

Cutbacks hinder science research

by Neal Watson

Project MARIA (medial accelerator research institute of Alberta), the proposal for a new multi-purpose research facility that would give Alberta a "high-tech centre in the area of medical research," is in limbo, as a result of government inaction, says Dr. John Cameron of the Nuclear Research Centre (NRC) at the university.

Dr. Cameron says he and his associates have been "waiting for a meeting with the Premier for three months," to discuss MARIA.

The proposal has received approval from the government committee stage, but "a final decision depends on an upsurge in the economy," says Dr. Cameron.

The Premier and the provincial cabinet are reluctant to invest in this type of project in a time of economic restraint.

Project MARIA, at an estimated cost of 190 million dollars, would give Alberta a "unique" facility for medical and biophysics research. The facility would have many purposes.

The facility would employ a heavy ion beam as a research tool in the treatment of cancer.

The proposed new institute would also have a large physics component for continued study of the interaction of nuclear matter.

MARIA would be a world-class facility that would result in a greater contribution from Canadian researchers to physics.

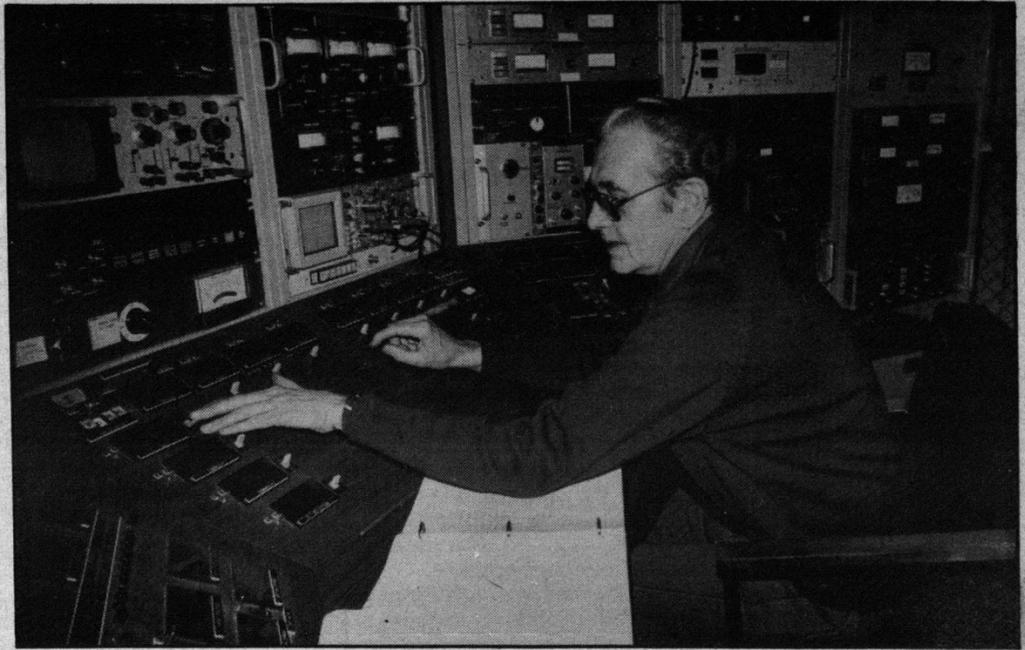
These facilities, said Dr. Moss, also of the NRC, are built with an international viewpoint. The role of the physicist in his research is very "internationalist" said Dr. Moss.

Although, Dr. Moss maintains physics research conducted by institutes like the NRC or MARIA have "little immediate impact" on society, the medical research aspect of MARIA would give it a tangible applicability.

Despite the slowness of the provincial government in acting, Dr. Cameron remains hopeful that MARIA will get underway.

According to Dr. Cameron, MARIA would "stimulate the high-tech presence in Alberta", a province whose government has talked consistently of the need to diversify the economy.

As it stands, project MARIA, depends on a revitalized provincial economy.



Instruments at the Nuclear Research Centre on campus

Environmentalists plead for help

by Michael Wynne

The Alberta Wilderness Association, an environmental group, made a case for river and wilderness preservation, in the Provincial Museum November 24.

Two slide shows bracketed the event. "Emerald Threads" explained how rivers carve the landscape and are the centre of the diverse life in the wilderness. In Alberta, dams and farming are the largest threats to this pristine scene, the 60-plus crowd learned.

"Why Wilderness", an AWA production, argued for the preservation of wilderness for every use from scientific (climatic research) to spiritual (grist for artworks and comfort to a population "which knows such places still exist"). Again, the aspect of threat came through.

Between the first and last slide show, there were four speakers.

Glenda Hanna, Project Director of the Wild Rivers Project, spoke about her staff's work to produce a data bank on northern Alberta rivers.

Next spring, information on practically every aspect of 10 rivers-North Saskatchewan, McLeod, Wildhay-Berland, Kakwa, Peace, Athabasca, Christina, Clearwater, Dog, and Slave - from geology to cultural history, will be available for public purchase and perusal.

Perhaps a book, grander than *Rivers on Borrowed Time*, the AWA's southern Alberta river epic, will come from the research.

Once people see the rivers' beauty, Hanna said, "We can stand up and say we don't want any development."

Linda Dunca, Executive Director of the Environmental Law Centre, spoke about present and potential legislation to protect rivers. The federal government turned resources administration over to the provinces in 1930, but still has some say, it seems.

"The Minister of Transport must approve structures (e.g. dams) across navigable rivers," Dunca said. "The Bennett Dam (on the Peace River in B.C.) was not approved but the federal government is quiet."

