Consumers group is organizing to protest phosphate pollution

By MIKE SAVAGE

About a dozen concerned consumers gathered in Nathan Philips Square Saturday morning to protest phosphates in detergents, which, they said, tend to produce algae which add to the pollution of Ontario's waterways.

Bernice Lever, the Toronto coordinator for the Consumers Association of Canada, which sponsored the demonstration, said that many organizations in Toronto had been notified of the demonstration and was disappointed in the minimal response to the issue of phosphates.

She said the association has 22,000 members across Canada, but that they found it hard to fight the companies.

One reason she said is that many companies have full-time professional public relations men in Ottawa. These men know how to counteract 'pressure from consumers.

She said the industrialists think 95 per cent of housewives are not educated enough to know what's good for them. They will listen to the educated 5 per cent of women she said, but they feel that's not representative of the consumer as a whole

John Fisher, a CBC freelance broadcaster, said that he attacked the three largest soap companies at a Consumers Council meeting in Montreal and challenged the soap companies to defend themselves at a public meeting. Representatives of the companies refused to attend the meeting, he said, but later they all contacted him by phone to discuss the issue.

Fisher said, "you can get action, but the companies are so arrogant." To get action, he said, you need a large, well-organized body of consumers to apply constant pressure. Fisher recorded interviews at the demonstration and said he hoped to have the program on the CBC radio network at 2:30 pm on Nov. 25.

Affiliated with the Consumers Association of Canada is the Campaign for Better Advertising. Aims of the group include protest

by letter and phone calls to manufacturers, MPs and MPPs against basically dishonest advertising. Another aim is the movement towards the discontinuence of all advertising directed at children.

The group will make representations to appropriate governmental bodies to curtail drug and beer ads where these ads imply the product is necessary for fun, manliness, or tranquility. The group will also try to curtail ads which show credit buying as a desirable way of life.

The group faces many problems Mrs. Lever said. One is the professional lobbyist working for the industrialist in Ottawa. Another problem, she said, is that many housewives are confined to the home and divorced from the work world. Many of these women are afraid to write or call anyone and let their views be known. She said that most housewives are not aware that collective effort can force manufacturers to improve their products and advertising.

If manufacturers can be forced to improve the quality of their advertising and their products and to cut down the quantity of ads, said Mrs. Lever then the consumer can look forward to a cheaper, better quality product.

There will be a meeting sponsored by the Campaign for Better Advertising on Thur., Oct. 30 at 8 pm, in the St. Michael's and All Angels Parish Hall, 611 St. Clair Ave. West. Admission is 50 cents.

York Briefs

Blacks to discuss Sir George

The Black People's Movement, an organization of about 40 black students and faculty members, is sponsoring a forum to discuss the Sir George Williams University computer center occupation last year at 1 pm today in the Founders junior common room. Rosy Douglas and Carl Paris, both of whom were involved in the affair, which was sparked when a professor was charged with racism and which ended with the occupation in February, will be speaking at the forum and discussing the reperscussions of the takeover. The trial of the 79 students arrested after the center was set afire is on Monday. The Founders College council has put up the money to arrange the forum.

Ross expected back by December

York administration president Murray G. Ross will be back at work at the university by the end of November, the president's office reported last Thursday. He has been recuperating at home from an operation to remove kidney stones Sept. 2. Ross came out of hospital at the end of September. At that time it was rumored that he would not be back to work before January. Ross resigns as president of the university at the end of the school year.

Bookstore meeting planned -- again

Yet another York bookstore committee meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday at 3:30 in the bookstore committee room in the Central Square. In order for a quorum to be formed — and that would be a real first in York's bookstore history — it is essential that Osgoode Hall and all the colleges except Vanier and McLaughlin appoint representatives. It is hoped that college councils will make these appointments promptly and that both faculty and student members will make a special effort to attend the meeting. Two other meetings of the bookstore committee have been called since September, and both were called off when a quorum couldn't be reached. Although the committee has been in existence (in theory) since the bookstore was first started at the York Campus, a committee meeting has never been held.

McMullen calls off Nemesis

Ken McMullen, academic affairs commissioner of the Council of the York Student Federation, has decided to call off CYSF's "Nemesis". The conference, which was budgetted \$4,000 of the federation's funds, was to center on the question of the university in society, and was part of McMullen's campaign platform last year. Mel Lubek, V3, worked on the conference over the summer, but said he found there wasn't enough student interest in it. McMullen spoke of the organizational problems of a large-scale conference, but said his decision was mainly prompted by finances. He said he thought the money could be better used aiding the course unions and for a course evaluation project.

Police make a night visit

The police paid another unexpected visit to campus last Sunday evening just after midnight. An embarassed fourth-floor Founders College girl, clad only in a towel, verified for two equally embarrassed Metropolitan Police officers that a young man they had picked up near the scene of a bank robbery had actually been visiting her at the time of the crime. John Priestley, resident senior tutor, was not told of the late night visit. He said, however, that the police would definitely notify him before a raid. When asked if they were here on a drinking or drug charge, one of the officers jokingly replied, "Not yet".

Students to evaluate courses

Five first-year students in a social action course are working on a pilot course evaluation project. Under the guidance of R. E. Goranson, they plan to cover all the half-year courses and come up with results after Christmas. At a meeting on Monday evening with York Student Federation commissioner for academic affairs, Ken McMullen, they obtained fairly concrete assurance of council financial aid. McMullen sees the project as an experiment in preparation for a full anti-calendar at year end.

New parking gates installed

Automatic gates have been installed in all the peripheral parking lots of the university which let cars in automatically, but require a 25 cent deposit or a gate control card to activate the exit gate. Gate control cards have been mailed to all members of the university who have paid the unreserved parking fee. Reserved parking spots closer to the university buildings are available at a higher fee. Parking meters have also been installed on some service roads on the campus.

Art series starts on Tuesday

The Performing Arts Series, sponsored by the Faculty of Fine Arts starts next Tuesday. The series will include programs in mime, music, theatre and film this year. Major performers such as Marcel Marceau, Allen Ginsberg, Irving Layton and Eli Mandel will perform during the series, critics like Nathan Cohen will lecture and films ranging from Birth of a Nation to Alfred Hitchcock movies will be shown. Tickets for the series are available from 11 am till 2 pm daily at the Burton Auditorium box office. Special prices are available for students, faculty and staff.

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