

Labour Board called in CKDU fires sales manager

by Sandy MacKay

On December 15, fifteen minutes after the draw for the Mazda Miata, CKDU's station manager fired Sales Manager Steve Balyi from his job.

Station Manager Paul Shields said that Balyi's dismissal was not a direct result of any problem with CKDU's draw, but due to an ongoing performance problem. Balyi has asked the labour board to look into his dismissal, and is seeking legal counsel. An enquiry is pending.

"He was let go for four reasons: incompetence, dereliction of duties, deliberate attempts to misrepresent CKDU to our clients and, finally, for insubordination to the station manager and to the board of directors," said Shields.

Balyi feels he was wrongfully dismissed. "When I came here 20 months ago, CKDU had no records of their sales," said Balyi. "I developed a concept of the station for the business community, to the point where it was no longer considered a 'kiddie radio station'." Balyi claims to have raised the sales record of CKDU 143 per cent in his first twelve months on the job.

Shields said part of the problem was the drop in ad revenues during the draw.

"My feeling is that he took on more work than he could manage

individually, but he made it clear that he was not open to any assistance. There was a dramatic decline in on-air sponsorship during the raffle," said Shields.

Balyi admitted ad revenues had dropped while he was promoting the draw, but he felt the amount of money the station was pulling in from ticket sales more than compensated for the lack of ad revenues.

"There was a dramatic decline in ad sales, but they never went below the level they were at when I started working at CKDU. We were making \$1700 a day from the draw, and that's a lot more than we make in a week of normal ad sales." As well as increased revenue, Balyi felt his efforts on the draw raised CKDU's profile in the community "and that is worth more than any money."

Both Balyi and Shields said CKDU sold about \$50,000 worth of tickets, and expect to have 30 per cent of that total in profits.

Balyi feels CKDU's treatment of him was too harsh. He was banned from the radio station, and the rest of the Student Union Building. "I was banned not only from the station, but from the conselling offices, from the chaplain's office, from the cafeteria and from the unemployment office as well," said Balyi.

The complete ban from the SUB is going to be lifted soon, according to Steve Gaetz, general

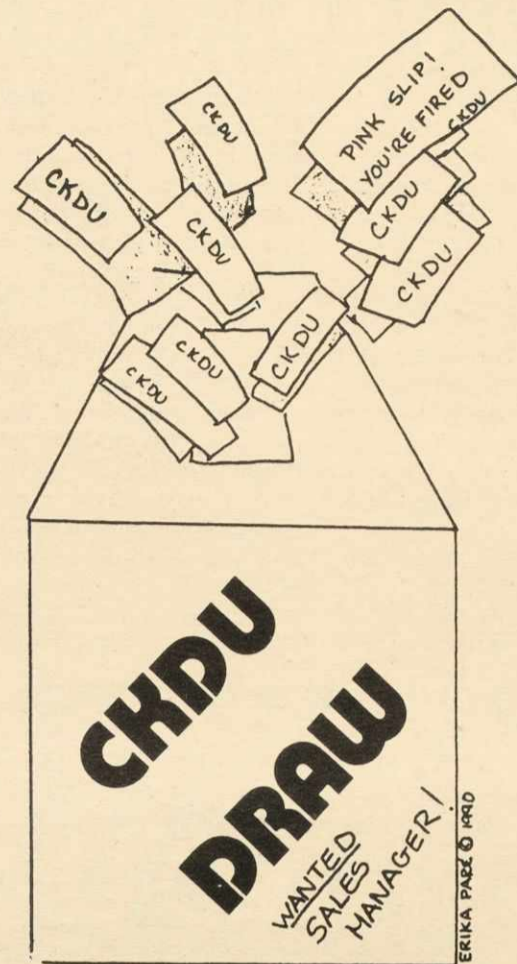
manager of SUB operations.

Shields says the station has already started looking for a new sales manager, as well as a new programming manager. Program Manager Lex Gigeroff has submitted his resignation, although his departure has nothing to do with Balyi's dismissal.

