

# THE VOICE

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"If at first you don't succeed you're running about average."

--M. H. Alderson

## A Bug In Your Ear... A NOTE FROM THE CALGARY LEARNING CENTRE!

[Feb. 1, 2002 AU Insider](#) ...

Meanwhile, Karen Wong, Manager, CLC, sends on the following note:

### "Bushwoman Bonnie" shaves for kids!

Bonnie Nahornick has a big heart, especially for kids.

She also has a lot of hair which she has decided to shave and donate to Wigs for Kids, a division of the Canadian Cancer Society. Wigs for Kids takes hair – yes, even grey hair – colours it and makes wigs for kids with cancer. For those who remember Bonnie with the short, cropped hair this photo no doubt comes as a hair-raising surprise. If anyone in Athabasca, Edmonton, or St. Albert is interest in donating their locks to Wigs for Kids, Bonnie issues the challenge to one and all.

We have secured the services of an AU Alumni who happens to be one of Calgary's finest (police officers that is) to actually do the shearing. We'll keep you posted on when this charity event actually takes place. And of course photos to follow.



.....

You are invited to The Hair Shaving Event ... Tuesday, April 2, 2002 at: Athabasca University – Calgary Office – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 1040 – 7 Ave SW Time: 12:15 pm is when the hair will be removed. Please arrive at noon or earlier. **RSVP** to: Bonnie Nahornick at 298-2901 or via email at: [bonnien@athabascau.ca](mailto:bonnien@athabascau.ca)

If you wish to sponsor Bonnie (**funds are being collected for the Canadian Cancer Society**), please note that cheques can be post-dated for April 2, 2002 (cheques made out to the Canadian Cancer Society, please!) It's possible to donate by cheque, cash and/or charge card (all are welcomed - Visa, MasterCard or American Express). Please see **Bonnie** and/or other Athabasca University staff (to be announced in a future issue of the AU Insider) for the names of other staff who are collecting donations for this worthy cause. Official Income Tax Receipts will be issued on donations over \$ 10.00 Thanks. **J**

The hair will be donated to Wigs for Kids ... <http://www.wigsforkids.org/>

Wigs for Kids is a not-for-profit organization providing hair replacement solutions for children affected by hair loss due to chemotherapy, alopecia, burns and other medical conditions.



## Education Revolutionary: Karl Marx meets Ivan Illich

By Cathy Thompson

The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage- labourers.

*Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party"*

*From the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

Educators and doctors and social workers today – as did priests and lawyers formerly – gain legal power to create the need that, by law, they alone will be allowed to serve. They turn the modern state into a holding corporation of enterprises that facilitate the operation of their self- certified competencies.

*Ivan Illich, "Useful Unemployment and Its Professional Enemies."*

*In Toward a History of Needs from 1978*

*Two very opposite ideas about the value of professionals in our society, the 19<sup>th</sup> century communist version sees professionals as deserving of our great respect and the 1978 Illich version fears the professionals' power over us.*

*Ralph V. Barrett and Diane E. Meaghan, both professors at Seneca (community) College in Toronto<sup>1</sup> used the Marx and Engels' quote in a paper they delivered at a communism conference in Cuba. As postsecondary teachers they place themselves among those professionals deserving of our reverence, and in their paper they, as does York University professor David Noble, portray postsecondary administrations as evil "bourgeoisie" representatives whose goal is to "proletarianize" teachers as they bow to government funding cuts to colleges and universities. This "proletarianization" takes place as postsecondary administrations attempt to transform their colleges and universities from the so-called teaching-centred model to the learning-centred model. The learning-centred model changes the role of the postsecondary teacher from that of "sage on the stage" to one of "guide on the side." Technologies both old and new are to be used in this transformation, technologies that are being sold by the capitalist enterprises.*

Social philosopher Ivan Illich's distrust of professionals is also premised in his "deschooling" essays.<sup>2</sup> Using education as an example, he argues that educators and their systems have hijacked learning by insisting that learning on one's own is unreliable, and that it can only take place within a "school" under the watchful eyes of lecturing teachers and system caretakers. Illich also argues that the expense and ineffectiveness of these systems is unsustainable, and is harmful to the world's social and economic well-being.

*It is a perversion of Marx's theories when educators use them as a call to action in their fight against the use of technology in education because it is exactly this resistance that has exacerbated the unemployment and poverty that Marx sees as inevitable in a capitalist society. In the Ontario community college system only 13 percent of injured workers successfully complete their state-supported engineering programs, with the rest*

*being cut off their Workers Compensation payments and left to fend for themselves. It is the poor quality in the teaching-centred environment that is causing this poverty.*

*The advent of low-cost VCRs that came out in the early eighties should have revolutionized education, making it better and more affordable for everyone. Is the fact that change didn't happen a testament to the truth in Ivan Illich's writings?*

*Or perhaps there's also a Marxian self-fulfilling prophesy at work here.*

1. <http://www.senecac.on.ca/quarterly/CO.html/HHH.082.S98.Barrett.html>

Ontario community college "instructors" are now called "professors" because in the early nineties they demanded the title change during a province-wide strike. Ostensibly the purpose of this change was to gain increases in their power, income, and status. Does this kind of behaviour give more credence to Illich's distrust of professionals?

2. <http://philosophy.la.psu.edu/illich/deschool/intro.html>

Cathy Thompson is an education activist and Athabasca University life-long learner who lives in Ontario with her husband and their dog.



## **From My Perspective: Pain**

By Debbie Jabbour

Physical pain is part of the human experience, yet it is a highly subjective one. Each person responds differently to a pain stimulus, and one cannot judge the degree of physical pain another is feeling - although it may appear obvious when another person is in pain, understanding the severity of such pain is subject to the individual's personal description. There are individuals who claim to be able to endure extreme pain levels, while others respond to the smallest pain stimulus with intense discomfort.

Pain relief is also, therefore, subjective and individual. What works for one person does not always work for another. While scientists have discovered a variety of drugs that have proven effects on the brain's pain mechanisms, these do not work unilaterally for all pain sufferers.

There is an unfortunate school of thought regarding pain - that it is better to endure as much pain as possible before seeking relief. There may be valid reasons for this; for example, many women in labour try to avoid analgesics out of concern for the well being of their unborn child. Unfortunately, for many, seeking pain relief is considered a weakness in character. This 'macho' mentality is also seen in the idea that chronic pain sufferers should not be prescribed painkillers because they will become addicted. In spite of myriad evidence that when drugs such as morphine are taken to relieve extreme pain levels they do not create addicts, this philosophy underlies the way many physicians treat patients, and the way many people view pain management.

A [recent article](#) in the New York Times stated, "chronic pain suffered by more than 33 million Canadians and Americans robs people of their dignity, personality, productivity and ability to enjoy life." According to medical journal Lancet, pain changes who you are. Chronic pain is "an extended and destructive stress response", and neurochemical changes caused by persistent pain "perpetuate the pain cycle by increasing a person's sensitivity to pain and by causing pain in areas of the body that would not ordinarily hurt"(1)

The article further points out that chronic pain is "seriously undertreated, largely because doctors are reluctant to prescribe and patients are reluctant to take - the drugs that are best able to relieve persistent, debilitating, disabling pain." The drugs referred to are opioids, or narcotics; natural and synthetic compounds related to morphine. According to pain specialist Dr. Henry McQuay, "opioids are our most powerful analgesics, but politics, prejudice and our continuing ignorance still impede optimum prescribing. What happens when opioids are given to someone in pain is different from what happens when they are given to someone not in pain. The medical use of opioids does not create drug addicts"(2)

I've become a victim of this school of thought. Ten years ago I was injured in a motor vehicle accident. The label given my injury was whiplash, a term that many people associate with the concept of 'fake injury' and 'insurance fraud'. Up until I experienced this injury, I confess I too doubted its validity. But I can assure you now - it is very real and very crippling. Initially I tried regular physiotherapy, but eventually the benefits became of minimal value, even increasing the pain. It also did not help that I was bombarded by negative opinions of people who subscribed to the 'fake injury' theory and accused me of going for therapy just so I could get an insurance settlement. In their minds they could not see the injury, and since my interpretation of the pain I was feeling could not be adequately conveyed to them, they assumed it could not possibly be as bad as I claimed.

