

Habits harmful, not preservatives

by Karen Kebarle

People in Canada are overly paranoid about food additives according to Dr. Alec Morrison.

Morrison, assistant deputy of Health for Health and Welfare Canada, was speaking on campus Monday night.

Although "we must be incessantly vigilant," the additives used in Canada are safe and we are not in danger from them, Morrison said.

An exhaustive amount of research must take place before new additives are put on the market, Morrison said. Often this

expense inhibits the discovery of new and safer additives.

However, there are problems associated with using animals for research because they are so unlike man.

Morrison used the example of the thalidomide tragedy, where the drug produced no harmful effects in rats but invariably caused tragic problems in humans.

Such a tragedy could occur again, Morrison warned.

In spite of these problems with additives, Morrison stressed they are beneficial to us.

For example, although the nitrites used to preserve meats are carcinogenic, they protect the consumer from botulism, said Morrison.

Peoples' ideas of food are clouded by romanticism about the good old days before chemicals. They think the natural foods our ancestors consumed were better and healthier than the additive-filled foods we ingest today, according to Morrison.

Our food is of better quality than before, said Morrison. He said food such as natural potato chips



No, this doesn't mean you should eat potato chips.

are gimmicks released by an industry playing on the consumers' ideas that additive-free foods are best for us.

The reason we now can eat foods from all over the world at all seasons is preservatives, said Morrison.

According to Morrison the real problem is the bad eating habits of Canadians in general, especially our love for processed con-

venience foods.

An informed public would solve many of the problems, he said. Education about food should start early in the school system.

Monday's seminar was an attempt by the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology to educate the public. Morrison said he feels the government must work harder in this area than it has in the past.

Can't handle hydrazine?

WINNIPEG (CUP) — The University of Manitoba chemistry department should test the air velocity inside their fumehoods before experiments with the cancer-causing chemical hydrazine take place, say Ivan Sabesky and John Elias of the Manitoba Workplace Health and Safety Department.

Experiments by students involving hydrazine are slated for the Chemistry Building in the first week in December.

Fumehoods are work areas where fumes are drawn away from the area and funnelled to the outdoors.

Tests have shown, Sabesky said, that inhaling or skin contact with hydrazine can cause cancer.

"A lot of the fumehoods built during the period when the Chemistry Building fumehoods were built (early 1960's) have been found to be unacceptable," said Elias, head of Industrial Hygiene for the province.

"We won't know if the Chemistry Building fumehoods are acceptable until they are tested," Elias said.

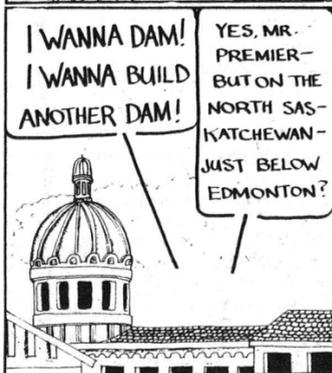
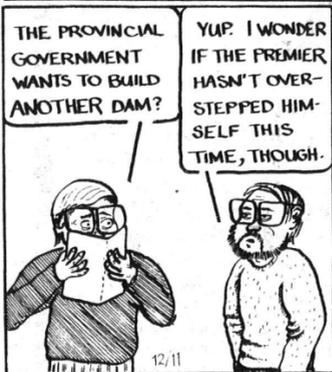
Dr. Brian Henry, head of the chemistry department, would not comment to the *Manitoban*, the student newspaper on campus, about the fumehoods. He would not say when they were last tested and if, when tested, they met government safety standards.

The 100 fumehoods in the Chemistry Building are not tested regularly, said Dr. E. Bock of the Chemistry department.

"It is very difficult, without regular testing, to determine if the fumehoods are working properly by just looking at them. The university should check the fumehoods at least once a month," he said.

Bock said he did not know when the fumehoods were last tested.

Baz by Skeet



U of A enters encyclopedia biz

by Nina Miller

If your prof knocks on your door one evening don't be alarmed. He might just be trying to sell you an encyclopedia.

The New Canadian Publishing Company will be writing a Canadian encyclopedia on campus over the next five years.

The Board of Governors Friday approved an agreement allowing the encyclopedia staff to use university resources such as computers, libraries and building space. In exchange, the university will get a share of the profits made by Hurtig publishers as well as an annual negotiable sum of money.

However, the prime motivation in signing the agreement was not financial, said Dave Norwood, executive assistant to VP Finance and Administration Lorne Leitch, Monday. The university will probably just break even on the deal.

The U of A will gain considerable prestige, though, by publishing an encyclopedia on campus.

In fact, the encyclopedia is being written at the U of A because the Alberta government is sponsoring it, according to editor-in-chief James Marsh.

