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the VOICE

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"He has not learned the first lesson of life who does not every day surmount a fear." --Ralph Waldo Emerson



A Bug In Your Ear...

Launch Day Has Arrived!
By Tammy Moore

Through many months of hard work, the new Voice site is now up and running. I hope you will be as pleased as we are with the results of our efforts, and will feel inspired to submit articles and provide copious amounts of feedback regarding further fine tuning and development of *The Voice*.

I would like to thank AUSU council, as well as the Web Committee for taking the ball and running with it in regards to design, structure, and function of the new *Voice*. I would also like to thank Kara Tersen of [MetaFusion Design Studio](#) who built our page and went through many patient hours of design change, function development, and worked incredibly hard to make sure that the end product was as user friendly for the Editor as it was for the readers.

I am still busily working on the archives, and they will be available on the new site soon. Thank-you all for your patience and understanding while we were in transition mode, and working towards the grander scheme.

Once again, I would like to encourage the budding writer in each of you to submit to *The Voice!* This is your Athabasca University Student paper, and we need your support to continue to produce a vibrant, resourceful, and powerful paper that reflects your needs, interests, concerns, ideals, and educational woes and triumphs. Share your experiences with your fellow students and find your voice in our *Voice*.
Hope to hear from you soon☺



FED WATCH!

By Karl Low

Biosciences Growing in Ottawa

The Government of Ottawa is [investing thirty million dollars](#) in building space for 1,500 more students at the University of Ottawa. This means that these seats will cost approximately \$20,000 per student, actually, the cost is somewhat less as some of that money will be going into the renewal and replacement of laboratory equipment, and some will also be going into building a new research wing for the University.

So how much does it cost a student to get into one of these seats? A little [over \\$12,200 per year](#) once the extra fees are taken into consideration. This of course doesn't take into account little things like living expenses or food, this is just for the teaching. Premier Ernie Eves claims, "We are committed to revitalizing and modernizing Ontario's colleges and universities to ensure that every willing and qualified student has access to our world-class facilities." Apparently one of the criteria for a student to be qualified is to have a lot of money available, as Ontario Student finance will give a single student a maximum of \$275/week of full time instruction. Let's assume that the course is an actual full year course - a grand total of \$14,300 available in student finance per year. After the tuition a student is left with about \$2,100 for living expenses for the entire year.

Let's say you've managed to somehow push yourself through this schooling for three years or so by working part time jobs, begging, and being forced to choose between adequate sleep, adequate food, or adequate study time for each of those years. Perhaps something horrible happens that prevents you from graduating, or perhaps the job market when you finally get out is saturated with foreign researchers that Ontario has been working so hard to attract. In any event

if you for some reason are unable to pay back those loans, legislation has been passed so that you can't even declare bankruptcy on them for ten years following your graduation. On the other hand, those who happen to run a large business that is [faltering](#) and requiring government money to stay alive can declare bankruptcy on it should it die completely and at least save their personal assets. Not so if you're simply trying to get an education.

This is an extra disincentive for lower income students to attempt to enter Ontario's colleges and universities. But then again it's beginning to look like the poor aren't welcome anyway.

Lord Has His Say

Premier Bernard Lord of New Brunswick has written an [opinion/editorial letter](#) that makes a lot of good points. The Premier is writing about the planned export of natural gas to the United States. Premier Lord has no problems with that, and in fact encourages it, provided that New Brunswick and Canada are granted equal access to the offshore natural gas.

In his letter to the National Energy Board he writes "We are questioning why some are arguing that there is insufficient supply to serve Maritime needs, while at the same time an application has been filed with the NEB to double the capacity of the existing pipeline infrastructure to take gas to the U.S." This course of action only makes sense if you are viewing it from a governmental accounting perspective where the goal is to increase the value of exports.

Premier Lord makes very clear that he is not arguing for subsidized access to the gas, merely to the same type of access that the United States now enjoys, and I agree with him in this. If Canada and Canadians are willing to pay the same amount for the gas as the United States is, it makes little sense to export the gas and require Canadians to have to find more costly alternatives - possibly imported from the United States. It seems too often that our government accountants and regulators forget that the first duty of Canadian regulation is to serve Canadian interests.

A native Calgarian, Karl is perpetually nearing the completion of his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Information Studies. He also works for the Computer Sciences Virtual Helpdesk for Athabasca University and plans to eventually go on to tutor and obtain his Master's Degree.



OH&S Priorities of Labour & Capital: Which should be Superordinate in Setting Occupational Health & Safety Standards?

By Wayne E. Benedict

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Labour and capital possess inherent conflicting interests in the field of occupational health and safety (OH&S): workers demand the safest possible workplace (safety over the costs associated with providing it), while capital desires to balance the costs associated with providing a particular level of health/safety against the benefits derived from providing that level (cost-benefit analysis or economy over worker health/safety). The nature of the disagreement can be illustrated by the points of view expressed by Scientist Marvin Schneiderman and Economist Kip Viscusi.