For a while I had a caring doctor who believed that quality of life came first, and was willing to look at methods of pain management through medication. In his viewpoint it was better to take a pain killer and be able to function at a 100% level, than to suffer the pain constantly and only be able to function at a 50% level or less. Tucson pain specialist Dr. Jennifer Schneider echoes this, and warns of a further risk of chronic, uncontrollable pain; "when patients feel hopeless and think they will never get relief, it makes chronic pain and its effects that much worse."(2) The stress of uncontrollable pain that hinders a person's productivity and ability to function normally creates a cycle of disability and causes neurochemical changes that actually increase sensitivity to pain and cause it to migrate to other areas of the body.

As I get older I find this to be increasingly true. Chronic pain makes a good night's sleep an impossibility. Activities such as vacuuming or shovelling snow or gardening are out of the question. Sitting in a movie theatre or long hours doing school work in front of the computer will often result in extreme back and neck pain, accompanied by severe headaches that can persist for days at a time. It would be quite impossible for me to attend a university that required me to sit in a classroom for long periods. Yet I have been made to feel by physicians and society that I have no choice but to live this way, since giving me the medication I need to deal with the pain would supposedly make me an addict.

The Chronic Pain Association offers support for people like myself; they maintain a list of physicians who specialize in treatment of chronic pain. However most of these doctors have waiting lists of a year or more, and their numbers are diminishing due to increasing pressure to under-prescribe pain medication. Some of these caring doctors have even become subject to disciplinary action by their regulatory board when it is thought that they use pain medication excessively for their patients.

I find it very difficult to understand this rationale. Would a doctor refuse to prescribe insulin for a diabetic because he might become addicted (insulin-dependent)? Or would a doctor hesitate to prescribe medication to control blood pressure because high blood pressure might just be in the patient's head? Yet these excuses are used for patients suffering chronic pain. The doctor pats us on the head, prescribes Motrin and sends us home to tough it out.

A chronic pain sufferer who needs a strong narcotic to achieve any acceptable sort of functional daily existence is not an addict. If we accept that thinking, then we must also believe that a person suffering coronary heart disease who takes aspirin daily, or a person suffering asthma who needs an inhaler, or a person who takes AZT to control HIV, or a person with cancer who relies on chemotherapy; are all also addicts - since they are dependent on these forms of drug treatment to maintain an acceptable functional daily existence.

There is a difference between physical dependence and addiction, and it is time doctors and their patients began to view pain management reasonably. Quality of life should be the focus. No one should have to endure the hopelessness of relentless chronic pain when there are medications available that can make life tolerable.

(1) Chapman, Richard & Gavrin, Jonathan. "Pain: Suffering: The contributions of persistent pain. *Lancet* 1999; 353: 2233\_37

(2) Edmonton Journal, January 23/02. "Misunderstood Opioids and needless pain".



## **Modern Goddess Worship: It's Nothing to Fear**

By Tamra Ross Low

One of the most significant religious trends of the past century has been the return to Goddess based Earth-centred religions. Many are based on ancient European societies that we are only beginning to understand, while others draw from Native American and South American Indian shamanism. New initiates, however, often do not have indigenous American roots, nor are they all bohemian free spirits who live on the fringes of society. In fact, modern Wiccan's (devotees of the Goddess religion - some call themselves witches) may be business people, educated professionals, homemakers, or even blue-collar workers.

In studying the phenomenon of Goddess centred religions, Feminist scholars suggest a number of reasons why women today are drawn to these ancient beliefs.

Women today have grown up hearing that patriarchy has been the norm since the dawn of humankind. Given this, it is difficult for modern women to believe that full equality and autonomy is possible, as these would require a shift in the fundamental ways of human thought toward women since the beginning of time. By illuminating the evidence of ancient matrilineal and egalitarian societies, we debunk the myth that patriarchy is the natural state of human society, and give strength and purpose to women of today who may be bolstered by the knowledge that ancient women were highly respected and valued members of human society.

Women in past centuries gained strength and self-knowledge from the worship of the mother goddess. Modern religions have left women feeling alienated and separate from their own spirituality. Because many modern churches do not permit women to become priests or ministers, there is a perception that women are somehow not qualified to speak authoritatively about matters of faith or morality. By exploring the roots of women's spirituality and the past worship of the female deity, modern women may find new ways to explore their own, unique spirituality.

Another benefit to the study of goddess worship is to relieve women of the religious burden of original sin, a concept that belittles women and supports the notion that women cannot be trusted to behave prudently without male supervision. This view supports the control of women by their fathers and husbands, and has contributed to many cases of physical and emotional abuse against women in our culture, and especially the more stridently patriarchal cultures of the Middle East. A sound understanding of our heritage of goddess worship gives us a new path toward spirituality, free of blame, guilt, and gender inequality.

Also in support of the study of goddess mythology is that it illuminates the problem of all historical exploration - namely that no matter how certain we are about history, we can always be wrong, and other interpretations will always exist. Goddess mythology, at first, may seem to be contradictory of our beliefs about how ancient peoples lived. These facts, however, are only the opinion of past researchers, and as they are often based on limited evidence, they are entirely subjective. If we can find sufficient evidence to make a convincing case for a history of goddess worship, then we call into question the conclusions of historians who have determined that early man was warlike, patriarchal, and god-fearing. It is not necessary that we are entirely convinced of the evidence of goddess worship in order to reap the benefits of this study. It is enough that we find enough evidence to call into question past assumptions, and remind us that historical data is subjective, and should be interpreted cautiously.

It is also important to understand that Goddess worship does not simply replace a male deity with a female mother figure. Goddess religions are also strongly Earth-centred, and teach a deep reverence for both the planet and its inhabitants. Respect for all living things is paramount. Not all goddess worshippers are vegetarians, but those who eat meat emphasize humane treatment for our food animals.

Despite the fears of many that Goddess worship is a form of Satanism, or dangerous cult worship, Wicca and other earth-based religions are winning over more converts every



year. This is due, in part, to the times we live in. Our lack of respect for the earth has led to dangerous realities like global warming and massive water pollution. Likewise, our tendency to breed, raise and process food animals in crowded, dirty, factory settings has resulted in the contamination of our food supply with bacteria like salmonella, E-coli, and organisms that cause mad cow and foot-and-mouth disease. We are quickly running out of safe meat. Given this, the return to earth based worship is hardly surprising, and signifies that many people are beginning to understand that humans cannot possibly survive without realising that despite our best technological advances, the Earth must provide all of us our food, water, and shelter.

Science cannot yet shield us from floods, hurricanes, fires or drought. This thought is frightening to many, but seeking to avoid this reality only makes it worse. Those who return to Earth-centred religions are facing the realities of our sick planet head-on. It is alarming, then, that so many people treat Wiccans and other Goddess worshippers like Pariahs. Their mode of worship may not be for everyone, but we should understand that a reverence for the earth is both natural and sensible, and should be viewed as supportive of human life, rather than dangerous.



## **FED WATCH!**

By Karl Low

### **Costs of Kyoto**

The Alberta Government has [released](#) a study showing that the cost of Kyoto could be as high as \$40 billion dollars, with the Alberta economy suffering as much as 5.5 billion dollars per year. Reading through the press release though, it quickly becomes apparent that this damage also includes estimates of what the damage to growth would be. Given the previous success of our governments and economists to predict the trends (such as the prediction that the price of oil would stay high over this budgetary period, and that elimination of the debt might be possible by 2005) relying on economic forecasts to give a valuation of damage seems suspect at best.

