 8,000 out of the one million cars manufactured last year were recalled for safety defects alone. He added that in the U.S. between eight and ten million people suffer from food poisoning each year.

According to Trebielcock, the legal profession is not yet ready to embrace consumer problems. He said that many lawyers contribute to consumer problems.

"When the consumer hires a lawyer to prosecute a company for goods or service, different lawyers usually give different estimates. Lawyers with their very knowledge of the law can rip off the consumer he is allegedly trying to defend", said Trebielcock.

Trebielcock named the lawyer referral system, composed of voluntary arbitration committees organized by both the provincial and federal governments, and legal aid as two possible methods of recourse for the consumer. In a study made by one of Trebielcock's law students last year, it was found that only 12 per cent of consumers know about these groups.

Carne Bray, Executive Vice-President of the Federated Council of

Sales Finance Companies, and William Somerville, Vice-President of the Canadian Bar Association played devil's advocate at the presentation.

"I don't know why it is necessary to castigate the entire business world in

order to make way for the green paper on warranties", said Bray.

Somerville maintained that the consumer has a free choice. "If you get chiselled by someone you don't have to go back... Everyone has to lose

sometime. We all learn by experience".

Somerville said that a responsible trade union in a manufacturing company can be an effective avenue of recourse for dissatisfied consumers.

Low quality windshield anti-freeze

OTTAWA (CUP) — Oil and chemical companies are profiting by marketing almost worthless anti-freeze for automobile windshield washers, according to results of tests published by the Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC).

Nadine Levin, who was in charge of the testing, described four of CAC's five top-rated products as "the best of

a bad lot" and said they were recommended only because the motorist has to buy something.

Provincial laws require motorists to keep their windshields clear.

Only Shell fluid was rated good, on the basis that it smeared the windshields less than 10 per cent at 15 degrees F. and between 10 and 30 per cent at zero F.

Last October, Shell fluid cost 99 cents per Canadian gallon compared with up to \$2.95 per gallon for lower-

rated brands.

CAC labelled four brands fair, because they smeared the windshield 10 to 30 per cent at both temperatures. They were Atlas (Imperial Oil), Golden Eagle, (Golden Eagle, Canada), H. (Hall Chemical Co.), and Vision (BP Canada).

STP (Scientifically Tested Products) and Texaco were rated as very poor. STP was the only brand that did not live up to its label claims of staying liquid at cold temperatures.

Angels go straight

SAN JOSE, Calif. (CUPI) — The Hell's Angels have decided to give up hard drugs, according to biker, Phil Cross.

"The guys didn't show up for meetings, forgot to pay dues. You couldn't rely on them for nothing," he said.

"If an Angel sticks a needle in his arm or snorts cocaine, he's out. There's no rehabilitation program, nothing, just out!"

The Angels are anxious to set others straight, too. They've leased three billboards in San Jose reading, "No hope with dope".

OUTDOORS CLUB


General Meeting

Today 4:30

Calumet Jr. Common Room (Atkinson Phase I)

There will be a presentation of some great outings for Reading Week. Everyone welcome.


For more information: Call Rodger - 3320



SKI CLEARANCE

on

*ROSSIGNOL	*ATOMIC
*FISCHER	*NORDICA



OSCARS
ski & sports

1201 BLOOR ST. W.
WEST OF DUFFERIN
532-4267

YORK CARNIVAL '74

continues - - -

(PRESENTED BY YOUR STUDENT COUNCILS)

Thursday, JANUARY 31

STONG COLLEGE

8:30 pm "Marc Mercer" in concert (112 Stong)
Skating Party on Stong Lake

BETHUNE CHINA WEEK - DAY FOUR

11:00 am - Multi-media slide show (Club Room)
12:00 pm - "Communal Life in China" by York's Jerome Ch'en and Mary Sheridan (JCR)
3:30 pm - "Revolution and Change in China's Countryside" by Graham Johnson, UBC (Club Room)
7:00 pm - Demonstration of Kung Fu (Bethune College Dining Hall)

VANIER OPEN END COFFEE SHOP

8:00 p.m. - Cabaret

GREEN BUSH INN PUB AND DANCE

8:00 pm - Winters College Dining Hall "Rhode Apple Red"

Friday, FEBRUARY 1

McLAUGHLIN COLLEGE SKI TRIP

Horseshoe Valley - \$5.00 includes bus and tows; limited to forty people; details McLaughlin Council office (see below)

STONG COLLEGE

8:00 p.m. - MOVIES ("Mischief Makers" with Spanky and Our Gang, W.C. Field shorts, Mae West short.)
9:30 pm - Folksingers 'John Don and Brian' in the Orange Snail Coffee Shop

VANIER OPEN END COFFEE SHOP

8:00 p.m. - Cabaret

C.Y.S.F. PUB AND DANCE

8:00 pm - Vanier College Dining Hall
- music with "Cherri"

BETHUNE CHINA WEEK - FINAL DAY

11:00 am - multi-media slide show (Club Room)
12:00 pm - "The role of women in China" by Lois Tretiak of York (JCR)
3:00 pm - "Demonstration of Acupuncture" (Club room)
7:30 pm - Chinese Instrumental Music Group, twenty-five piece ensemble (Bethune College Dining Hall)

Saturday, FEBRUARY 2

STONG COLLEGE SKI TRIP AND DANCE

Blue Mountain trip open to Stong students only
8:00 pm - Dance in Stong College Dining Hall
VANIER OPEN END COFFEE SHOP
8:00 p.m. - Simandl and Jarman

Sunday, FEBRUARY 3

McLAUGHLIN ROAD RALLY

Entry fee \$3.00. Trophy sponsored by Labatts. Plus cash prizes; register now at McLaughlin Council office
Rooms 102/109 (-3504)

Thursday, FEBRUARY 7

FOUNDERS PUB & ENTERTAINMENT

8:00 pm to 1:00 am - Houston and Gerrard (free admission). Licensed Junior Common Room

GREEN BUSH INN PUB AND DANCE

8:00 pm - Winters College Dining Hall "Shroeder"

Friday, FEBRUARY 8

C.Y.S.F. PUB AND DANCE

8:00 pm - Stong College Dining Hall "The Bill King Group"

Saturday, FEBRUARY 9

McLAUGHLIN SKIDOO COMPETITION

Half-mile course around the York Lake.
Prizes of snowmobile suit and helmet, trophies donated by Molson's Breweries.
Plus cash prizes totalling \$100; No entry fee.
Register NOW at McLaughlin Council office (see above)
VANIER OPEN END COFFEE SHOP
8:00 p.m. - Gary Thornton