



Centre plans week despite SU cuts

by Ann Grever

Women's Awareness Week (March 4-8) is on, despite many problems with the Students' Union. Funding problems caused the

most serious delays. Last year Students' Union sponsored Women's Awareness Week for \$1100, according to Sue Melychuk, a representative from the Women's Centre, the organization that plans the week's events. This year, the Centre applied for the same amount but were refused and offered only \$400. According to Melychuk, that amount would have "covered the costs of posters."

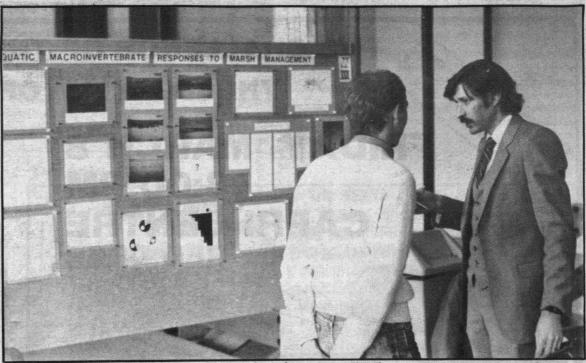
With successive appeals, the Women's Centre managed to raise the figure to \$950, having given a letter to the Students' Union absolving this year's centre of any responsibility for last year's financial difficulties. According to Paul Alpern, VP External, the Women's Centre is unique because of the different and separate events they run which are funded individually. "It would make more sense if the events were tentatively planned," said Alpern, "and if the Centre came forth with a global application for funding at the beginning of the year." According to Alpern the amount of money given to the Women's Centre last year of \$910 for Women's Awareness Week and \$1069 (on this year's budget for general operations. Besides giving the Centre \$950 for the week, the SU has granted \$300 for a women's centre project (the Women's Directory). No application for general operations was made. These difficulties were unfortunate because the goal of the Women's Centre according to Karen Hurley, is to generate a more

positive atmosphere.

The purpose of the week is to "discuss issues as yet unresolved," and to create a general awareness of those issues," said Hurley.

According to Hurley, the week got "mixed reviews" from Students' Union. "We got some really positive support" said Hurley, but others "kind of laughed at us and patronized us. Nevertheless we are working very hard to get a positive relationship going with the Students' Union."

Melychuk said the Students' Union's attitude "demonstrates an obvious lack of concern for an awareness program" and "encourages an attitude prevalent throughout campus."



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The Grad Studies research symposium continues today and tomorrow at SUB Theatre.

GFC approves research guidelines

by Mark Olyan

On January 28, the General Faculties Council (GFC) approved a modified set of guidelines governing human research at the U of A.

According to Dr. Brendan Rule, Chairman, General Policy Committee on Human Research, "the guidelines are updated and lay out more clearly the restrictions (on research). We felt it was important that each investigator look at and scrutinize the ethical issues. Also, it is important to have everyone be aware of the issues."

Effective immediately, the new guidelines are a comprehensive update of a 1972 report by the Committee on Human Research.

The guidelines, based on Nuremburg Code, the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association and the Medical Research Council of Canada, are designed to assist in resolving dilemmas, but are not definitive rules.

Dr. Baha Abu-Laban, Associate VP Research said the new policy "articulates the ethical questions better and tells people the variety of issues involved in each one. Two years ago or more, different policy statements on research were brought to our attention—we concluded we should catch up with the conditions of the day."

There are five major guidelines on research at the U of A:

 All research experiments must be approved by an ethics committee as being safe, and having a significant increase in human welfare.

2) Participants must be informed

of any risks and must voluntarily consent to participation.

 All participants are guaranteed anonymity and confidentiality.
Investigators must be sufficiently

- knowledgeable about relevant literature, procedures and risks.
- Investigators must insure all individuals under his supervision have the skills to carry out their responsibilities.

The ethical guidelines in the new regulations are far more explicit than the 1973 provisions and cover a variety of issues.

For example, the use of prisoners in research experiments, the importance of confidentiality and anonymity, and the necessity of debriefing participants as to the aims of research, are all specifically detailed in the new policy. For Dr. Rule, the most notable change was in the creaton of appeal procedures in the event a Department Review Committee rejects a research proposal.

Photo Tim Kubash

"We now have the possibility of appeal," said Rule. "If you were turned down before, there was no appeal, but now you can appeal to the General Policy Committee on Human Research."

The General Policy Committee is a standing committee of the VP Research and consists of seven members from departments that conduct research.

Under the new guidelines, the Faculty of Medicine is considered non-departmentalized so it can maintain uniformity in reviewing experimentation involving hospital patients.