Most interesting though was the quote by Alberta's Environment Minister Lorne Taylor where he stated, "we are not saying that this will definitely be the impact on the economy - what we are saying is can we afford to take the risk that it could be?" Perhaps someone should explain to Mr. Taylor that his concern is supposed to primarily be the environment, not the economy. I would suggest that if Mr. Taylor replaced the word economy with environment in that statement, he would be doing much more toward his post as environmental minister, especially when you consider that the risks of environmental damage are not confined to a simple slow down in growth and job loss but also include death, disease, and famine.

## Industry Funds Humanities

In an unusual twist from the norm, the Canadian Minister of Industry, Allan Rock, has [announced](#) funding in the amount of \$125 million dollars to support advanced studies in the humanities. These funds will be available to doctoral and post-doctoral students to assist them with tuition, living fees, and also to mentors to assist them in their studies. This funding is part of the Canadian Innovation Strategy - a federal plan designed to make Canada the leader in innovation and creation of new strategies.

Of course, what is most unusual about this is that the funding is to be directed toward the humanities, an area where universities are finding it more difficult to locate funding for the undergraduate programs as shown in [this study](#) (sections 3.6, 3.9, and 3.7) done by the University of Alberta. While this will no doubt provide some relief to this problem as it creates more professors for these types of courses, the root problem of a lack of funding at the undergraduate level will remain. This lack of funding is not addressed in the Canadian Innovation Strategy. The concern is with encouraging top researchers trained in Canada to stay in Canada, or if they were not trained in Canada, to move here.

We need to convince our government that the best way to get excellent graduates to research in Canada is to make sure that undergraduates have the opportunity and funding to become truly excellent.

## New Brunswick Pays for Refresher Courses

In order to help combat the shortage of health professionals in the province, the government of New Brunswick has established a [program](#) that will allow registered nurses who have been out of the workforce for some time to take a refresher course with their tuition paid for by the government. This payment is made on the condition that the person work in a New Brunswick hospital or licensed nursing home for at least one year following the completion of their course.

Ontario, on the other hand, has established a [fund](#) of \$800,000 devoted to funding post-graduate training positions for people who completed their training outside the province and now want to move to it. In essence, New Brunswick wants to benefit their own people while solving a problem, Ontario simply wants to import people to solve the problem, and that way avoid having to deal with the under-funding of their own post-secondary system.



## Worker Collectivism

By Wayne Benedict

I noticed that last week's Voice contained several articles that were not supportive of Alberta's striking unionized workers. Issues such as these touch a chord with me, especially with the present neoconservative British Columbia government attacking the



rights of working people (organized, unorganized, and unemployed) in ways that I find personally repugnant. What I find extremely sad is when workers themselves don't support each other, but espouse right-wing ideology as if they were independently wealthy and need not work themselves. I'd like to examine some of the statements that I have recently heard fellow wage and salary earners make, either verbally or in print.

**“Labour unions only exist today because government, and the law, has supported them since 1944”.**

Unions existed long before the advent of the postwar system, arising in Canada as early as the late eighteenth century. Palmer (1992, p. 56) states “Unions and trade associations were established early in the [nineteenth] century, Halifax building tradesmen and shipwrights leading the way with the formation of their trade body in 1798. ...The numbers of such organizations increased in the 1830s and 1840s; by mid-century roughly forty-five trade bodies had been founded...” Thus, trade unions existed long before their legitimatization through PC 1003 of 1944 and its successor the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act (IRDIA) of 1948. Further, many would say that the so called “postwar compromise”—while undoubtedly garnering real gains for the working-class—was a novel state-run experiment that attempted to constrain class antagonisms and preserve productive peace through a straightjacket of industrial legality wrapped tightly around the labour body.

Some of the protections that PC 1003 produced for unions were: the guaranteed right of workers to organize and bargain collectively; the establishment of a procedure for the certification and compulsory recognition of trade unions with majority support; the recognition of exclusive bargaining unit rights; the definition of unfair labour practices; provisions for remedies; the outlawing of company unions; the establishment of an administrative tribunal to enforce orders; the requirement of compulsory conciliation prior to a legal strike; the prohibition against strike or lockout during the closed period of a collective agreement. While these laws gave labour legitimacy and security, they also incorporated unions into the status quo and weakened them terribly in regards to their ability to act effectively in the frontier of control.

While dues mark-off gave unions financial security, it drove a wedge of distance between the leadership and the rank-and-file. Previously, union officers would have to physically collect dues from each member, providing the opportunity for informational exchanges between the two; with the mark-off, members and officers come together only at meetings (provided they attend); thus, unions' abilities to educate and motivate members are comparatively limited. Arbitration in place of the right to mid-term strikes has also weakened unions as they find that they have become state sanctioned control mechanisms, constraining their members' direct actions in order to comply with the law. And in regards to arbitration's ability to equitably settle disputes arising out of the application and/or interpretation of the collective agreement, Haiven (1986) states “...the arbitral forum is a hothouse of reaction and a quagmire of lost hopes”. Haiven (1992) also argues for a return to the mid-term strike as a way for the parties to more equitably settle their differences. Bureaucratization and incorporation have led to membership complacency and a “service” mentality toward the union; members expect that by merely paying dues the union is obligated to service all member needs without any further support from the member.

Far from protecting and supporting unions, at least since the mid-1970s, governments and labour laws have immeasurably weakened unions' ability to act potently. Arguably, unions could be more powerful forces within Canadian society if they began to act outside of the laws that were written with their incorporation in mind. It is especially difficult in this era of neo-conservatism and state/employer coercion of labour to concur with the statement that "Labour unions only exist today because government, and the law, has supported them since 1944". It may be more appropriate to state that labour unions exist today *in spite of* the attacks of government and their incorporating and constraining labour laws.

**"Unions engage in economically damaging strikes and do not serve any useful functions".**

Unfortunately, strikes *can* adversely affect economies. However, the right to strike is absolutely necessary if collective bargaining is to function effectively. The withholding (or deliberate limiting) of one's labour is really the only potent equalizing power that workers have in order to force employers to bargain fairly and in good faith—in theory. Without it, employers have little incentive to reach common ground with unions, as many public sector employees are learning in the present era of governmental interference. Strikes also serve several other functions, such as: conflict resolution; negotiation leverage to improve wages, conditions, and repress of the excesses of unrestricted managerial prerogative; ensuring that provisions negotiated into the collective agreement are realized; providing workers with democratic rights and freedoms by allowing them to collectively express their discontent (Godard, 1994).

As with the employment relationship in general, the power and affects of a strike on the two parties are unequal. Usually, individual workers will suffer to a greater comparative financial degree than will the struck corporation. Management staff is still paid during a strike, the company can write off its losses, and corporations usually prepare well in advance for a shutdown, reducing the strike's impact considerably. Conversely, most workers have few (if any) savings, families to support, and payments to make. Individual workers are much more likely to feel the adverse effects of a strike long before the employer will but are usually still willing to undergo one in order to defend his or her occupational terms and conditions and standard of living.

Strikes do not always result in positive outcomes for either of the parties. Sometimes they will actually aggravate problems instead of resolving conflict, causing escalation, long-lasting bitterness and/or acrimony—all of which lowers morale and adversely affects production (Godard, 1994). The public is usually not very supportive of strikes because of ignorance of the issues, opinion manipulated by right-wing media, or personal inconvenience, which is usually the basis of statements such as those that this article examines. Although the right to strike and its use is not a panacea, it is still a necessary and vital part of Canada's adversarial industrial relations system. Without it, the system would be even more skewed in favour of capital than it presently is, to the severe detriment of workers and their organizations. And until the present system is replaced by one more in line with equitable liberal democratic theories, such as worker ownership of the means of production, the strike must remain a part of Canada's social relations of production.