Although Shields is confident he had just cause in dismissing Balyi, he said "We're glad it's up before Labour Canada now, because they'll be able to give us an objective decision whether or not our cause was just."

Balyi feels the real reason for his dismissal was not incompetence and poor performance. "I had the audacity to stand up and complain, to stand up for my rights. The idea is that once you're an employee there, you forfeit your legal and civil rights, and that's bullshit. I don't know exactly what I'm going to do now. I don't want to do anything precipitous."

Through the haze of accusations and misinformation that surround the affair, both Balyi and Shields admit the whole thing could have been dealt with differently. CKDU will be holding a meeting for staff and volunteers soon to answer questions and to see if the volunteers have any concerns dealing with this case.



Check your numbers kids!

The winning numbers for CKDU's raffle are:

1st prize, Mazda Miata: 02701

2nd prize, Zenith Laptop Computer: 04037

3rd prize, a Long Weekend in the Big Apple: 21312

4th prize, a year's supply of Coke: 00078

Only the fourth prize has been claimed so far, so search through the pockets of your coats for that ticket. You could be a big winner (or maybe just a big weiner).

Workers' voices get national exposure

by Padraic Brake

HALIFAX (CUP) — A film that had its funding cut by the National Film Board half way through its production phase will be shown on Vision Television on January 17.

Fish or Cut Bait chronicles the struggle by inshore fishermen to unionize and the Maritime Fisherman's Union fight for collective bargaining rights. It was produced by Bill McKiggan and Tom Burger.

"This film is the first ever which gives the inshore fishermen their own voice to say what happened," said McKiggan.

In 1980 the National Film Board cut off funding mid-way through production after viewing the rough cut of the film. The Board claimed the film had "no heart and no soul" according to McKiggan.

McKiggan's unwillingness to change the focus of the film landed him and Burger on the streets after the NFB refused them access to editing equipment.

"We ended up sneaking in through the bathroom window for two weeks after everyone had gone home for the night and clearing out before they came

back in the morning," said McKiggan.

After the lockout, McKiggan said, the producers formed the Fish or Cut Bait Collective to make sure the film was finished.

Gene Barrett, a professor in the department of sociology at Saint Mary's University, has written of *Fish or Cut Bait*: "I can say unequivocally that this film fills an important gap in the province's social and labour history. In what I see to be a trend to romanticize the formation of the union, this film offers a much needed dose of realism."

The first version of the film was completed in February, 1981 and includes footage of the sixty-day Lockport Lockout, 1939, the Canso Strike, 1970, and the tear-gassing of over 200 men, women and children by the RCMP during the peaceful Caraquet, N.B., demonstrations of 1978.

The filmmakers do not attempt to glorify the union leaders or the struggle. They use the people that marched, starved and were gassed to tell the story of the formation of the Maritime Fisherman's Union and the fight for bargaining rights.

Fish or Cut Bait won an award for Uncompromised Commit-

ment to an Issue at the First Atlantic Film Festival in 1981.

Burger and McKiggan went back to the late nights at the film board to update the film to include the 1980 province-wide strike by inshore fisherman in Newfoundland to change the 400-year-old system of fish merchant exploitation.

In March, 1989 the producers completed the extended version. Copies of the film were bought by all of the Maritime provinces boards of education and universities.

In September, 1989 the Fish or Cut Bait Collective asked the local CBC affiliate to show the film but their request was denied.

Saleem Ahmed, director of television for CBHT in Halifax, said, "The *Fish or Cut Bait* program does not meet the CBC Journalistic Policy guidelines."

McKiggan said, "The CBC and NFB are in collusion with multinationals to control the sea, but we are still hopeful that they will air the program so that as many people as possible can view the film."

The Fish or Cut Bait Collective is planning a demonstration on January 16 at 11:00 am outside the CBHT offices to demand that they air the program.

