

# The Gateway



Third year BFA drama students open season with an ambitious production.

DOUBLE p.10

## Big Japanese drug deal

by John Putter

World leadership in pharmaceuticals may result for Alberta due to an unprecedented research and development deal.

Taiho Pharmaceuticals of Japan, SynPhar Laboratories of Edmonton, and the U of A have established the first ever links between a Japanese pharmaceutical firm and a Canadian company to "provide the world health community new research in specialized drugs."

Dr. R. Micetich, President and CEO of SynPhar, and also an adjunct professor of Pharmacy at the U of A, said that the research will be "unique in scope."

Taiho Pharmaceuticals of Japan has also set up an Alberta subsidiary, Taiho Alberta, which will

market products to all of North America from Alberta.

The 26 scientists and support staff from the U of A and Japan have established "priority areas of research, including the development of anti-viral drugs, anti-cancer agents, and anti-fungal agents," said Micetich.

SynPhar also plans to "produce and market their own products as phase two of the operation," said Micetich.

Dr. J.A. Bachynsky, Dean of Pharmacy at the U of A, adds that the research and technology involved "will contribute to Alberta becoming a more diversified economy" and "will provide high tech positions for U of A graduates with advanced education."

SynPhar, the first pharmaceutical research and development company in Western Canada, will be provided with funding by Taiho Alberta in order to conduct this innovative research.

Also as part of the SynPhar agreement, signed between Taiho, Synphar, and the U of A, the University of Alberta Taiho Endowed Research Fund has also been established.

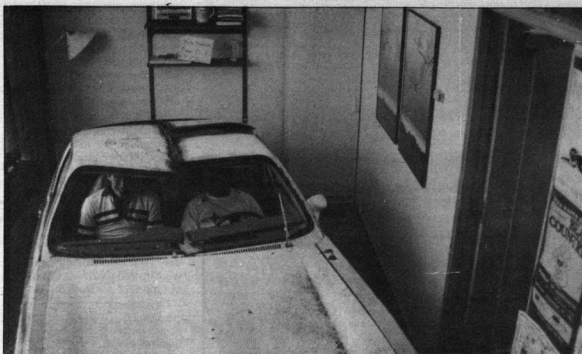
The endowed fund received \$150,000 under the agreement and expects an additional \$300,000 in matching grants from the Alberta Government.

The fund is "designed to strengthen collaborative scientific research efforts between the universities of Japan and the University of Alberta," said Micetich.

"A strong relationship based on trust is necessary for working with the Japanese," according to Bachynsky, who attributes the entire Taiho deal to Micetich.

Prior to the formation of the SynPhar joint venture Micetich had been involved with Taiho pharmaceuticals for ten years as a research partner of Taiho in the Faculty of Pharmacy.

"The major reason Taiho decided to invest in Alberta was because of the work I had done with them while at the University of Alberta," said Micetich.



Rick Stedman (driver) parks his car in SU President Tim Boston's office.

Photo Dragos Ruiu

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McGill University officials approved a research contract linked to controversial fuel-air explosives.

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Canadian Auto Workers president Bob White talks about *Life on the Line*

**FOLK MUSIC — p.11**

The Oyster Band find inspiration when a village council builds an outside toilet on a nuclear bomb shelter.

**FOOTBALL — p.13**

UBC defeated the Alberta Golden Bears 26-8 to win the WFL final Saturday.

## U of A appeals court case

by Yvonne Perry

The provincial court decision striking down mandatory retirement for U of A Professors will be appealed to a higher court.

The U of A Board of Governors decided Friday to appeal the court decision of October 24th which found that the U of A discriminated against History professor O.P. Dickason when it tried to enforce her retirement at age 65.

"I'm disappointed," said Dickason. "The University is on the cutting edge of the intellectual world, you would suppose it would also be on the cutting edge of human rights."

The Human Rights Commission, which has handled Dickason's case, will continue to handle the court challenge. "They've been absolutely marvelous, they're really going at it," said Dickason.

Dickason, who is 66, retained her position at the U of A under a special contract while the original case was before the courts.

"The matter is of such importance that we must have it decided by the

courts," said U of A President Myer Horowitz.

"We don't like it, our costs will increase," said Brian McDonald, U of A Associate VP for Academic Administration in reference to the court striking down mandatory retirement.

