

Local OPSEU workers stage rally

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

The strike by Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) workers isn't only about money — it's about re-building the service, OPSEU executive board member Jay Jackson told the crowd of 40 at a rally staged outside Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf Monday.

"This kind of work is valuable," said Mr. Jackson, OPSEU bargaining team member. "We know by the number of people who honk their horns at picket lines that they support us."

Jo-Anne Goure, president of OPSEU local 223 (Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf), encouraged the group to inform the public as to why they're on strike.

"I support all people to stand strong through the strike," she said through a sign language interpreter. "These services are valuable to our children. We don't want to be on strike. We'll see to it that we get the best possible contract."

Two Ernest C. Drury students expressed anger and frustration over the strike, now in its third week.

"It angers me because it puts me behind," grade 11 student Alexa Gulka told The Champion through an interpreter at the rally.

"I feel like we're (students) in conflict with what's going on. I would like to go

back to school because I feel I will fall behind. I feel like a victim of it all."

Grade 10 student Cassie Bell agreed.

"To be honest I'm pissed off. Education is going downhill and I have a chance of losing my credits. It makes me very angry because I need my education."

OPSEU workers went on legal strike March 13.

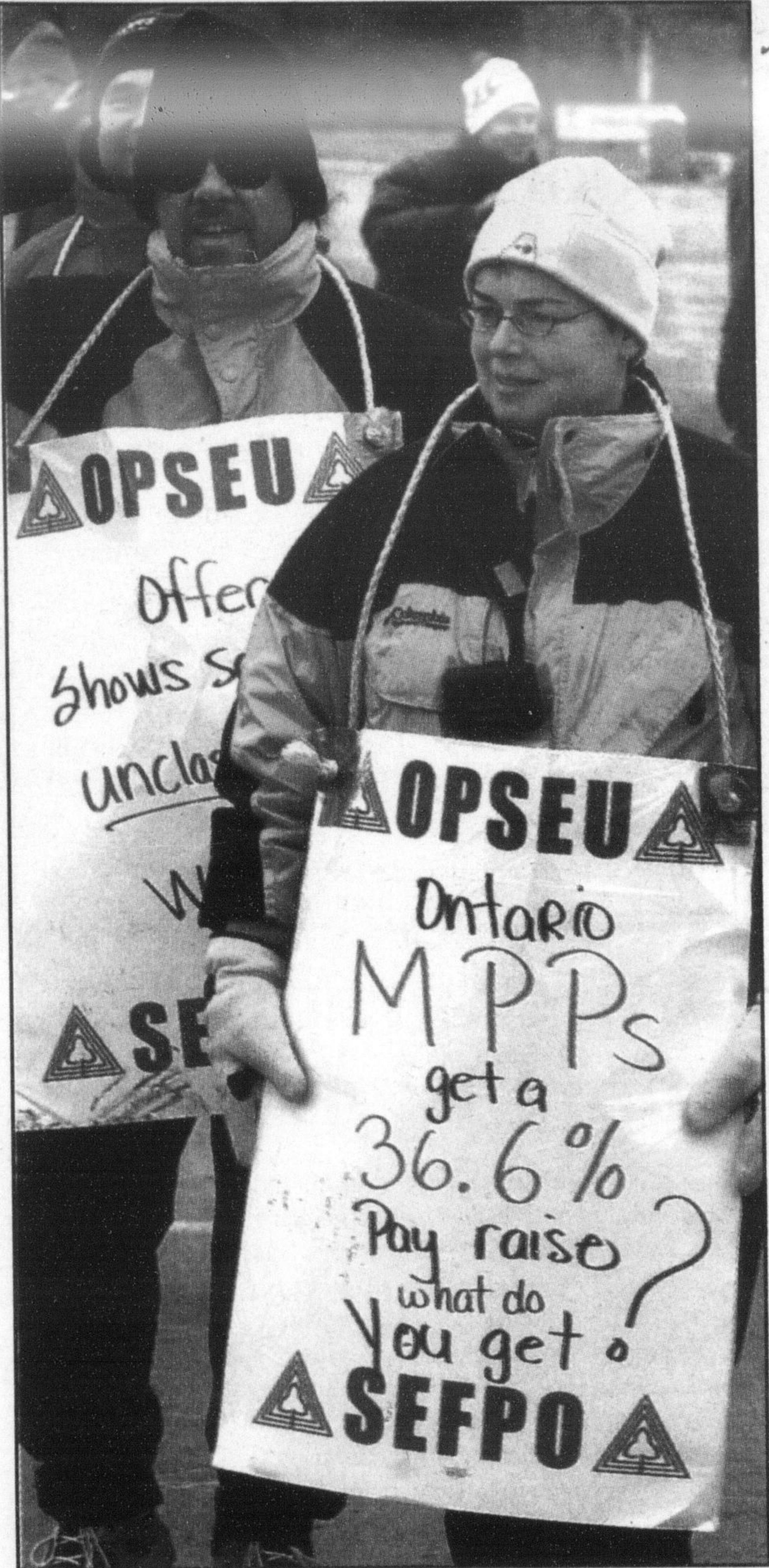


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Local OPSEU members express their concerns during a rally outside the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf Monday.