Schneiderman (1982) quotes an English/Welsh study that examines the probability of death before the age of 65 of men (15 and over) by different occupations. The study finds that naphthylamine workers have an 85% chance of dying before the age of 65; amosite workers a 75% chance; policemen, a 55% chance; a two-pack a day smoker, a 48% chance; a coal miner, a 36% chance; a chemical worker, a 31% chance; the average man, a 30% chance; a manager, public health official, or health inspector, a 20% chance; and a teacher, a 10% chance of dying before the age of 65. In proposing the principles that should guide the setting of OH&S standards, Schneiderman states:

I suggest that we attempt to set our standard for all male workers the level of survival reached by schoolteachers. After all, if teachers can achieve that perhaps we ought to do as well for all occupations. That might be a little difficult to achieve and, therefore, perhaps if the teacher standard is too high, we should aim to ensure that industrial workers have survival rates as good as that of managers, public officials, and so on (Schneiderman, 1982, p. 196).

Viscusi (1982) on the other hand, argues that OH&S standards should be set on the free-market principles of cost-benefit analysis and willingness to pay:

We cannot provide jobs of equal safety for all any more easily than we can ensure that all individuals will be productive on a particular job irrespective of their strength, diligence, or intelligence. Indeed, attempts to promote such equalization undermine a beneficial feature of all market allocations (Viscusi, 1982, p. 976).

This essay will outline the nature of the disagreement between the points of view of labour and capital in relation to the setting of legislated OH&S standards and indicate which are more persuasive and why.

The capitalist perspective regarding the principles for setting OH&S regulations is based on the liberal economic free-market ideology. In a “perfect world”, proponents of capitalist

accumulation envisage, a flawless market wherein capital and labour would meet as equals in the marketplace and *freely* arrive at mutual agreement on the conditions of employment would require no interference from outside of the relationship (the state) in regards to setting OH&S standards. In a utopian perfect-market situation such as this, no regulation at all would be required because any worker subject to safety or health risks on the job would knowingly and voluntarily have accepted those risks in exchange for premium “risk-pay” and if labour demands were too high in regards to a specific risk, employers would lower the risk so as to procure cheaper labour. Of course, a perfect market does not exist in reality and, in fact, market theory exhibits more flaws than stability. Market-flaws which preclude so-called “efficient” allocation of resources to workplace health and safety include: *complete* information regarding risks present in the workplace does not exist; the minimal risk information that *does* exist is not effectively transmitted to the market players (employers & employees or their unions); risk information that does exist and is transmitted is often too technical for the recipient to comprehend it (or it is false); lack of occupational mobility options on the part of labour fetters the negotiation of “risk-premiums”; risk-premiums, if they even really exist, are not a true reflection of workers’ risk-tastes with regard to health and safety issues (Tucker, 1984, pp.96-97). Even most economists grudgingly recognize that the market has flaws and so the mechanism of cost-benefit analysis was produced in order to set *efficient* OH&S standards.

Tucker (1984, p. 98) describes cost-benefit analysis as a capital-endorsed process wherein an appropriate standard is one that would have been produced by a well-functioning market and, where the market is imperfect; the state should employ its centralized decision-making and planning apparatus as a substitute for the market mechanism. Viscusi (1982, p. 971) believes that in analyzing the efficiency of a standard, the cost per adverse health impact that is prevented should be assessed and if that monetary cost is clearly disproportionate (higher) to the value of the health benefit, then the policy should not be adopted. It is clear that cost-benefit analysis places financial considerations vastly superordinate to worker health and safety concerns—a fact that is not at all surprising considering the importance of accumulation to capitalists and the economists that they employ. In order to calculate the costs and the benefits associated with any particular health or safety standard, accurate and reliable figures are required to enter into a formula for calculation. This would require, not only accurate monetary values associated with the costs of compliance, but also accurate monetary equivalencies placed on a worker’s health and/or life. For example, in referring to workers in the zinc, lead, and copper smelting industries, Viscusi states that “one would expect that these workers had relatively low values of life ***based on their decision to work in these industries*** so that the value of life estimate of \$2 million for the average worker substantially overstates these workers’ willingness to pay for risk reduction” (Viscusi, 1982, p. 972) (emphasis added). He also makes references to broad ideals by asking questions such as “how much is ***society*** willing to pay for the risk reduction” (emphasis added), a technique that tends to separate the reader from the suffering of individual workers who are injured, sickened, or killed by the conditions of their work. Throughout *Setting Efficient Standards for Occupational Hazards*, the publication from which his statement outlined at the beginning of this paper is taken, Viscusi qualifies the monetary amounts that he arrived at (in relation to the worth of workers’ health and lives) as being estimates “based on (his own) calculations and material in the Council on Wage and Price Stability”. It is highly doubtful that any worker would place an equivalently low value (or indeed any monetary value) on his or her own health, safety, or life as does the estimates of Viscusi and other economists who are concerned only with the overall economic health of capitalist accumulation. In fact, I would suggest that the majority of individual human beings would place

the value on human health and life as being priceless. So too would the capitalist if contemplating his or her own life or health and not that of mere employees.