"The court decision will cost us between \$800 thousand and \$1 million a year," said McDonald, who based his prediction upon a U of A computer model of staff costs.

Because of the experience of the University of Manitoba, which also does not have mandatory retirement, McDonald expects that about two thirds of an academic staff who reach age 65 will decide not to

retire.

B.J. Busch, head of the Academic Staff Association at the U of A, had little reaction to the appeal. "We don't have a position on mandatory retirement," she said. "We favor a flexible retirement program."

The Academic Staff Association is also divided on mandatory retirement, said Busch. "Our members all have different positions, some feel they have made their contribution at age 55, some at age 70."

The Academic Staff Association had provided financial aid to Dickason's court challenge of mandatory retirement "to get the issue out in the open," said Busch.

## Creative math test

by Tony Yue

The Undergraduate Math Contest is not a test of mathematical skills; it is a test of creativity.

The Department of Mathematics will be holding its ninth annual Math Contest on Thursday, November 12, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in CAB 657. This contest is open only to regularly enrolled undergraduate students (including first year students).

Another contest, called the Freshman Math Contest, which is of a similar nature, will be held in January 1988. That is, however, open exclusively to first year students.

These math contests aim at promoting students' interest in math and exposing them to creative and lateral thinking.

In order to evaluate students' ingenuity and creativity, the contest will be in the form of a series of puzzle-like problems. Basic techniques in mathematical manipulations are expected.

In the contest, there will be five essay-type questions and students will be allowed three hours to write the test.

"From past experience, if one is able to answer two to three questions out of the five correctly, he would be considered highly talented," said Dr. J.R. Pounder, who

is in charge of this year's contest. Every year, around 10 students participate in the contest. Last year the three top-scoring students were awarded books on mathematics.

The winners of past contests were usually, but not necessarily, honor students because creativity does not directly correlate to one's academic performance. However, students who have written a similar math contest in high school may have an advantage over the others in having an earlier experience to lateral thinking.

"The Putnam also looks for creativity and ingenuity but the contest is more competitive," said Dr. A.C. Liu, the Associate Professor of Mathematics. "It's a great experience for participating students."

Students who are interested in entering the Undergraduate Math Contest on Thursday should submit their names to Dr. J.R. Pounder (CAB 669) beforehand. Further information and past exam papers can be found posted on the bulletin board of the elevator, 6th floor of CAB (west).

Democracy is the only form of government where the majority of people get what they deserve.

Mark Twain

## Students help with the law

by Sarah Dafoe and June Chua

Student Legal Services of Edmonton has become the largest independent legal service in Canada.

Run by law students, SLS was established in 1969 in response to the need for legal assistance by those who could not afford a lawyer, and to aid the growing number of people that the Legal Aid Society of Alberta could not help.

Approximately 200 law student volunteers are involved in the four major areas of concentration: criminal, civil, administrative and family law. Three advisory lawyers are also on staff to assist the students.

Common assault, mischief and impaired driving are examples of minor criminal offences which comprise 40 per cent of the SLS workload.

Information on civil law, landlord/tenant disputes, contracts, and administrative law is provided over

the phone. Welfare appeals, as well as family law, family violence and custody conflicts are also handled.

A law student may also be provided if a person has a fear of speaking in public, language difficulties, or wishes to represent himself in court.

"We can't give advice, we can only give information. They (clients) make up their own minds. People are pretty reasonable," said chairman Peter Michalyszyn, a third-year law student himself.

Despite SLS' name, university student cases and academic and disciplinary appeals constitute only one per cent of their files. Their service is aimed towards those in poorer communities.

Legal Aid often refers their summary convictions, such as shoplifting, to SLS, as it is unable to handle the large volume of such cases.

SLS handles about 1000 cases per year. It is staffed by first- and second-year law students. Michalyszyn noted the students "are trained well enough to handle a court or trial situation." This training includes "warm-up" sessions to acquaint each volunteer with the workings of the court system. As a result, SLS has become fairly successful, winning 50 per cent of the cases that do go to court.

SLS is not directly affiliated with the University of Alberta or the Law Faculty, but is funded mainly by the Alberta Law Foundation through a trust fund.

SLS maintains three offices in Edmonton: one downtown, one on Whyte Avenue, and one in the west end. However, these localities deal primarily with family law. Their main location is at 111 st. and 88 ave. in room 114 of the Law Centre, or call 432-2226.