It is clear that unions do serve many useful functions; Godard (1994) outlines many of them as follows:

- 1     The Economic Function: Unions endeavour to improve the living standards of their members by negotiating improvements to wages, benefits, and working conditions. Some believe that unions must be cognizant of unemployment effects caused by excessive labour costs in relation to labour market conditions when pursuing these goals. This function also includes attempts to ensure job (income) security for members.
- 2     The Democratization Function: Unions provide representation for their membership vis-à-vis management. This representation takes four forms: quasi-legal representation in the event an individual member has been treated unjustly by management or has had the terms of his or her employment violated; collective representation to advance membership interests regarding the terms and conditions of employment (collective bargaining); collective representation regarding rules and procedures covered by managerial authority (pace of work, crew sizes, skill requirements, job classifications and responsibilities); the internal political nature of the union itself (bottom up authority).
- 3     The Integrative Function: Unions serve to integrate workers into the status quo. By enforcing the rule of law onto their members, unions act as a control mechanism of capital and the state, helping to ensure that workers “follow the rules” and dissuading “illegal” direct actions that might seriously challenge capitalist hegemony.
- 4     The Social Democratic Function: Unions encourage social democratic reforms economically and societally. They do this by lobbying for equality, improvements to labour laws and employment standards, improvements to human rights legislation; and by encouraging members to vote for social democratic candidates in municipal, provincial and federal elections. They also organize boycotts of the products produced by corporations that mistreat workers or act irresponsibly and they work diligently to organize and educate the unorganized. Coalition building with disparate social groups also falls under the social democratic function.
- 5     The Class Conflict/Revolutionary Function: Syndicalism or Communism, both of which advocate the revolutionary replacement of capitalist democracy with some form of worker controlled government. Syndicalists believe that unions must take a primary, economic role in overthrowing capitalism through the use of economic actions (sectional strikes, boycotts, industrial sabotage, and general strikes). Communists believe that unions, as entities of capitalism, can play only a limited role in capitalism's overthrow; one of the education of workers in order that they develop revolutionary worker class-consciousness to provide a basis for organizing workers into the broader class struggle (political rather than economic action).

Clearly, depending on one's perspective (Neo-classicalist, Managerialist, Orthodox Pluralist, Liberal Reformist, or Radical), unions serve to provide many valuable functions and any statement to the contrary is ill-informed, at best.

## **“Management should be allowed to manage and unions should be disbanded”.**

One need only look to Canadian history in order to view the results of unrestricted management rights. The right to manage is one thing, but that right unfettered by legislation requiring that it should be wielded in a fair and just manner is quite another. The present New Order trend that augments managerial, and weakens worker, power can only lead to abuses reminiscent of bygone times. Preferably, worker ownership of the means of production will eventually supplant the present system. However, until such time, the tenets of the liberal democracy in which we live demands that all citizens, including workers, are treated fairly and justly, even by employers; and the realization of those principals in the industrial relations setting requires that legal limits are placed on managerial prerogative.

The concept of “disbanding unions” is really an unrealistic one. Any such attempt by government would merely drive worker organizations underground. It would heighten worker class awareness and inter-class antagonisms; and could ultimately precipitate a serious challenge to the hegemonic status quo. It is unlikely that any state would risk opening that Pandora’s Box, but even if one did, workers would organize in basements and resurrect secret worker societies, such as the Molly Maguires, in order to act collectively in their interests.

Some of the authors of last week’s Voice pointed out the deplorable conditions those workers in the service sector industries endure: long hours; pitiful wages; few if any benefits; despotic management; poor occupational health and safety; etc. No one would dispute that things need to improve for those workers and unions have been trying to organize them for decades with little success. Those people need to realize that the only potential power that they possess in order to make those changes is the strength of their combination—unionization. If one McDonalds workers tells her boss that she is unhappy with her treatment by management, she will likely be without employment in short order (no pun intended); if every worker in the store stood shoulder to shoulder and told the boss that they were unhappy with her treatment of them, conditions would likely change for the better.

It saddens me tremendously to see mistreated non-unionized workers jealously espousing anti-union rhetoric when referring to groups who have managed to improve their situations through collectivism. When finished their diatribes, they go to work in their non-union position to be paid \$6.00 per hour for a fourteen hour day at the hands of a dictatorial manager while slipping on grease left on the floor, all the while being forced to paste a silly grin on their faces in order to convince the customers that it’s really fun to work here. All workers (union and non-union) should be supportive of each other and work toward bringing all of our conditions up to a reasonable standard—this will never happen if we are divided amongst ourselves. Unionize.

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## **Airline Marshals**

By Mark Gueffroy

West Jet Airlines officials are still unsure if the federal government will provide air marshals to police their flights, despite the fact that they have been informed of a travelers security surcharge of \$12 that comes into effect April 1<sup>st</sup>. Transport Canada has already assigned air marshals to Air Canada flights while other airlines have yet to receive word if they will also be policed by marshals. Transport Canada refuses to make a statement regarding air marshals on any airline, claiming that they could not issue a statement in the interests of security.

The government should be careful about this latest decision, or they may find themselves accused of “air-line discrimination.” If all airlines are collecting the surcharge, shouldn’t all airlines also receive the same assistance to strengthen security? It is also very possible that a person with less than moral purposes will now target West Jet because they realize that air marshals are not yet on board.

It is also possible that West Jet issued this statement in collaboration with Transport Canada in an attempt to attract criminals to air transportation that is actually monitored more heavily by air marshals. The motto “Don’t believe everything that you hear” could be extended to say, “Don’t believe everything you hear, especially from the media.” The question then arises, “Is the government promoting crime if this in fact their motivation for issuing the press release?” Call me superstitious, but I learned long ago that there are two things I do not trust...the government and the media.

What is YOUR opinion?



## **Worth a Second Look**

### **Sacred Heart Community School: Beating the Odds**

**By Teresa Neuman**

This is the first of three columns about Sacred Heart Community School in Regina, Saskatchewan. The school has 450 students, in Grades Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8. In Part One, the staff and students work together to make positive changes in their school. Definitely Worth a Second Look!

My son Adam is a happy Grade Three student at Sacred Heart Community School in Regina, Saskatchewan. Everyday he goes to school, swinging his backpack, his lunch in his Pokemon lunch bag, just like every other Grade 3 student. Yet, that's where the similarities between Adam and other Grade 3 students ends. Once he enters the school door, his school day will be totally different from students in other Regina schools.

Sacred Heart Community School is unique from any other school in the city of Regina, in its attitude, curriculum, unique grade splits and altered school day. As the Stage Manager for a children's school touring company, I had been in many schools during the course of my career, but none of the schools had the same positive atmosphere as Sacred Heart School. I wanted to know why. Principal Loretta Tetreault and I met to discuss Sacred Heart School's amazing story.

Seven years ago, Sacred Heart Community School was a violent and out of control school. It was difficult to point to the specific reason why the school was having difficulties. Poverty, violence and changing trends in parenting styles left the students angry and the parents and staff frustrated and blaming each other. The teachers raised their voices in the classroom. The students were negotiating skills and solved problems with their fists. Loretta Tetreault was asked to help out with the problems at the school.

*"I looked out the window at recess," she recounted. "I had no idea what to do to help this school."* Tetreault knew that she had to think of something by the staff meeting that was scheduled for the end of the day.

Tetreault believed in mutual respect between people. She wanted to move away from a controlling approach to one of complete respect in all situations. She shared her vision with the staff. Sacred Heart Community School was part of the Catholic school division and she was concerned by some of the behaviour that she saw going on. She told the staff that no matter what happened, every child was to be treated as if he/she was the Christ child. If Tetreault saw a staff member out of control, she would intervene and ask the teacher to take a break and follow up with an apology to the student later, once the teacher had calmed down. She only had to intervene twice. The staff agreed that the students would be given choices in every situation, and not ultimatums.



The students needed to learn a different set of negotiating skills. Tetreault met with some students to discuss what could be done to make Sacred Heart School a better school for them. The teachers were surprised by the answer. The students wanted to wear their hats in school. It was a matter of style to the students, not of disrespect to the teachers. Tetreault took their request to the staff. Some teachers were concerned about what the students might show up wearing. Tetreault negotiated an arrangement with the students that satisfied the staff as well. The students could wear their hats, but not at school assemblies or at mass. There were some strange hats worn to school for a while, but to this day, the students respect and keep the arrangement they negotiated with the staff.

