

Student Sued After Taking Campus Legal Aid Advice

by Janice Carter

WATERLOO (CUP) – A Wilfrid Laurier student wants her student council to pay her legal bills. She was sued by her landlady after acting on advice from the student-run legal aid clinic.

On February 5, fourth year music student Sarah Coles said she visited the the Legal Services Centre to see whether her lease was binding.

“The woman in the office read over the lease and told me I could break the lease at any time with 60 days written notice. She said to return to Legal Services if there was any problem and they would help me,” said Coles.

Coles said she followed the advice and was subsequently sued by her landlady in August. The court ruled that Coles’ lease was binding whether or not she gave 60 days notice before she left and ordered her to pay for the cost of the remaining months of her lease – \$446.75.

Coles said that once she was faced with legal action from her landlady she “returned to Legal Services

and discovered that the ‘employee’ I had talked to had not followed proper procedure, was not authorized to give legal advice and had made no record of my visit.”

The only counsellor to fit Coles’ description, Sheila Wasylyshyn, said she had not given any legal advice to Coles because she did not feel she was competent to give an opinion on the matter.

In early September, Coles submitted a letter to Wilfrid Laurier’s student council asking them to pay the cost of the suit which she said was incurred at the error of the Centre.

But Coles said the students’ council hasn’t been very sympathetic to her request.

After discussing the case with members of the centre and the dean of students, student council president Dave Bussiere took the case to the university’s operations management board. The board voted not to compensate Coles.

“The students’ council lost the record of my return visit to Legal Services, they lost all Brian Thompson’s notes on my case and my lease and they failed to get in touch with me at any point to let me know if a de-

cision had yet been made as to whether they were responsible,” said Coles.

Coles said she would advise students who use the campus legal aid services to “be sure to take a witness

so that you can prove that you were there and that they did give you advice that you chose to act upon.

Never take the Centre’s advice without first seeking a second opinion.”

Box and Cox showing next week

On Friday November 27, the UPEI Theatre Society will be presenting a short Victorian farce entitled “Box and Cox” in the Library “Pit.”

This twenty-five minute production is directed by Terry Pratt and will feature Terry Pratt as Box, David Larsen as Cox, and Shelly Robbins as Mrs. Bouncer.

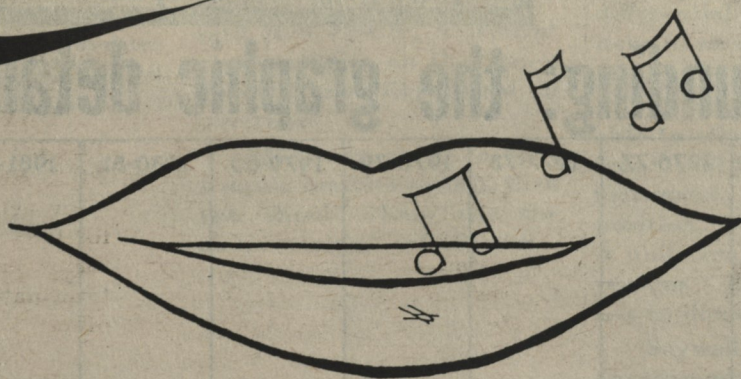
The plot of the play revolves around two tenants of a boarding house (Box and Cox) who, unknown to one another, have been renting the same room from landlady, Mrs Bouncer. The unravelling of this situation (with a few other complications thrown in for fun) creates an entertaining and humorous look a victorian boarding life.



This is the first production of the theatre society this year and will offer an opportunity for those numer-

ous “pit dwellers” to see what we (the Society) have been busy at this term. It will also be an opportunity for those who are interested in theatre to sign up for Laurel Smythe’s major production which will be staged next term. We will be looking for possible actors, actresses, and production staff so don’t think we are going to force you onto the stage. We have a place for anyone interested!

There will be two stagings of “Box and Cox” – one at 12:00 p.m. and one at 1:00 p.m. so that you can squeeze in a showing between classes. Much work has been put into this show (and much is still going on) so we hope you will enjoy our efforts. See you there...



Contest

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 1987

\$150.00 in Prizes