

# The Gateway



**U of A artistic icon Harry Wohlfarth combines serious science with excellent art.**  
p.7

## Blood screened for AIDS

by Wendy Joy

An aggressive screening policy has been implemented by the Red Cross in an effort to detect blood donors who may have the AIDS antibody in their blood.

The screening policy is necessary because the AIDS antibody test, done on every unit of blood given by donors, is not 100 percent effective.

Since screening began in 1985, no AIDS infected blood has passed through the donor system in Canada.

Anita Maclean is the Nursing

Manager for the campus Blood Transfusion Service Centre of the Canadian Red Cross. She notes that blood donor screening is not done just to detect AIDS; other diseases, such as hepatitis B, are also screened for. Incidence of hepatitis B is as high as that of AIDS, Maclean says.

The revised screening process shouldn't scare donors off. Donors have always been asked about their medical history; the screening process simply gets more information. The screening process involves twelve to fourteen questions asked of the potential donor. If the donor's answers indicate possible exposure to AIDS, more questions will be asked according to the situation.

There is also a confidential self-designation form. The donor must indicate whether his blood can be used for transfusion or for laboratory purposes only. If the donor has any reason to believe his blood is at risk, he is asked to designate his blood for use in a laboratory only.

The donor is also given information to read about AIDS. High-risk behaviour groups are identified, and the information given is up to date and myth-debunking.

If your blood is found to have the AIDS antibody, the Red Cross will contact you to find out the name of your doctor. It then becomes the doctor's responsibility to contact you.

Maclean notes that the number of donors affected by the screening policy jumped from approximately 8 percent to 11 percent when the new policy was first implemented.

This would indicate that three percent of blood donors are in high-risk behaviour groups for AIDS. However, the numbers have leveled off since 1985. Maclean estimates that now only one percent of donors are truly affected by the screening for AIDS.

Maclean also emphasizes that AIDS cannot be contracted by giving blood. The donation pack used is new, sterile, and discarded after your donation.

There is a blood donor clinic right on campus. The Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) Centre at 8249-114 Street has comfortable recliners, a friendly staff, and great cookies. If you're tired of giving blood at the mobile unit in CAB, the cookies and comfort at the BTS Centre make the short walk from the campus well worth it.



The Heritage Medical Research Building demonstrates new ways of looking at construction.

Photo: Keith Zuberko

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**VOLUNTEERS** — p.2  
The student volunteer program has become a vital component of Disabled Student Services.

**PAY EQUITY** — p.3  
If pay equity is only addressing the concerns of women, then it's not right.

**GLASS BLOWING** — p.3  
Peter Lea served a twelve year apprenticeship in glass blowing and now makes customized glass for the U of A.

**LETTERS** — p.4  
The U of A's flagrant attack on the elderly is preposterous.

**FILM** — p.8  
Nuts is a decent effort but by no means a brilliant film.

**BASKETBALL** — p.11  
The Bears and Pandas host the U of S this coming weekend. The Bears will have their hands full with the #1 ranked Huskies.

## Baha'is sentenced to die

by John Putters

The close relative of a U of A graduate student has recently been condemned to death in Iran for failing to recant his religion.

Mehran Tashakkor and sixteen other members of the Baha'i Faith religion are but the most recent of a growing number of Baha'is who have been imprisoned and eventually executed by the fundamentalist Islamic regime in Iran. According to Baha'i sources, more than 200 Baha'is have been executed in Iran since 1978.

With 300,000 members, the Baha'i Faith is the largest religious minority group in Iran. There are 4.6 million Baha'is world wide.

Zabi Behin, the brother-in-law of the condemned Tashakkor, is a graduate student in Civil Engineering and a member of the Association for Baha'i Studies (ABS) at the U of A. Behin said that he "prays to God that those in power in Iran will not inflict too much torture upon the Baha'is before their execution."

The Baha'is attribute the persecutions to the Islamic clergy in Iran who do not recognize the Baha'i Faith as a legitimate religion. The National Center for the Baha'

Community of Canada stated that "the fundamentalist clergy have taught that there can be no religion after Islam and that the Baha'i teachings such as the equality of men and women, universal education and respect for all religions represent a heresy" and that its followers are "unclean infidels."

Behin said that the Baha'is in Iran have been persecuted for their beliefs ever since the religion was founded in 1844, but "since the inception of the new Islamic regime, the persecutions have become more systematic."

According to Baha'i sources the persecutions include public beatings and dismembering believers, confiscation and the burning of Baha'i property, desecration of holy places and cemeteries as well as execution and torture.

The Iranian regime has been accusing the Baha'is of 'spying for Israel' and plotting to overthrow the revolutionary government. However, Behin points out that "every Baha' who had been executed or imprisoned had been given the opportunity to recant their religion and gain freedom" but to do so would destroy "their spiritual existence and religious faith."

He added that the charges brought against the Baha'is lack substance simply because the Baha'is do not participate in partisan politics nor are they allowed to engage in insidious activities. "If they were to do so then they would be excommunicated," he stated.

So far the persecutions of the Baha'is in Iran have served to generate global support for their religious community in Iran and has further strengthened Baha'i unity.

In 1983, the "martyrdom of a sixteen year old youth named Mona inspired and warmed the hearts of the global Baha'i community" said Stacey Aidon, a member of the ABS.

Amnesty International has recommended that telegrams, telexes, and air mail letters be sent to the government of Iran "requesting information about charges against these people, details of their trials, and whether they have been allowed to appeal." Amnesty also urges that "any death sentences against them be commuted, and that there be no further executions in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Behin stated that the Baha'is are appealing to the world community to save the lives of their 17 co-religionists. He hopes "as many students as possible at the U of A will



Mona — martyred for her religion

respond positively to Amnesty's call and will have courage in writing letters to the government of Iran to spare the prisoners." He said that the ABS is willing to provide the necessary information needed to send the letters.

Then kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill  
King Lear (V. vi. 187)

I wanna kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill!  
Arlo Guthrie  
Alice's Restaurant Massacre

A recent statement issued by

## Exam Registry computer bugs

by Dragos Ruiu

The Students' Union Exam Registry can't update their exam lists because of computer problems. "We can't enter any new exams into our list. We also can't remove some old exams that professors have asked to be pulled," said Registry staff.

The problem stems from a database program on the University's MTS system. "We think that the old program just doesn't work with the newly updated version of MTS," says Rick Steedman, V.P. Internal.

"It was written by a student

several years ago, and it's just kind of died," said Mark Seeman, Associate Director of the Registry. "We can probably survive until January without it, living with the holes in the list, but we're looking for solutions now."

One of the problems with the old program was that it was line oriented and "clunky," as well as inefficient and expensive to run. "MTS time is very expensive, and we could just as well be spending that money on a more lasting solution," said Steedman. MTS time costs a few dollars for every second

of computer time used.

The ideas being explored include obtaining a PC to be shared by the Exam Registry and the Housing Registry. "Updating the original program is a write off, it's long and confusing. Besides, we would need a solution that would last more than a couple of years," said Steedman.

Many exams like Phil 240 and Bugs 297 are available even though they aren't on the list. Students should ask our friendly staff behind the desk if they're wondering about an exam," said Seeman.