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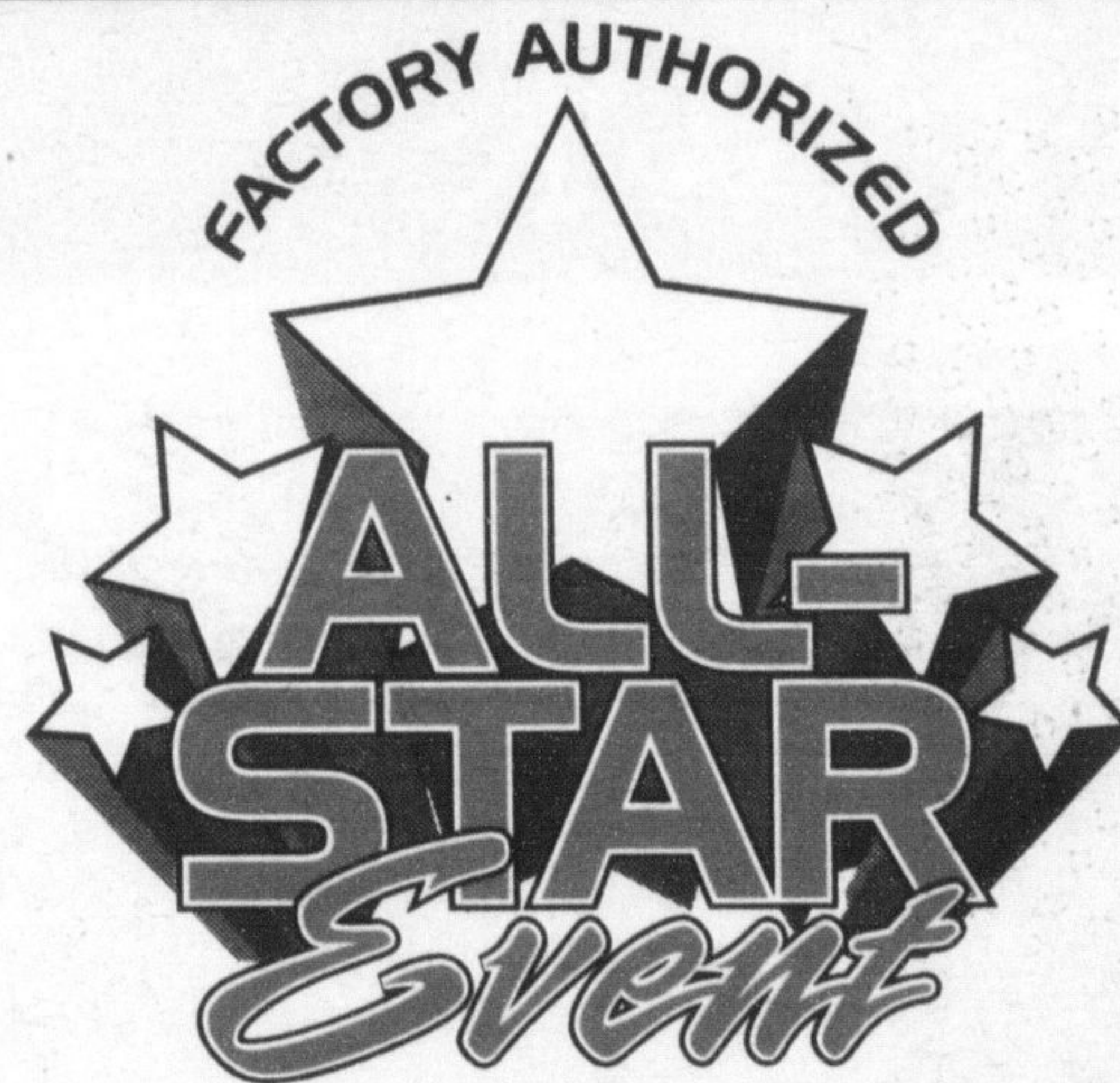
