LAMP tries to identify disease

by Greg Halinda

William lost his way while returning home from work last night. This was not the first time. Though he has driven the same route for the last 18 years, William finds he is losing his way more frequently as the years go by. Unknown to him or his family, William, age 62, has Alzheimer's disease.

Unless he receives the correct psychological help, William's condition will only get worse. Tragically, today there is no method of detecting Alzheimer's disease in its early stages.

The fictitious account of the Alzheimer victim given above will become relevant to more and more Canadians as they reach golden age. A conservative estimate predicts 15 per cent of Canadians over the age of 65 will develop senile dementia of some degree. Onethird of these cases will be severe. One half will be Alzheimer's disease.

Two U of A psychologists are contributing to the fight against Alzheimer's disease. Allen Dobbs and Brendan Rule are conducting LAMP — Lifespan Adult Memory Project, a 5-year project begun last April. Through LAMP, Dobbs and Rule will attempt to identify Alzheimer victims in the early stages of their disease.

Symptoms of Alzheimer's include speech irregularities and a progressive loss of certain types of memory. However, other dementia include these symptoms 20.

"Currently Alzheimer's disease can only be diagnosed by exclusion"

Since neither a cause nor a cure of Alzheimer's is known, researchers are busy trying to distinguish the disease in its early stages from dementia of other kinds.

"Currently, Alzheimer's disease can only be diagnosed by exclusion," says Dobbs. "Exclusion," he says, "of conditions like depression or brain tumors," which can result in demented behaviour.

'The real diagnosis comes after they die and we take a look at their brain." It is the pathological examination of damaged brain tissue that confirms or denies Alzheimer's disease. Hopefully, if LAMP succeeds, this will change.

Dobbs and Rule are seeking the answers to this question - What differentiates a person with normal mental aging from an Alzheimer victim in the early days of his

disease? LAMP will follow three groups of volunteers derived from a sample of about 550 adults aged 30-99. Included are 50 people diagnosed as having Alzheimer disease, 120 who are at risk to developing the disease, and about 400 others not

fitting these two categories.

The "at risk" group is of special interest. According to Dobbs, this group contains people over 65 years who are showing declines in cognitive ability. Comparing those of the group displaying dementia charac-teristic of Alzheimer's with those who do not, Dobbs and Rule hope to discover signs warning of the onset of serious dementia.

The volunteers will be tested for several types of cognition memory, comprehension, spatial orientation, ability to verbalize, categorize, and follow directions, among others. These tests should also help clarify what "normal" mental aging is, a very important yet elusive category against which dementia must be compared.

The ultimate goal of LAMP? Not a cure, but therapy to help the Alzheimer victim survive in society. Damaged memory cannot be revived, but "we can teach the patient to use what they still have more effectively," says Dobbs. The key is getting to the patient before it's too LSAT

GMAT

(Law School **Admission Test)** (Graduate Management **Admission Test)**

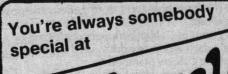
Accepting registrations now for LSAT & GMAT weekend test preparation classes.

Sexton. Educational Centers

CALL CALGARY

278-6070 8 am - 10 pm

University of Calgary



Angelo's **ANGELOS**

Has No Pizza OVER

439-1331

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK

Present your U of A Student or Staff ID **Card for Special** Pizza Prices. Come in and ask for Blue Menu

M-F 8 am - 11 pm

More Dean Bour

continued from page 1

their end of the responsibility and attend, something that is not always done. "Students are invited to the meetings, but they are seldom seen. The staff does not have the time or the resources to hunt them down.'

Bour says that because of the small size of FSJ (less than 400 students) student input is needed more than other larger faculties.

Bour also is convinced that the present student apathy is only a phase. "In the 1960s I participated in committees where there was a lot of student activism. This has calmed down in recent years. In those times students were much more socially aware, but now with the bad economic situation they're much more concerned with getting jobs."

"I have always believed that education must be based on a moral philosophy, that it must better the individual, and that with education comes responsibilities. People who get educations are getting a social privilege, and when you get something from a society (like an education) you owe that society something in return. Students should remember this. They have intellectual advantages that others don't have, and they have a responsibility to transfer some of that learning back to society in general."

"There is a moral contract that comes with being a student," says

"There are no absolutes in education. There are lots of philosophies, and our system of education is based on a certain sense of democratic participation and com-

promise.But to express one's thoughts doesn't mean imposing them on others or thinking that we have the absolute truth," said Bour. "There is no room in university for intolerance, intellectual terrorism,

or inertia."



STUDENT UNION GENERAL **ELECTION**

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President

VP Internal Affairs

VP Academic

VP Finance & Administration

VP External Affairs

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC BOARD (UAB)

President Men's Athletics

President Women's Athletics

VP Men's Athletics VP Women's Athletics

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1 Student representative

CLOSING OF NOMINATIONS:

1700 hr. Tuesday, February 25, 1986

ELECTIONS

Thursday & Friday March 13, 14 1986 Advance Poll — Wednesday march 12 1986.

For further information, please contact Paul Pallister Chief Returning Officer 234 SUB or the Receptionist. SU Executive Offices 259 SUB.





Sat-Sun 5 pm - 11 pm **MIDTERM**

BLUES

Are midterms arriving too quickly? Student help offers an extensive tutor file. If you need assistance, either call or drop in at the office.

All information is kept confidential room 250 SUB 432-4266



Happy Hour 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm (daily) \$1.50 prices on selected drinks Dancing till 2:00 am

> Birthday parties?

You Bet!

We'll supply the Cake

Monday - Ladies Night Tuesday — Look Alike Contest Wednesday — Lip Sync **GRAND PRIZE:** Trip for 2 to Las Vegas