

## Radiation use on campus

by T. Mehra

There are over 400 uses for radioactive material on campus, but that's not a safety problem, says Dr. A. A. Noujaim, Chairman of the U of A's radiation committee.

The U of A has established a safety committee for radiation, said Noujaim. This committee enforces the rules and regulations of the Atomic Energy Control Act of Canada and the Alberta Radiation Protection Act.

The U of A radiation control committee has two basic functions, said Noujaim: firstly to licence radioactive uses on campus, and secondly to monitor the safe and proper use of radioactive materials on campus.

The U of A operates under a consolidated institutional licence which allows the university to regulate, but also makes them responsible for, all radioactive users on campus.

The U of A is the first university in Canada to establish a code of practice for radioactive materials, said Noujaim. The federal government was so impressed with the U of A code that they "took significant portions of the code and ask other universities to follow suit."

Radioactivity is everywhere we live, but at very low levels, in fact the human body contains several radioactive elements, said Noujaim.

Short exposures of radiation cause little damage to the body, and that which does occur is easily tolerated said Noujaim. "Safety is compromised" when there is exposure to intense radiation or prolonged exposure to radioactive materials, said Noujaim.

U of A regulations limit the amount of radiation that can be kept on hand at any time. In addition, guidelines exist for storage and handling. For example

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intensely radioactive materials must be stored in lead shielding which absorbs radiation.

After the radioactive material is used the waste is disposed of differently according to how dangerous it is. Compounds which

pose no danger are disposed of in normal refuse. Low to moderately radioactive materials, or those which are toxic, are stored in a specially built building in Ellerslie, Alberta. Intensely radioactive materials are packaged and shipped to a special government facility at Chalkriver, Ontario.

"People are the key to safety," said Noujaim. For this reason the Radiation control committee requires all handlers of radioactive materials (such as graduate students and technicians) to take a seven day radiation safety course.

"It is important to train the actual users of radiation," said Noujaim.

Radioactive materials are used in chemistry, biology, pharmacology, engineering, biochemistry, medicine, and cancer diagnosis and therapy at the U of A.

A major use is for "tracers" which taken advantage of the easily detected nature of radiation.

The ability to detect a radioactive substance is frequently used to trace substances in a chemical reaction, or even find a clogged drain in a complex network of plumbing," said Noujaim.

Compounds containing radioactive types of the chemical elements indium, technetium or iodine are often used in cancer treatment said Noujaim.

## Free telethon

Want to listen to Glen Campbell, Debby Boone, or Rusty Reed live this weekend for free? Well you can at the Lions Club telethon to be held in SUB Theatre Saturday and Sunday.

Organizer Dr. Stan Kucey says that all students are welcome to attend. "It would make it more pleasant for the entertainers if

there's a full house."

The Lions Club hopes to raise one million dollars between 9 pm Saturday, and 6 pm Sunday. All proceeds will be donated to the Institute of Family Violence.

Students wishing to volunteer to help with preparations should contact Dr. Kucey: hm 468-7270 or wk 435-8383.

## GSA poster worth \$200

by Gateway staff

A poster design, depicting the contribution made to research by graduate students, could win a staff member or student a \$200 cash prize.

The poster competition is sponsored by the Graduate Students Association (GSA) to publicize their Fourth Annual Graduate Research Symposium. The symposium will provide a public forum

for graduate students to present their research projects.

The winning poster will serve as the official poster of the symposium. The contest is open to all students and staff at the U of A. Deadline for entries is December 16, 1987.

For more details, and to look at previous posters, drop by the GSA office, in the North Power Plant.

## Safe sex censored

by Francesca Lo-Dico  
Reprinted from *The Link*  
Montreal

An article on safe sex that appeared in Concordia University's student handbook has been dubbed obscene by some staff and students.

The article, published in Concordia's student association *Handbook '87*, informs students about condoms and sexually transmitted diseases. The article states anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom might lead to AIDS, and suggests body rubbing and mutual masturbation as examples of safe sex.

A biology department secretary, Laurena Cacciatore, started a petition against the article, asking Rector Patrick Kenniff to make sure "an article of this nature does not reappear in any Concordia information booklet."

Cacciatore said the article should be reviewed and the university should have had "this thing censored."

"One can even go as far as saying that such material would usually be sold in 'adult' stores only," Cacciatore wrote in the petition letter sent to the Rector. "In our opinion,

it is obscene. It is a direct insult to what Concordia represents as an educational institution here and abroad."

Handbook editor George Kalogerakis said there is nothing obscene or offensive about the article, adding that its purpose is to address the serious problem of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"Some people say it's too disgusting, but people read it and that's what's important. It's got to be read," said Kalogerakis.

The university administration has refused to give in to the calls for censorship and says it condones the information in the article. "The article raises a lot of issues and we're fully supportive of the approach in *Handbook '87*," said the Rector's executive assistant Catherine MacKenzie.

The handbook "seeks to give precise information of sexual practices that reduce the possibility of contracting AIDS," said MacKenzie. "However uncomfortable it may make its readers, its intent is constructive and one can only hope that its impact will be positive."



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