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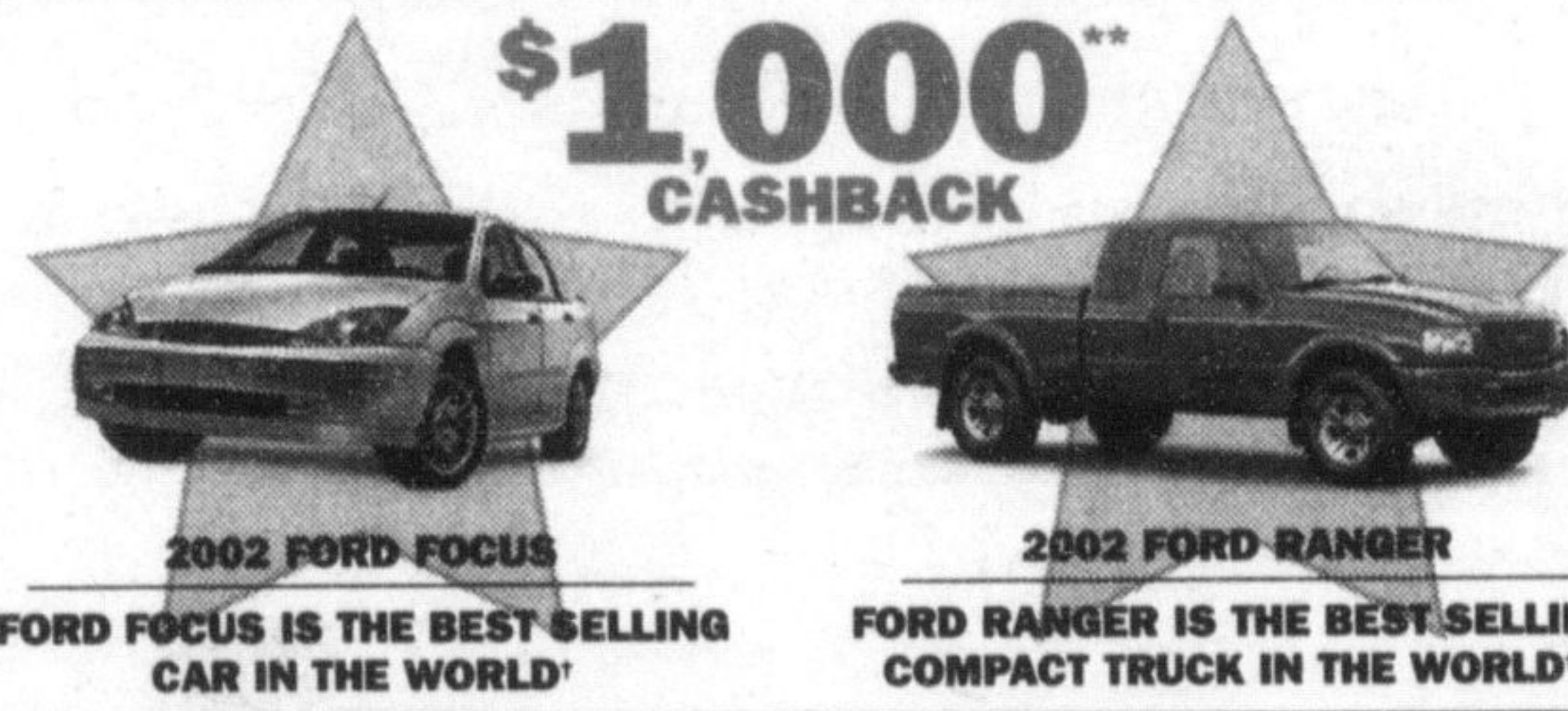
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