Staff and students were involved in creating a responsibility plan. The word discipline was not used in the plan. One of the goals of the plan was to treat every child with dignity and respect no matter what happened. The staff would acknowledge responsible choices on a regular basis, and correct irresponsible choices, focusing on consistent and logical consequences. The staff discovered that, given the choice, the students wanted to be suspended. If suspended, the student would arrange with their friends to be suspended as well. To solve this problem, in-school suspensions were created. The student would spend their suspension away from the classroom, usually in the office. The staff would stop by to encourage the student to make positive choices and counselling would be provided to the student to assist with problem solving. Other positive role model programs were created. A “Caught Being a Positive Role Model” program was instituted to acknowledge students who performed kind acts. Weekly assemblies and the creation of the Triple A Club acknowledged students who met personal goals, and who had excellent attitude and attendance. Triple A Club students went to the movies or the waterslides in recognition of their hard work.

*Positive change was happening at the school. With mutual respect happening between students and staff and the responsibility plan in place, the school was on the way to becoming a safe and comfortable environment for learning. The most innovative changes were yet to come.*

Next week:

Unique grade splits and the creation of the adjusted school day



## **Nature Notes: From the Backyard to the Biosphere**

### **Endangered Rivers: Our Wild Legacy in Jeopardy**

By Zoe Dalton

When most of us hear the word endangered, the free-flowing waters of North America's rivers do not come to mind. Instead, we tend to think of a species of plant or animal in danger of extinction. But increasingly, conservation biology is centering on the health

and integrity of whole ecosystems rather than focussing on only individual species. And this is where the concept of an endangered river comes into play.

**American Rivers**, a U.S.– based river-protection organization, defines an endangered river in much the same way that COSEWIC (the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) defines an endangered species. Endangered rivers are those “...facing a major threat to their health and (that have) a crucial turning point approaching in the coming year”. Both American Rivers and a Canadian organization – the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia – publish an annual list of endangered rivers in their respective areas. These are worthwhile organizations to check out, as they are a rich resource for information on river health and stewardship opportunities.

North America’s rivers are suffering from a variety of ailments. Pollution from industrial, agricultural and domestic effluents and runoff are often exacerbated by the loss of vegetated “buffer” zones near river edges. In addition to direct loss of habitat for near-shore and wetland plants and animals, the loss of these buffers – known as riparian zones – limits the ability of the near-shore terrestrial environment to help absorb and filter pollutants en route to the river. Urban encroachment, and agricultural and industrial activities occurring too close to rivers, are the primary culprits in the loss of buffer zones.

When riparian vegetation is removed, erosion of the riverbanks is a frequent result, and siltation of the riverbed occurs. This is often worsened when mining and logging operations occur near a river, as soil and other debris previously held in place by vegetation begin to slide towards and enter the waterway. Siltation may not appear to be a great a problem for the health of a river; however, the quality of habitat that a river provides is strongly linked to the “shape” of the riverbed and banks. In some BC rivers, siltation has increased the height of the riverbed by four feet. This can dramatically alter flow and riverbed-material conditions in the river, eliminating spawning, feeding and hiding locations for a variety of river wildlife.

One can’t discuss river health without mentioning the effects of dams on these waterways. This is particularly so in Canada, a country with such a large dependence on Hydro-electric power. Two main issues surround the impact of dams on river health: firstly, dams directly impede the movement of river wildlife along the waterway. Even with the addition of fish ladders in some rivers, there is no question that the establishment of dams and the re-routing of countless waterways in North America and elsewhere have profoundly affected both fish and other river-related wildlife. Secondly, the presence and function of a dam lead to dramatic alterations in the volume and rate of flow of water in a given river. This means that what once may have been a stable habitat for a variety of fish and other wildlife is now a distinctly unstable location with water levels rising or falling many metres in a short time period.

The state of North America’s rivers is certainly enough to bring one’s mood down a notch or two. However, there is a great deal of activity directed towards improving the health and fate of these waterways. Much of this activity is locally based. As **American Rivers** states, “once ignored and abused, rivers today are being rediscovered and embraced by the towns along their banks”. River stewardship groups, such as Toronto’s Don River Regeneration Council, are working to restore the health of local waterways. One exciting result of this group’s endeavours is the transformation of a former landfill into two productive pond and wetland sites. The organization states that the “...simplest and least expensive way to begin regeneration is with recreating habitat on the land. By

planting native trees and shrubs we create a place and food sources for breeding and migratory birds and mammals". This is in keeping with the suggestions of the American Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines for river restoration practices.

Another promising method of improving river health is the removal of dams. This may sound surprising, as the dismantling of these mammoth engineering projects is no doubt a costly endeavour. However, in the US, close to 500 dams have been removed from riverways. While undoubtedly a large undertaking, dam removal is proving to be one of the most direct and effective ways of improving both the health of rivers, and the social and safety considerations related to these waterways.

In both Canada and the US, the potential of local efforts in river restoration, pollution abatement, dam-removal and dam avoidance cannot be underestimated. Each bit of riparian zone restored or left to regenerate, each small dam removed, each pollutant kept from entering a river is one huge step in setting the precedent for stating that our rivers are important to us. Their wildness, their freedom: these qualities are a part of our national and natural heritage, and our involvement in protecting rivers is crucial if we are to keep the term "Extinct rivers" from being added to our common vocabulary.

*To learn more about river health and protection, take a look at the following web sites:*

[www.orcbc.ca](http://www.orcbc.ca)

[www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

[www.mwilson.on.ca/wilson/don/donregeneration/regeneration\\_index.html](http://www.mwilson.on.ca/wilson/don/donregeneration/regeneration_index.html)

*Zoe Dalton is a graduate of York University's environmental science program, and is currently enjoying working towards a Master of Arts in Integrated Studies with Athabasca U. She can be reached for comments or questions at [zk\\_dalton@hotmail.com](mailto:zk_dalton@hotmail.com).*



## **Law school tuition hike 'road map' to excellence**

*Published: Thu-21-Feb-2002*

By Sharon Liao, Excalibur

TORONTO (CUP) -- With the University of Toronto law school passing a contentious five-year plan that will nearly double tuition fees to \$22,000 per year, York University's Osgoode Hall Law School may soon follow suit.

Cheryl Sullivan, director of communications at U of T's faculty of law, says the plan is not about tuition fees but a bid to make the university one of the world's top law schools.

"It's a broad vision we would like to see -- a goal of becoming an international, relevant law school in the world," said Sullivan. "This plan is a road map for us to get there."

Queen University's faculty of law dean Allison Harvison Young concurs, saying boosting fees is a necessary measure to ensure the university's law school can provide quality education.

On Feb. 1, Queen's faculty of law held a board meeting addressing Harvison Young's proposal to raise tuition.

"The size of the increase has been necessitated by continuing cutbacks in government support and the rising costs," Harvison Young said. "The recruitment of newer professors has become more expensive. Another factor for us is the reality of facilities that are in desperate need of renovation, and which are at present inaccessible."

Ontario chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students Joel Duff fears the hefty price tag will make the school less accessible to students. He says the university is only investing in corporate law.

"This plan is an unmitigated disaster for accessibility," said Duff. "It will completely wipe off equality of opportunity."

At last Thursday's public meeting on the issue, the U of T's faculty council, made up of 42 faculty and 14 students, voted 37-13 in favour of the move to raise fees. There was one abstention and five council members were not present.

The plan must now go before the provost and then receive final approval by the university's governing council.

First-year U of T law student Shaun Laubman, who was at the meeting, was displeased with the results.

"You've said that we would have to accept that some faculty might not be here, but you've also got to be prepared to accept that some students won't be here," said Laubman.

