

photo by Sandy Campbell

Glassblowing shop saves time and money

by Eugene Brody

Many departments of the university are in need of special equipment which is made out of glass. The need for such equipment could be one of the contributing factors which make university research expensive.

To save time and money special equipment is manufactured through the work of the glass-blowing shop operated by U of A Technical Services. It provides a variety of supplementary services for five departments.

In the shop, Peter Lea and Murray Connors create the glass equipment necessary for the five departments.

They create a wide variety of material.

For example, articles necessary for a graduate student studying the respiration rates of crabs eggs; and work on a large, complicated laser may both be on a day's agenda.

In short, this office is an array of glass tubing, flasks, and bluish flames complementing equipment necessary for the process.

Mr. Lea stated that it was very difficult to find skilled people with the necessary qualifications. The personnel of this office work directly with the departments requiring their services.

If the project is a complicated one, these men

often have a hand in the final design of the article, helping the researcher modify equipment with their experience and expertise.

When a piece of apparatus is in the process of being made, it evolves from various tubings and glass sizes, taking shape as the glass-blower works.

Mr. Lea demonstrated how glass was blown. He took a long piece of glass tubing, attached a thin rubber hose similar to the kind used for taking blood samples, to one end, and applied enough heat to one section of the tubing so that when he blew through the tubing, a tiny 'bubble' raised in the area.

Then he pricked it, the

bubble burst and a rough edge remained.

This is but an elementary step towards making such things as wine flasks, spouted pitchers, and glass handles for Venetian vases.

In 1967 the glass-blowers manufactured vases to the exact Venetian design for the studio theatre production, *Volpone*.

It also made glass items for *The Glass Menagerie* which was produced about a year later.

Thus as one can see, for the glassblowers it is interesting and challenging work. For the university it is a valuable service.

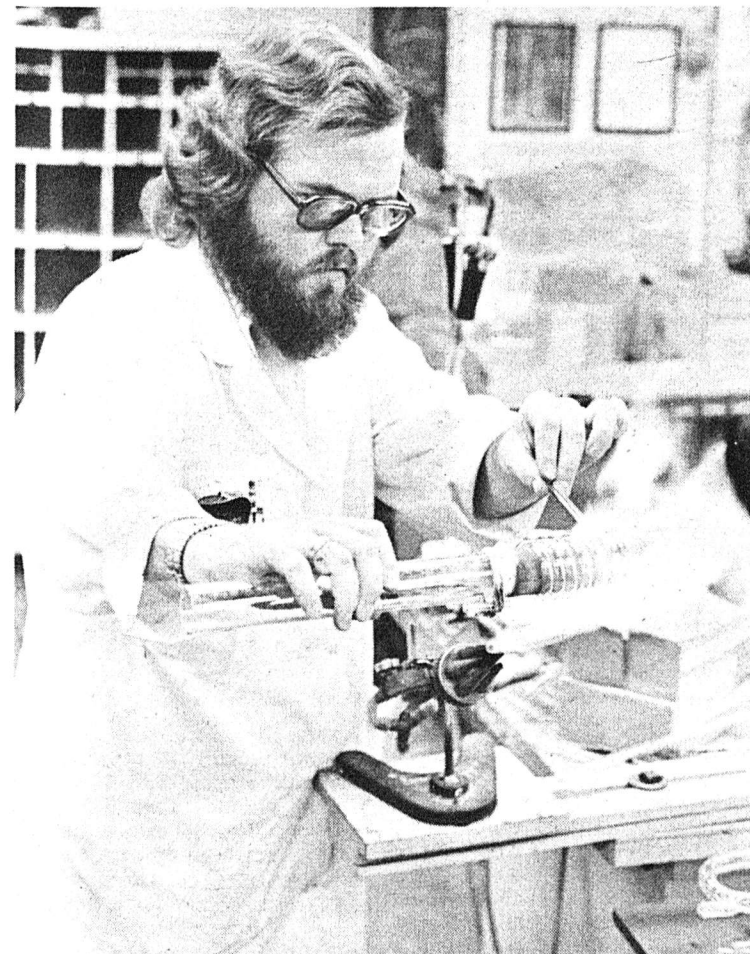


photo by Sandy Campbell

Solar heating bill reaches Congress

(EARTH NEWS) — Hearings in the House of Representatives will begin this week on a bill that could make solar heating in the U.S. a widespread reality for both homes and commercial buildings within ten years. The bill, introduced by Representative Mike McCormack

Americans are 'energy pigs'

(EARTH NEWS) — Former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall has called Americans "energy pigs," who must change their habits and prepare for the end of the era of cheap energy.

The former cabinet member told an audience at the University of Virginia that it is foolish to depend on the hope of more Arab oil to restore America's energy resources. But he differed with President Nixon's energy proposals by saying that increased domestic drilling would be an equally foolish answer to energy problems.

Mr. Udall predicted "cold showers in about 60 days," and the possibility of gas rationing in a few months. He said gasoline prices may reach \$1-a-gallon within a year.

of Washington, is expected to be ready for House approval by the next Congressional session, and its chances for passing are seen as excellent.

Under the bill, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will be directed to establish performance criteria for solar heating systems for private homes, and to set up a system of open competition for designing such systems. Within three years of the bill's passage,

the various systems submitted for approval will be installed in at least 2,000 private homes where their performance will be monitored.

Also, the legislation authorizes the National Science Foundation to assist private the Environmental Education Group said that if immediate funding were available, the new energy source could be operable by 1980, using conventional technology.

More Morgentaler

One week ago today Dr. Henry Morgentaler was found not guilty of performing an illegal abortion. Morgentaler had been brought to trial after police raided his Montreal clinic in August.

Morgentaler has been performing abortions for a number of years and is an outspoken advocate of a woman's right to choose in this matter.

However, her testimony aided in the Morgentaler defense. She told the jury of "men and one woman why she sought an abortion and the lack of help available from Montreal hospitals. She was finally referred by hospital personnel to Morgentaler's clinic.

Morgentaler's defense rested on a surprise move. He used Section 45 of the Criminal Code which, in essence, states that everyone is protected from criminal responsibility for performing a surgical operation if:

a). it is performed with reasonable care and skill

b). if it is reasonable to perform the operation having regard to the state of health of the person and all other circumstances.

In accepting this line of defence it appears the jury recognized two important factors. One, that abortion is a matter between a woman and her doctor. And two, that the laws and procedures as they now stand are too restricting on women.

What needs to be done now is removing medical abortion from the criminal code.

Chairwoman of the Toronto Morgentaler Defense Committee, Anna Cushman, will be on campus. She will be in Rm 142, SUB at 8 p.m. Thursday and 12 Friday. She is travelling across Canada to coordinate support for Dr. Morgentaler during the appeal of his case, and to bring pressure on the government to have the present law abolished.

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