

Peace cannot be kept by force.

# The Gateway

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It can only be achieved by understanding.  
-Albert Einstein

## Medina clarifies the role of media

by Lutful Kabir Khan

"All you can report upon is NOW — on what you see, what you hear and what you touch," said Ann Medina, CBC foreign correspondent, "If you play God — think you can read in a crystal ball what's going to happen tomorrow . . . tomorrow gets blown up in your face."

Medina was speaking before a large gathering in SUB Theatre on *The Role of Media in International Politics*.

According to Medina, a reporter's primary objective is to report, not to 'go out and crusade, not to save lives, not to mould peoples opinions'.

"There is no such thing as pure objectivity . . . but there's still something in our guts that can distinguish between what is more objective or less objective, more subjective or less subjective."

It is very important for a reporter not to have a pre-conceived notion on what she is going to write "like a tourist who has all the details planned out even before boarding

the plane'; a true reporter has to be ready for the unexpected, the contrary.

"Everyone was saying the people of Syria hated Assad," Medina said, "but I went there and found out it was his brother, the head of internal security, that the people hated; they love Assad." Reporters should go looking for a story. They don't know what they are going to find.

Reporters should not be considering what effect their stories are going to have on millions of viewers or readers.

"Aid is being abused in Africa; should we keep from reporting it just because there might be less aid and more people would die?" she said, "Our job is to report the facts . . . maybe that will change government attitude and the abuse of aid."

"The Israelis were trying to justify their raids by publicising the suicide bombings by the Shiite extremists in Lebanon," said Medina, "I went to Tyre . . . talked to the people . . . they were just regular people. The Israeli's have done



photo by Kabir Khan

something to the whole Shiite that prompted them to do these. But the Israelis wanted us to believe they were extremists only to justify

what they were doing." "President Reagan did the same thing about Gaddafi," she noted, "It is tragic that the media was

accepting what Reagan was claiming as true faith."

"A reporter's job is to find out if something is true or false and to report it to the people," Medina said, "I am as much worried about the government controlling us as I am about terrorists controlling us."

Medina discussed the Vietnam war and its coverage by the Media. "Maybe the coverage stopped the war," she said, "but we should not weigh the consequences of our reporting and self-censor the reports."

"If people die in Africa, I am very sorry. I cry at night thinking that my report contributed to that, but it is better for me to report than to hold back information," Medina said.

"99 per cent of the time that is our duty but there still is that 1 per cent cases where you have to decide yourself, if there is the immediate danger . . . in Iran for example, I would not have broken the news at that point jeopardizing the release of the two hostages," she said, referring to the recent U.S.-Iran arms deal fiasco.

## Baha'is present books to university

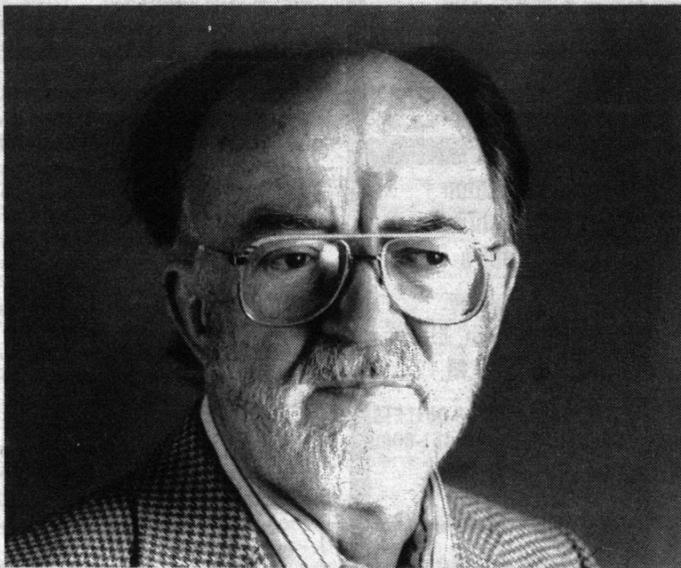
by Greg Halinda

Starting next week the Association for Baha'i Studies (ABS) will begin presentations of a Baha'i statement on peace to 25 dignitaries on the U of A campus. Baha'is is a faith with a liberal theology, and one without clergy.

The statement is in the form of a book titled *To the Peoples of the World*, whose publication coincides with the International Year of Peace.

Students from ABS will be making individual presentations of the book to persons such as university President Myer Horowitz, the deans of the faculties and university Chancellor Teuie Miller. ABS wants to make 100 such presentations starting next Monday

Dr. Glen Eyford, a professor in the Faculty of Education, is a member of the Baha'i national assembly. He realizes the word "Peace" is one with many implications, and getting persons to read another statement on the topic can



be difficult.

"We hope to get them to read it

by giving them the courtesy of a visit," said Eyford.

"I suppose the most common criticism is 'it's very idealistic'. (The book) is not a partisan or religious tract. It's a general statement about the condition of mankind," he added.

The book imparts the idea that the human race is now just culminating its "adolescence". The barriers to peace are a symptom of this adolescence, and take the forms of racism, religious strife, extremes of wealth and poverty, inequality of the sexes, and "unbridled nationalism".

As a result of the evolving human condition, "World peace is not only possible but inevitable."

The book also comments on religious apathy that has "gripped the mass of the peoples of all nations." This is a sign of spiritual damage which must be healed to enable the peace objective to be followed.

"I think most students have a nice, warm feeling of peace, but they think there's a political solution to it," said Eyford.

Baha'is think that if we don't abandon our religions, if we understand that spiritually we are all identical be we Christian, Muslim, Jewish, or Buddhist, we would build or that common ground to a peaceful coexistence, a "central unity of mankind."

*To the Peoples of the World* lists these prerequisites for peace:

- equality of the sexes
- universal education
- improved global communication
- oneness of mankind

"Banning nuclear weapons, prohibiting the use of poison gases, or outlawing germ warfare will not remove the root causes of war," it says.

## Gainer's petition served

by John Watson

A band of about 15 rallyers carried a 20 foot-long petition to the office of U of A president Myer Horowitz yesterday.

Containing about 500 signatures, the petition demanded the university cease buying Gainers meat products.

University-run Housing and Food Services (HFS) is purchasing meat products from the strike-bound plant.

The campus New Democrat club organized the petition. They intended to deliver it to President Horowitz.

"He declined to receive (the

petition)," said organizer Andrew Rodomar in a rally outside the President's office, "he declined to send a representative."

Mary Neden, administrative assistant to the President, received the petition.

"I'll see that he gets it," she told the rallyers.

According to Neden, the President has a prior commitment at the Mayfield Inn.

Reverend Bruce Miller, United Church chaplain in campus, was distressed by the lack of response by university officials.

"It's disturbing to me administrators don't respond to moral issues,"

Miller said. "To continue this sort of policy clearly is supporting the management."

Housing and Food Services has apparently not seen any reduction in business since the call for a boycott began.

Larry Llewellyn, Food Services officer with HFS, said there has been no reduction in sales. "Not that I can observe so far," he said.

An informal Gateway poll suggested there was little support on campus for the boycott. The majority of people had no opinion on the subject of the boycott.

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