

Dr. Helen Caldicott speaks at U of A

No defence for nuclear attack

by Gilbert Bouchard

Dr. Helen Caldicott told a capacity crowd of 3000 people in the U of A's Butterdome Sunday night that "war is obsolete."

"America no longer has any conventional forces," said Caldicott, speaking at a forum sponsored by the U of A's Students' Union as part of the External Affairs Board Nuclear Awareness Week.

Caldicott explained that 80 per cent of America's naval fleet carries nuclear warheads and even the infantry carries backpack-sized nukes on manoeuvres. "Any war in the world holds the seed of a thermo-nuclear war."

Nicaragua for example, could easily develop into a nuclear confrontation. "This is the first time they are threatening to bomb a Russian ship," said Caldicott referring to Reagan's threats to a Russian freighter suspected of shipping Russian fighter planes to Nicaragua.

Reagan's behaviour in this situation is "insanity in the nuclear age," said Caldicott.

Caldicott is also worried about

the health of both President Reagan, and his Russian counterpart Konstantin Chernenko. "We have two old men ruling the world, both are in an age bracket where the likelihood of stroke is high."

Caldicott ventured as far as to suggest that both leaders have complete medical tests run every three months to determine if they are fit enough to remain in office.

The Australian-born physician also attacked NATO. "NATO is a mutual suicide pact with the United States. Canada should pull out of NATO."

Caldicott's prime objection with NATO is the illusion of defense it provides. "There is no defence for nuclear attack, all the bombs will land," said Caldicott.

America's obsession with missiles may have to do more with basic psychology that anything else, said Caldicott.

Caldicott added that missiles give men a perverse sense of power and virility. Her next book will be

continued on page 11



Photo Bruce Alton

Dr. Helen Caldicott spoke to a crowd of 3,000 Sunday at the Butterdome. Caldicott said President Reagan reminded her of Jim Jones and America is "following him towards the Kool-Aid vat."

Sex and sports are similar activities. Both are hot and sweaty...

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... and some people are paid for doing it.

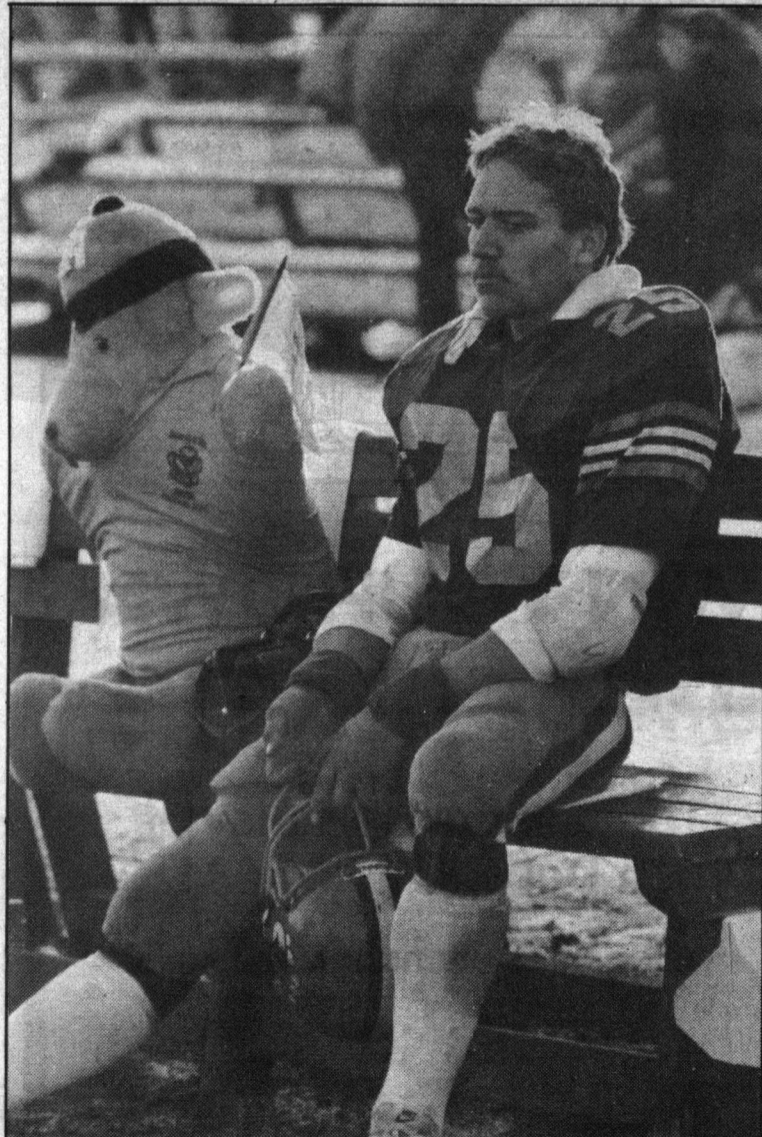


Photo Tim Kubash

Funtasz forlorn

The man they call "franchise" stars onto the Varsity field in dismay as the U of Calgary Dinosaurs wallop the No. 1 ranked Golden Bears. Bears rookie runningback Jeff Funtasz ponders a long off season after the Dinos squashed the Bears'

