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**Consumer Crusader Ralph Nader Local University Guest Speaker**

By CAROLINE COOK Langstaff Correspondent

Ralph Nader, the consumer crusader, visited York University on Steeles Avenue West March 5 to give a talk as the final event of Atkinson Week-end. Citing example after example, he held an audience of 1,500 enthralled as he told of corporate and government plots and mistakes that yearly cost the consuming public thirty billions of dollars in the U.S.

For comparison, he said, crime in the streets is a much talked of theme, but costs the U.S. public about two billion. A case of bread price fixing among Seattle bakeries was broken up when the government stepped in, said Nader, and the result was an immediate drop in the price of each loaf and a saving of four million dollars per year for the consumer. He said a large company in Gary, Indiana has been "operating at a raw criminality level for so long they wouldn't know a straight road if it was placed in front of them."

"Deciding the priorities for a clean-up between the auto industry, the food industry, the insurance industry or the banking industry is difficult. How can the buyer evaluate a product such as a car when he goes out to purchase it? Does he buy a brand name because he knows the dealer, take the word of an uncle or friend, or choose the same kind he has now?"

"The U.S. Government put some regulations into effect in 1968 stating that the car dealer must have comparisons between his car make and competitors makes to show the customer if asked, but these regulations only covered the brake stopping distances, tire load and capacity and the acceleration times," said Nader.

Nader said he searched through the U.S. Patent Office files and found patents for collapsible steering columns dating from the 1920s. They were purchased by the auto makers, and yet it wasn't until 1967 that they appeared on the cars.

The car bumper is supposed to protect the car, but today's ornamental bumpers don't do this even in crashes at speeds of four to five miles per hour. There are bumper guards to protect the bumper. This fraudulent ornamental bumper costs the consumer two billion dollars a year in repairs, he said.

Does the auto industry know what it is doing? Yes, says Nader. They call their replacement parts the crash parts industry. Can it be prevented? As an example, Nader cited Henry Ford's old cars that had bumpers that did protect the auto. "A man who commits a \$100 fraud could be sent to Attica Prison for five years, but fraudulent car makers are invited to the White House," he said.

Another example of a somewhat faulty product is the power lawn mower which is responsible for 150,000 accident cases yearly in the U.S. from such things as toes to stones, etc. thrown up at bystanders. A common consumer fraud occurs in the food industry where water, air and fat are selling for higher prices than ever before. The criterion for a new food product is that it should be palatable, visually presentable, and easy to chew, not that it should be nutritious or free from adulteration with chemical preservatives, said Nader.

Sugar coated breakfast cereals contain 30 to 47 percent sugar. Sausage is a dream come true for the producer. In it you can get rid of sub-standard meat you wouldn't dare put on the counter. You add gobs of fat and spices. You color it and put water in it and the buyer has no idea. "The frankfurter doesn't seem like one of the world's great problems," said Nader.

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**Vaughan Twp. Briefs**

Vaughan Town Council on Monday of last week agreed to support a resolution from Deep River petitioning the province for an increase in recreational program grants.  
The Deep River petition says these grants have not been changed since 1968, standing at \$6,000 for municipalities with populations under 25,000.  
The petition, said the Deep River Council, should be sent direct to Premier William Davis. Requests have been made by various other provincial bodies and have reached the treasury board, but without results to date.

**Maple Syrup Making Saturday, Bruce's Mill**  
With the spring school break coming up, mothers looking for activities to occupy their restless youngsters should remember that maple syrup making at the Bruce's Mill Conservation Area begins Saturday, and is popular with both young and old.  
The Metro Conservation Authority will hold public demonstrations of syrup making in the area all week long between now and mid-April. Bruce's Mill is located two miles east of Don Mills Road, on the Gormley-Stouffville Road. There is a parking fee of \$1.50 for cars.  
Authority staff members will be collecting sap and making it into syrup by both the old-fashioned and modern methods, and pancakes and maple syrup will be available on weekends.  
The old-fashioned method of syrup making meant boiling large quantities of sap in a black, iron kettle over an open fire to evaporate most of the water and thicken the sap into syrup. About 40 gallons of sap must be boiled down to produce one gallon of syrup.

A certain amount of ashes and smoke from the fire eventually found its way into the boiling sap giving the syrup a darker than normal color and sometimes giving it an unusual flavor. Older persons familiar with this syrup claim it had a "stronger" flavour than modern syrup as a result of being made in this way.  
Further information on the authority's syrup making activities may be obtained by telephoning the administrative offices at 630-9780.

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All persons having claims against the Estate of Alice Hudson, late of the Town of Markham, who died on or about the 11th day of June, 1971, are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned care of Norman A. Todd, 15 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill, on or before the 5th day of April, 1972, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned shall not be liable to any person of whose claims he shall not have notice.  
DATED at Richmond Hill, the 8th day of March, 1972.  
James F. Martin,  
Executor.  
By: Norman A. Todd,  
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