The plan will hike the \$12,000 annual tuition by \$2,000 a year for the next five years, as well as raise faculty salaries.

At York, the issue of higher fees for law school is currently being discussed.

"We do have a study being prepared as to tuition needs," said Peter Hogg, dean of Osgoode Hall Law School. "A proposal will be circulating in the next few weeks within the faculty and students at Osgoode."

Presently the average tuition for first- and second-year law students is \$8,000 per year. Third-year students pay \$4,600 a year.

Hogg says the proposal, if successful, will not affect existing students.



## **Federal skills and innovation strategy gets lukewarm reviews**

By Mark Greenan, Ottawa Bureau Chief, Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA (CUP) -- After months of delay, the federal government released two policy papers on skills and innovation last week.

Despite the pre-release hype, student and faculty groups are unsure of the effect, if any, the papers will have on post-secondary education.

Jim Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, said the papers, particularly the one released by Industry Canada, have little substance.

"It's by-and-large a weak paper," he said. "I cannot believe that [Industry Minister Alan] Rock takes any pride in this piece of work."

The two discussion papers, released jointly by Human Resources Minister Jane Stewart and Rock, have been in development since the last federal election.

Originally conceived as a single paper, the project was recently divided into two separate documents, dealing with skills and learning and innovation separately. Also, the paper had been initially designed as a "white paper," a more-formal discussion paper including project costs and financial commitments; however, they were redesigned as "green papers," essentially discussion papers with no specific fiscal commitments.

The lack of financial commitments did not concern Robert Giroux, the president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

"We think that this dialogue they're starting and the targets that they're giving will set the stage for a long-term vision and then at each budget the government will add to it in very substantial terms," Giroux said.

The innovation strategy emphasizes university research as a means to achieving the federal government's goal of placing Canada among the top five countries in the world in terms of research and development.

"We need to promote research not for its own sake, but to take new ideas and put them into practice in our industries and businesses," said Rock at the press conference releasing the papers.

However, Turk is concerned about the emphasis on the commercialization of research in the paper.

"[The paper] has an inflated notion of the extent to which university research can solve the economic problems of the country," said Turk. "Secondly, there is insufficient recognition that what proves to have commercial value is basic research that would never have been funded if it had to pass a commercial screen."

Student groups echoed Turk's concerns.

"The minute you start to get research funded by public money influenced by the private sector, that's a bad idea," said Canadian Association of Student Associations president Liam Arbuckle, citing concerns about academic freedom.

"[Industry Canada] sees the path to innovation as basically giving up public funds for private gain," said Ian Boyko, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students.

The paper also recommends that the federal government cover part of the indirect costs of federally funded research.

Giroux, whose association has lobbied for the funding of indirect costs, was pleased with announcement but said that the government must commit to funding both the teaching and research functions of universities.

"It's important that the base of universities be properly funded to do all these things," he said.

The Industry Canada paper also puts an emphasis on graduate students proposing to increase the numbers of Master's and PhD students by five per cent per year through 2010. The paper calls for increased financial supports for graduate students and more international recruitment, including the establishment of a scholarship program "of the same prestige and scope as the Rhodes Scholarship".

Boyko was critical of the proposed scholarship.

"There is no support among student for creating more merit-based scholarships," he said, adding across-the-board increases in operating grants to universities should be implemented before attempting to attract international students.

However, Arbuckle was positive about the proposal, calling it a "novel idea".

"It shows a commitment to compete, what we've always been trying to encourage, being one of the top countries in terms of post-secondary education in the world," said Arbuckle.

Turk welcomed more support for graduate students, but said that must be accompanied by increased transfer payments to the provinces.

"I'm delighted that they're putting money into graduate scholarships, but if they're not increasing funding, it'll all get gobbled up in increased tuition fees," he said.

The skills and learning paper had less in terms of specific commitments and, at the strategy's release, Stewart stressed that the paper is launching a process of consultations which will culminate in a national strategy.

"Canadians say they want a national agenda, in which all governments work cooperatively together," she said, adding that the policy would be "inclusive" and address the needs of specific groups, including aboriginals, low-income Canadians and the disabled.

CASA is looking forward to consultations with the Minister to flesh out the details of the skills strategy.



"The paper is less specific targets, but more end goals," said Arbuckle, who added that CASA would be pressing for changes to the Canada Student Loans program.

The paper offers few concrete proposals except for changes to student assistance programs for part-time students and facilitating the transfer of credits. However, the paper does establish a goal of having 50 per cent of Canadians with some form of post-secondary education.

Student leaders were pleased with the apparent recognition in that paper of the effect that high tuition fees have on participation rates. The report cites a recent Statistics Canada report that shows that university participation rates are twice as high among high-income Canadians than lower-income families.

"We're satisfied that HRDC has now acknowledged the problem with accessibility, but there's no step forward in terms of accessibility," said Boyko, who called the papers' messages "contradictory". "There was nothing really for students to look forward to except for more rhetoric."

Stewart said she recognizes concerns about accessibility and will attempt to work to improve the government's student assistance programs.

"We recognize the language that students have been using, the in context of sticker shock, and whether low-income Canadians are not moving into post-secondary education just by virtue of seeing that [tuition] number," she said. "We need ,, to look at the tools in place now to support those who want to and need to go on to post-secondary education ... and to expand the tool-base."



## **In the beginning there was the word...**

### ***Mary Walsh's By the Book***

By Caitlin Kealey, The Gazette

Mary Walsh is the host of a new CBC television show, *By The Book*. It is a half-hour talkshow that offers viewers discussion "about books I like, with people I like," says Walsh.

Walsh is one of the two executive producers on the show. Michael Donovan, Salter Street's daddy, is the other and the show was his idea. Walsh had come to Donovan with another kind of book idea.

"When I went blind, I tried taped books. The fucking things were all abridged and I thought there would be a great market for the unabridged versions."

Although he didn't go for that, he came back to Walsh with the idea for *By The Book*, which she accepted simply because "I wanted to."

Up to date they have taped eight episodes. CBC has yet to decide when they will be aired. "I don't know when they are airing. Sometime when no one will see them no doubt," says Walsh.

Tuesday's episode is being shot at 2 p.m. because of a stormy airline delay in Newfoundland. Associate Dean of Arts and English professor, Noreen Golfman of Memorial University of Newfoundland was unable to make it for Monday night's taping so it was postponed. Joining Golfman and Walsh is Ian Brown the host of CBC's television documentary series Human Edge and has his own bookshow on CBC Radio One, Talking Books. The final guest is Megan Follows, an actress that any self-respecting Canadian would recognize by face if not by name.

"She's taken up that space in our collective psyches as Anne of Green Gables, poor thing. She can't escape it," says Walsh.

The four participants sit around a coffee table on Bell Road, Halifax, in the same studio that tapes Walsh's other show, the weekly comedy hit, This Hour has 22 Minutes. They will discuss Edna O'Brien's, Country Girls Trilogy.

O'Brien is an Irish writer who is well known for her books that have been banned in Ireland.

Walsh tells the audience that O'Brien's books had even been burnt by the Roman Catholic Church back in the 60s.

The Country Girls Trilogy is the story of two girls from age 13 up. The two characters, shy Kate and rebellious Baba, grow up in a convent. Their strict Roman Catholic upbringing comes in conflict with their sexual desires and their dependence on men.

The ensuing conversation between the four commentators is a no-holds barred debate of all aspects of the trilogy -- and some slightly less relevant, yet funny stories about Walsh's past. Walsh jokes after the show that although she liked the format, no one else would tell stories from their own past.

Ian Brown, being the only man, seems to feel the need to defend the male gender. He comments that Kate was like a gaping wound of need and says he sympathized with the male character Eugene. Whereas both Walsh and Golfman seem to think that Eugene is a generally bad man and Kate is a character that every woman could relate to. "There's a little bit of her in all of us," says Golfman. Walsh agrees. "I'm Kate although I always longed to be more like Baba."