aspirations of reaching the Vanier Cup in Saturday's Western Intercollegiate Football League Final. The bears were hoping to pen another glorious chapter in a dream season that saw them compile a 7-1 record. Relive the nightmare on pages 15 and 16,

University faces lawsuit

by Suzette C. Chan

A former U of A fine arts student has filed a \$26,000 lawsuit against the university over allegations of asbestos exposure.

Kettle Shoemaker Ross claims a pipe in Art Workshop III in Athabasca Hall was covered with exposed asbestos.

In a written statement dated Nov. 9, Ross writes: "Unbeknownst to me, loose asbestos dust had crumbled off pipes around two heaters and this dust had fallen onto these heaters which were above my head."

Ross worked in the studio from 1983-84.

The asbestos has since been covered with tape.

Ross said she has not noticed direct physical effects of being exposed to the substance, but writes: "Someone should be responsible for putting me in this situation."

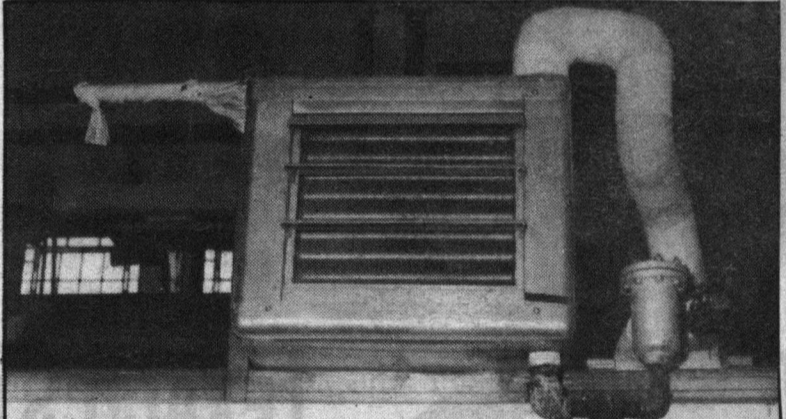
Asbestos had been widely used as insulation and was often installed around light fixtures.

As asbestos ages, fibres fall off and get into the air stream, attacking lung tissue. It can cause asbestiosis and cancer.

Francis Cookson, director of University Health Services, backs up Ross' claim that the dangers of asbestos are "ubiquitous."

"There is no doubt asbestos is very dangerous, but it's a tricky situation," Cookson said Tuesday. "It's complex; it depends on the type of asbestos — some types are more dangerous than others — it depends on the size of the particles, it depends on the concentration of the particles."

Contract Supervisor Hans Weidner said yesterday that his department is responsive to concerns about asbestos on campus, but feels



One of the heaters in Art Workshop 3 suspected of blowing asbestos into the airstream.

it has dealt with Ross' complaint satisfactorily.

"There is a long story behind this," he said. "Upon hearing in mid-summer there was a concern, we did some repair work. We took a monitory unit which detects fibres

in the air." Weidner indicated there was no evidence of asbestos fibres in the air.

Other university officials could not be reached for comment about the lawsuit.

Donaldson elected

by Suzette C. Chan

Former U of A student union vice-president Barb Donaldson is the new chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Donaldson was elected by a landslide after one ballot at a CFS general meeting in Ottawa last weekend.

About 100 delegates attended, including a contingent from the U of A.

Donaldson will take office after current CFS chair Beth Olley completes her one-year term in 1985.

Donaldson has been active in U of A student politics and student organizations.

She served as a student council rep. before she was elected SU VP Academic for the 1983-84 term, but

lost a bid last year for a Board of Governors position.

She was part of the pro-CFS referendum campaign and became the CFS-Alberta central committee rep. after U of A students voted to join the national lobby group.

With former SU president Robert Greenhill, Donaldson won the McGowan Cup for western Canadian debaters earlier this year.

Reports from Ottawa say Donaldson has promised to improve communication between CFS member institutions and focus more on CFS membership and awareness campaigns.

Her election is somewhat ironic since her home university faces a new CFS membership referendum in February.