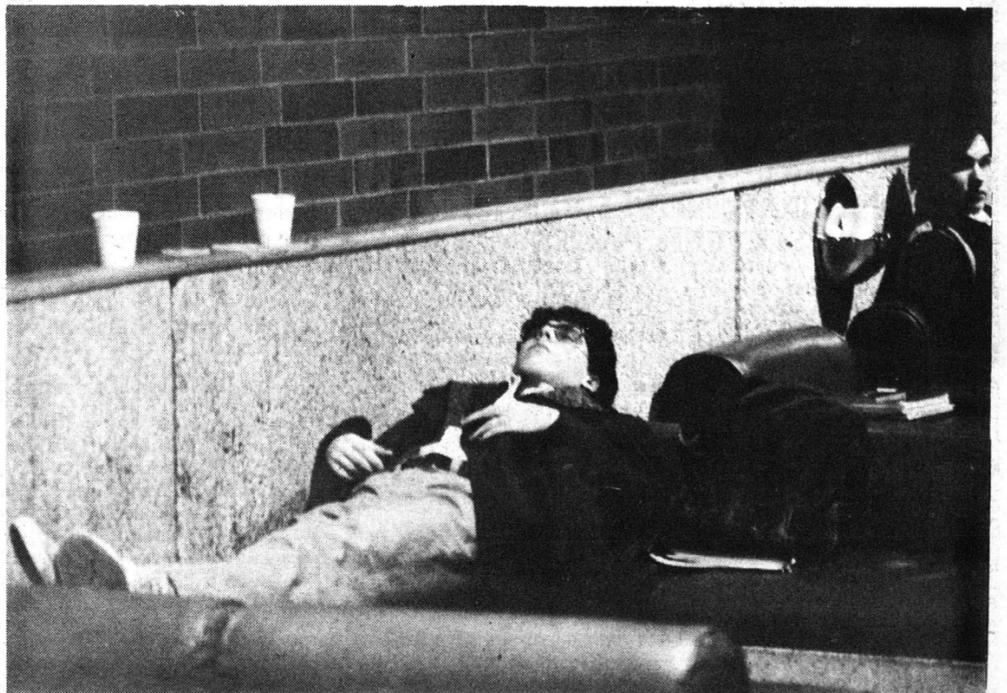
The encyclopedia is the major project of the Alberta Government's 75th anniversary celebration, said Frank McGuire, vice-president of New Canadian Publishing.

The Alberta government will give the encyclopedia as a gift to every high school and university

library in the country and every diplomatic corps in the world, said McGuire.

Included in the agreement is the opportunity for academic staff to contribute to the encyclopedia in their field of expertise.

Publication is scheduled for the spring of 1985 and the encyclopedia is expected to be about 2,000 pages long.



Get up, you lazy ass! Myron Sembaluk takes a rest from his grueling second year arts schedule. The skeptic on the right must be an engineer.

Poetry gets a boost

by Geoff McMaster

Three professors in the U of A's English department have decided to start their own non-profit publishing business dedicated to the exclusive publication of poetry.

The Longspoon Press, as it is called, has been established mainly because no major publishing house in western Canada likes to handle poetry. There is no market for it, so it is considered not worth the expense.

"Hurtig, for example, won't touch poetry," says Shirley Neuman, one of the editors of



Longspoon, "and NeWest will only publish one book of poetry a year.

In order to fill this void, and also to give new, aspiring writers an opportunity to establish themselves, Longspoon will publish four books of poetry per year, all to be released at the same time.

Although Longspoon will not restrict itself to western poetry, says Neuman, "naturally we will be biased to the west. There is a thriving community of narratively sophisticated poets in Alberta." The press will, however, try to feature at least one new poet and one woman poet in every series.

The first series, consisting of four books, is ready to go to print and will be released in the second week of December. They are: *Where Have You Been*, by Miriam Mandel, and the works of three poets who have never before published: *Voice Storm*, by Ray-

mond Gariepy, *The Inanna Poems*, by Karen Lawrence, and *Echo and Montano*, by J.O. Thompson. The latter "is probably one of the best poets in the country," says Neuman.

The books are available at a price of \$20 for the series, or \$7.50 each, which is, Neuman says, "pretty close to cost".

The capital for the project has come mainly from the Amil Sharin Fund, a university fund that supplies grants for projects of this kind, as well as from individual donors. The money for future series will come from subscriptions. Neuman says Longspoon is also hoping to get donations from some private corporations.

Anyone interested in purchasing one or all of the books can do so through the Department of English. Since they are available on a subscription basis, orders can also be placed through the mail.

photo Bill Ingles