Brown continues to ruffle feathers by saying that he thinks the novel is "chick lit," likening it to something Oprah would recommend. None of the women take that comment lightly and proceed to chide him humourously.

By the Book promises to be engaging and funny. Walsh says that people will enjoy the show because of the arguing. "So far we've had tremendous guests who have spoken eloquently, and brilliantly about the books. I think people will enjoy that."

The show is also a good way of finding out about Walsh's life, because the novels discussed are those that she loves. Often in literature the books you like are the ones you can relate to. At least for this one episode Walsh tells stories that are often harsh but because of her humour the sadness is removed.

"Books do furnish your room and save your life -- they did for me," says Walsh, in uncharacteristic seriousness, but she adds, "shoes can also save a life and furnish a room."

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## Labatt SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION – DEADLINE MARCH 18th

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### BACKGROUND

In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, Labatt and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) have teamed up to sponsor the LPIA program which helps university/college students create their own summer jobs in their chosen field of study. As you know, it's hard for most students to get "hands-on" work experience in their future career tracks.

Each year the success of this project grows. Following are three success stories.

### CALGARY

**Organization:** The Calgary Zoological Society

**Contact:** Trish Exton-Parter, Coordinator and Public Relations Communicator of The Calgary Zoological Society at 403 232 9381 or by email [trishe@calgaryzoo.ab.ca](mailto:trishe@calgaryzoo.ab.ca)

**Student:** Nicole Peters

Calgarian Nicole Peters would love to tell you her story as an LPIA participant last year. Nicole turned her volunteer work with The Calgary Zoological Society into a full time summer job last year through LPIA. It worked so well, this year she was offered a part time job with the Calgary Zoological Society.

More than just a summer job, projects Nicole worked on while employed at The Calgary Zoological Society include:

- Design for new feed boxes that will help protect the Mountain Blue Birds from extinction
- Research to help eliminate the high rate of embryo death in the endangered Whooping Crane. As well, Nicole has been involved in the research process and project preparation with the Society on the Raptor bird of prey.
- Preparation for a community outreach and public education program

Nicole is articulate, is excited about the job track she is on and can provide insight on the summer job hunt and this unique summer employment program.

### EDMONTON

**Organization:** The Ability Society of Alberta

**Contact:** Adrian Bohash  
**Phone:** 403-262-9445

**Student:** Mandeep Gill



Mandeep Gill, from the University of Alberta, was recruited by The Ability Society of Alberta to research and review all the available programs for seniors and the disabled throughout Southern Alberta. A past volunteer for this organization, Mandeep was the perfect candidate for this position and will be working for The Ability Society again this summer.

The Ability Society of Alberta provides technological solutions by adapting toy, sporting and computer equipment for the disabled and seniors throughout Alberta. Ms. Gill's research provided them with information on already available services throughout Southern Alberta, so that their work is not duplicated. Her research also sourced areas in Southern Alberta that were in great need of help and resources that this society provides.

### **Alberta students, charities to benefit through Labatt People in Action**

**Edmonton, AB.,** -- For the 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row, students across Alberta are being invited to create their own summer job as part of the Labatt People in Action community support program.

Students are encouraged to work with a registered charity or community organization to develop a summer project related to their area of interest or study. Students then submit a project proposal to Labatt People in Action for funding. This year the program aims to help 130 students across Canada find summer jobs.

"Labatt People in Action not only helps students find meaningful work, it helps them make a significant contribution to their community," said Tim Seefeldt, public affairs manager for Labatt Breweries in Alberta.

Labatt People in Action, in partnership with Human Resources Development Canada, provided funding for nine jobs in Alberta (see backgrounder above for details). The program provides the wages while the charity or community group oversees the project. Since its inception, Labatt People in Action has helped more than 3,700 Canadian students secure summer work.

**The deadline for applications is March 18.** More information and application forms for can be obtained on the Internet at [www.lpia-jobs.com](http://www.lpia-jobs.com) or by calling the toll-free number, 1-800-334-2627.

### **WE NEED READER FEEDBACK!**

**Any comments, suggestions, feedback, or submissions may be sent to Tammy Moore, Editor of The Voice at [tmoore@ausu.org](mailto:tmoore@ausu.org). Many thanks for your writing contributions and support, and I look forward to hearing from you all!**

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# AUSU ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

The AUSU Academic Committee is looking for new members interested in exploring new ways of improving the academic experience of AU students.

Membership is on a volunteer basis. We meet once a month via teleconference, and welcome all new members with fresh ideas and a few spare hours each month. This is a great way to get involved with your school and get to know some fellow students.

Anyone interested can contact Tamra Ross Low at [trosslow@ausu.org](mailto:trosslow@ausu.org) for more information.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Elections 2002

Due to changed personal circumstances, a candidate has withdrawn his name from the upcoming election. This means we now have only 9 candidates for the 9 positions, and all will be therefore elected by acclamation. The President will declare the slate of candidates elected on March 16, 2002.

It is somewhat disappointing that we will not have an opportunity to go through the election process. However, I'm confident that all of new Council will work very hard and do their utmost to ensure that they always represent the student body responsibly.

Thank you to everyone for your interest in the election. Watch this site for more information on the nine men & women who will form your new AUSU Council!

Debbie Jabbour,  
President, AUSU

## Council News

This has been an exceptionally busy couple of months. Elections are underway, a CRO has been appointed, and ballots will be mailed out this week. Some other highlights:

- The peer portal is under development through AU's International Consortium for the Advancement of Academic Publication initiative. S. Barg has been working with the members of this team to ensure students' views are represented and that AUSU remains involved in this venture, since it will be of great benefit to all concerned. Students will sign into the peer portal, then will access things such as course-specific boards, chat, FAQ's, links, and a variety of student services.
- A new ad hoc committee has been formed, with M. McInnes as chair. This committee will focus on website and Voice planning and development.
- Council discussed the need for a grad student association (based on feedback and inquiries received) and will be looking at initiatives for grad students, with the goal of assisting in the formation of a grad student association linked to AUSU. This will build valuable collaborations with other organizations and will be in line with AU's focus on increased growth in grad programs.
- G. Dulai submitted a proposal for a variety of new scholarships for our members. The proposal has been referred to the Finance Committee for review.

- Emergency bursary and computer bursary are being revamped to make implementation more cost-effective.
- Members of AUSU executive met with AU President Dominique Abrioux and VP Finance Andy Woudstra regarding tuition costs. S. Barg travelled to Athabasca to represent AUSU on the Budget Advisory Committee February 7/8.
- S. Barg is arranging a seminar on board development with Alberta Community Development. This will involve the attendance of all on Council, to be held after elections.
- Bylaws are still being worked on, in conjunction with research on board development. The goal is to simplify and streamline our bylaws, while implementing more detailed policies.
- The Centre For Learning Accreditation Steering Committee has had an initial meeting and another coming up in March. They have invited two student representatives to sit on the committee, D. Jabbour and N. Palamarchuk.
- The Strategic University Planning Committee circulated initial discussion papers within the University for feedback. As student rep on this committee, D. Jabbour has been working to ensure student interests are taken into account in all university planning. Students with inquiries regarding the SUP can contact D. Jabbour or any member of the committee.
- Congratulations to AUSU staff member Christine Lynch on becoming an AU student.

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## **SCHOLARSHIP NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OFFERED \$ 346,000 IN CASH AND AWARDS FOR SHARING VISIONS ON IMPROVED CANADA - Top Prize of \$70,000 to be Awarded to National Winner -**

Toronto, On (March 4, 2002) — The As Prime Minister Awards announced today that it is again challenging students to present innovative ideas and solutions for charting the future course for Canada. The Magna for Canada Scholarship Fund will award more than \$346,000 in cash prizes and internships with Magna International Inc., Canada's largest supplier of automotive systems and components.