"Apparently the feds have right to remove that dam."

The same goes for the proposed dam on the Slave River. Dun-

can thinks the United States would intervene to save migratory bird habitat (peregrine falcon breeding area) before Ottawa would use its powers to damn the dam.

While Duncan was pessimistic about stopping the Slave Dam, Brad Gerrand, one of Hanna's project workers, spoke about designating the Slave and Clearwater Rivers as National Heritage Rivers to short circuit the hydro power grab. But Alberta is not part of this federal government program, in which the province nominates the river for protection.

Quoting Henry David

Thoreau, Gerrand said "We must protect rivers from incompatible uses."

Ray Rasmussen, the MC, wound down the speeches and introduced the second slide show with a plea for help in the AWA river protection quest.

"Brian Staszewski runs the Environmental Resource Centre, a vehicle to organize information on issues facing Albert," Rasmussen said after plugging the Alberta Wilderness Association.

"You should get involved. We need the help."

English Dep't CANSAVE

The Department of English is selling CANSAVE Christmas cards again this year, having raised \$1378 last year for the Canadian Save the Children Fund.

The cards are priced a \$4.00, \$3.50, \$2.50, and \$2.00 for packets of ten, and \$3.50 for a mixed packet of fifteen.

The response from the university community to the CANSAVE Christmas cards is expected to be as good as last year. The cards are available in the English Department's general office in 3-5 Humanities Centre.

The 1983 selection features five new designs by Canadian artists.

Hard times ahead...

Labour restraint trend

by Denise Workun

Anti-labour legislation and restraint measures recently implemented in B.C. are "systematic of what's been happening all over the western world," according to Garth Stevenson, a political science professor.

Stevenson spoke at a PSUA-sponsored forum last Friday, regarding the ramifications of Premier of B.C. Bill Bennett's new budget.

He began with an historical overview of the "confrontational environment between management and labour." He explained, "management has traditionally tried to pass the insecurity of B.C.'s resource economy on to its employees prompting labour to form strong unions."

"Bennett's Social Credit party has lost the aura of folksy populism it once possessed, and has adopted a more right-wing, elitist nature," said Stevenson. He feels this budget "broke the Social Credit tradition of accommodating the left."

According to Stevenson, the recently introduced budget was a "legislative package representing a dramatic effort to restructure society and politics in B.C." He says there is little evidence to indicate that the government had the mandate to take such initiatives.

Labour responded to the government's budget with "Operation Solidarity," an ad hoc union formed to confront the government's anti-labour policies.

The threatened general strike in B.C. was averted by the agreement signed between Operation Solidarity and the government. In Stevenson's view, "the agreement is arguably a victory for the government because it only had to

sacrifice on limited amounts of its budget program."



Garth Stevenson at a PSUA forum

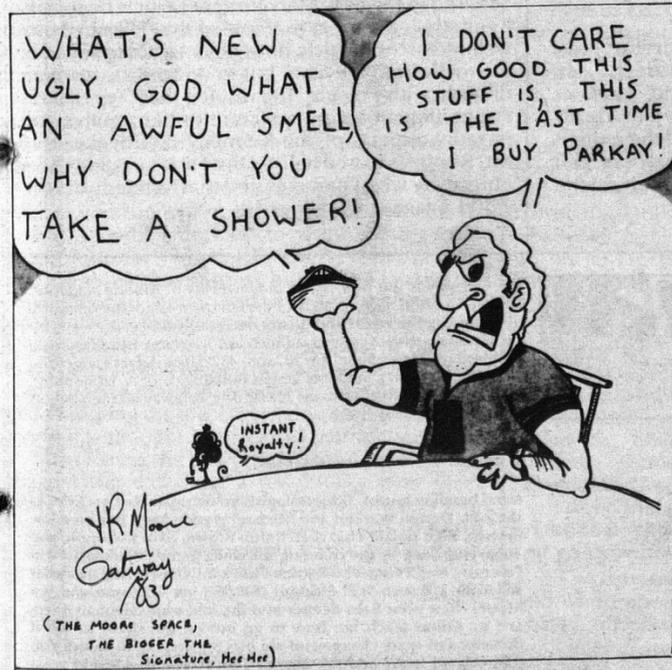
Stevenson believes if the B.C. government gets away with this legislation in terms of the next election "it will constitute a permanent shift to the right in B.C." However, he warned, "if resource prices rise - increasing the demand for workers in B.C. - labour's bargaining power will be strengthened and could 'blow the lid' off of Bennett's restraint program."

Stevenson sees the recent events in B.C. as indicative of trends across North America.

He pointed to the U.S. and Alberta as areas where labour is facing similar offenses from right wing governments.

Stevenson is not optimistic about the future.

He predicts, "all on this continent will be in for hard times at least until the end of this century."



CFS out of our hands

The YES-CFS campaign has officially appealed the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board's decision to overturn the results of the Oct. 21 referendum which saw U of A students vote to join the Canadian Federation of Students.

The appeal was delivered to Ellen Solomon, Secretary of the General Faculties Council Friday morning.

Fran Trehearne says he will be phoning people today to find three members to sit on a University Disciplinary Panel to hear the case.

The panel must conduct a hearing within between 10 and 120 days of notifying both parties - YES-CFS and DIE Board.

Trehearne says this will be the second appeal of a DIE Board decision in the last year and a half.

"Primarily, it's a question of interpretation," says Trehearne. "There is a certain amount of uneasiness about one organization (the University) interpreting the constitution of another (the Students' Union)."