This year the As Prime Minister Awards program calls upon full-time undergraduate or graduate students from colleges, universities, or CEGEPs across Canada to prepare an essay answering the question:

"If you were the Prime Minister of Canada, what political vision would you offer to improve our living standards and ensure a secure and prosperous global community?"

Now in its eighth year, the program has grown consistently in popularity year over year; over 800 students from across the country participated in the 2001 program.

All entries are judged on the merit of innovative and workable solutions.

From the entries, 10 finalists are chosen and invited to present their essays before a distinguished panel of judges. The overall national winner is selected based upon his/her ability to express new, solution-driven ideas.



The deadline for essays is June 3, 2002. Program details are available through [www.asprimeminister.com](http://www.asprimeminister.com) or by calling 1-866-AS-THE-PM.

All winning student essays are published in a special book entitled @stake "As Prime Minister, I Would..." .

The Magna for Canada Scholarship Fund was established in 1995 by Magna International Inc, to empower students to express their solutions for building a better Canada. \$1,000,000 has been placed in a charitable trust on behalf of the scholarship fund. The program is also sponsored by The Fair Enterprise Institute, a non-partisan and non-profit organization founded to provoke dialogue and debate and propose innovative solutions to improve the living standards of Canadians.

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## NEWS FROM ALBERTA LEARNING

### **Proposed legislation would make Alberta's student finance system more responsive**

**Edmonton...** Proposed legislative changes will simplify and strengthen Alberta's student finance system and build greater flexibility and responsiveness into the system. The Student Finance and Loan Amendment Act, 2002, was introduced in the Legislature today and combines and revises the Alberta Student Finance and Student Loan Acts.

"It is essential that post-secondary education remains accessible and affordable for all Albertans," said Minister of Learning, Dr. Lyle Oberg. "Alberta's student finance system is already among the most comprehensive in the country. This bill will give us greater flexibility to respond to changing student needs in the future."

The Student Finance and Loan Amendment Act, 2002, will:

- Provide a solid legislative framework for the direct lending of Alberta Student Loans. The province moved to this lending arrangement August 1, 2001.
- Streamline the process for adjusting yearly loan limits
- Enable further harmonization with federal student loan programs
- Facilitate the electronic delivery of students' finance services
- Simplify legislation and eliminate duplication by combining current legislation into a single act
- Clarify wording in some existing provisions

The proposed changes are largely administrative and are intended to help Alberta's student finance system prepare for the future. Students will not notice any immediate differences in how their financial assistance is provided.

This fiscal year the province budgeted about \$134 million in financial assistance for post-secondary students including scholarships, grants, bursaries, student loans and the new automatic Student Loan Relief Program. In 200/01 approximately 47,000 Alberta post-secondary learners received assistance through federal and provincial student loans and grants.

For more information about financial assistance available to Alberta students, visit [www.alis.gov.ab.ca](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca).

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**Main Space at Stride Gallery**  
**Reginald Baxter**  
**King Charles Cavalier Spaniel**  
**February 22 - March 23, 2002**

**Artist Meet and Greet: Saturday, February 23, 2002**

Since 1990 Reginald Baxter has been painting copies of a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel that at a rate of about 4 to 8 each year. The source for this image itself is a bit of a mystery as it was extracted from an "original art" catalogue where the artists' names appeared to have been fabricated. Upon the first examination the 30 or so dog paintings appear to be replicas of one another, but on closer inspection it is quite easy to spot subtle differences that render each work as a unique original. The paintings are a crude counterpart to current technologies (like photography or videography) where there is no such thing as an original, but only mechanically-made duplicates. These collection of paintings that begun as a mechanically reproduced image of a forgery painting have ironically ended up as original pieces revealing the non-mechanical nature of the human touch and our ways of seeing.

Reginald Baxter graduated from the Ontario College of Art with an Honours in Fine Art in 1989. His work has been widely exhibited in Canada and abroad in various galleries including Kenderline Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK; Mercer Union, Toronto, ON; and 494 Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; and the Venice Biennial, Canadian Pavilion (collaborative bookwork with Tom Dean), Venice, Italy.

The artist will be in attendance at the opening reception. A brochure will accompany the exhibition.

Stride Gallery 1004 MacLeod Trail S.E., Calgary, AB CANADA T2G 2M7

Hours of operation: Tuesdays - Saturdays 11 - 5 p.m.

Storefront. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

URL: [www.stride.ab.ca](http://www.stride.ab.ca)

eMail: [stride2@telusplanet.net](mailto:stride2@telusplanet.net)

PHONE: 403.262.8507

FAX: 403.269.5220

For further information about Stride Gallery's upcoming program, please contact Lissa Robinson, Director at 403.262.8507. The Stride Gallery is an artist-run gallery that is funded in part by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Calgary Region Arts Foundation, the Canada Council and the generous support of the Calgary community.

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'Jewish Values & Social Justice'  
With Ben Carniol

Sunday, March 17, 2002 / 7:30 p.m.  
@ Beth Shalom Synagogue, 11916 Jasper Ave.  
INFOLINE: 454-7109

Join us for presentation / discussion about 'Jewish Values and Social Justice' with Ben Carniol, Professor of Social Work at Ryerson University, and author of "Case Critical: Challenging Social Services in Canada", a text which explores progressive change.

During the Second World War in Belgium, his parents were killed by the Nazis, and he was rescued and hidden by a Christian family. Ben's stirring insights into his own life experiences and about social justice and progressive change will inspire lively discussion and renewed dedication.

**Everyone is welcome. Admission is free, but donations gratefully accepted, and there will be a food bank box. For more information call Netta Phillet @ 454- 7109.**

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Global Village Backpackers Banff.

Our hostel opened June 1, 2001 right in downtown Banff. Formerly the Woodland Village Inn, we are a unique hostel as all our rooms have ensuite bathroom facilities. We have a hot tub, sauna, internet access, kitchen facilities, pool table, tour desk, TV room, bike rentals, laundry facilities, lounge and a large outdoor courtyard patio.

A majority of our rooms are spacious 4-8 bed dorms. We also have, what we call, semi-private rooms. Each has a double bed in a loft above a 4 bed dorm. You share the washroom facilities with the dorm.

Room rates

October 1, 2001 - April 14, 2001

Dorm Beds	\$25.00	\$22.00
Semi-private	\$55.00	\$51.00

Weekly rate in a dorm room                      \$129.50 (non-refundable)

All prices include taxes and linen. Discounts are available to travelers carrying YHA, ISIC, VIP or GO cards.

2001/2002 Ski packages

3 Nights/2 days - only \$169

3 Nights shared accommodation

2 days ski passes (Lake Louise/Sunshine Village/Mount Norquay)

Transport to/from ski hills  
Free pancake breakfast daily.

6 Nights/5 days - only \$369  
6 Nights shared accommodation  
5 days ski passes (Lake Louise/Sunshine Village/Mount Norquay)  
Transport to/from ski hills  
Free pancake breakfast daily.

We require credit card details to guarantee reservations.  
We welcome group bookings. Please call the hostel directly for details.

Cheers, The Staff at the Global Village Backpackers Banff  
449 Banff Avenue BOX 398  
Banff AB Canada T1L 1A5  
1-403-762-5521 Toll-free in North America 1-888-844-7875 fax 1-403-762-0385

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### **Are you an Artist? AUSU supports the arts!**

AUSU is interested in purchasing original works of art from students for use in promotional purposes. These promotions may include: gifts from AUSU to graduates at convocation, tokens of appreciation for volunteers, special presentations, etc.

The works of art must:

- be created by an AU Student
- be within a value range \$0-\$500.
- be accessible or easily transportable to Alberta

If you are an artist of any kind who creates a product you feel we would be able to use for such a purpose, please contact [djabbour@ausu.org](mailto:djabbour@ausu.org). Supply a brief description of the art object, a picture if you have it, and its market value.

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### **WRITE FOR THE VOICE!**

Contact Tammy Moore at [tmoore@ausu.org](mailto:tmoore@ausu.org).