Tucker (1984, pp. 98-100) outlines many other problems with the accuracy and reliability of information on which cost-benefit analysts rely. Problems that are associated with identifying the costs of regulation (which include fines for non-compliance, purchasing and maintaining the technology required for compliance, and impaired worker productivity) include: estimates regarding expected costs are likely to be inflated by employers; costs of compliance are likely to be highest in the period immediately following introduction of the legislation due to the “catch-up effect”; most studies on costs fail to separate compliance costs from expenditures which otherwise would have been incurred; many costs usually associated with regulation, such as declines in productivity and employment, do not stand up to close scrutiny. Problems associated with identifying the benefits of regulation include: the effects of current hazardous chemical exposure levels are unknown; the current state of science is unable to produce the information necessary to develop accurate damage function for different exposure levels; methods devised to quantify the value of lives saved and health improved are inadequate due to the same problems that create market imperfections described *supra*; there is no mechanism for determining the willingness to pay of the wider public (the workers’ family and friends) for workers to be provided with a healthier environment. Despite the plethora of inconsistencies and inaccuracies associated with cost-benefit analysis as it is applied to the setting of OH&S standards, the system is in wide use by government agencies and that fact is indicative of the weak position of labour in society—the powerful (capital) versus the powerless (labour) in regards to their ability to influence government policy.

Catch part two next week, continuing with OH&S standards

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From My Perspective: My job –PART I

By Debbie Jabbour

As AU students, most of us are working towards a degree with the hope that we will find a new career, a job in a field that we enjoy, where our talents and abilities are utilized to the maximum. Many of us have experienced the daily grind of having to work at a job we hate just to survive. For those of us reaching the end of our undergraduate studies, the goal of employment that meets our new expectations finally feels within reach.

I've been reading want ads for ages, counting the days until I finally have that BA behind my name and can finally start working in some area of the psychology field. Recently I applied for a new job, and this week I start training. It's not my ultimate goal, but it is one step closer, and I'd like to share some of my perspectives as I go into training for my new job at Capital Health Link - answering the new Addictions/Tobacco Cessation information line.

For those residing outside of Alberta, you may not be familiar with Capital Health Link (<http://www.cha.ab.ca/healthsite/pk2524sh.asp>), although the service exists in other areas. Link is based on a nurse telephone triage concept developed by Sheila Wheeler (<http://www.teletriage.com/>). In Edmonton the service started up almost two years ago for the Capital Health Region, and soon expanded into other areas of Northern Alberta (Mistahia and Peace). By year-end Link is scheduled to cover all of Alberta, with regional centres in Edmonton and Calgary.

I had been working for Capital Health on a casual basis for almost a year and a half when Link entered the developmental stage, and I was invited to work on the initial team as clerical support. At the time I had just made the decision to go to university full time and could not accept the position, choosing to continue instead with casual data entry work. Several months later however, shortly after the launch of Link, I was again invited to apply for a position. This time I accepted the job - part time clerical support covering evenings and weekends. Much of my initial work involved entering protocols into the new computer system they were converting to, called "Sharp Focus." I must confess I really had no idea what "triage" involved, nor what a "protocol" was. I soon learned.

Protocols go into great detail depending on the symptoms the caller is experiencing. Nurses perform triage (the allocation of services to a patient according to a system of priorities) by asking questions and then choosing the appropriate decision tree. For example, if the caller says, "I have stomach pains", the nurse will then ask a series of questions to determine the location and severity of these pains. Based on the information the caller gives and what the protocol says, the nurse will advise the caller of one of several options, which can range from; "go to emergency immediately," to "see a doctor within 24 hours," or may just consist of helpful suggestions for home treatments. Entering the protocol information into the database was an education in itself - I learned more than I wanted to know about a host of ailments ranging from sunburn to heart attack to meningitis - I was itching for hours after typing up the lice & scabies protocols!!

Working at Link I've come to realize what a wonderful service it is. I remember one nurse telling me about a senior citizen who called late at night during a particularly busy time. This lady was on hold for about 20 minutes and the nurse was highly apologetic when she finally got to her. The lady reassured the nurse that it was no problem; said that she was lying in her warm bed at home waiting on the phone instead of going out in the cold and sitting in a hospital emergency department for hours - 20 minutes was no difficulty at all! Of course since that time Link has expanded (from 40 nurses to 120 in less than a year) and long waits on the phone are rare.

In practical terms, the service is designed to reduce unnecessary visits to the hospital emergency department and provide peace of mind to callers regarding their health and that of their loved ones. However, at times Link does even more. A few months ago Link nurses possibly saved the life of a young woman from Eastern Canada who was in Edmonton to attend a wedding. She

was 30 weeks pregnant, and started to experience symptoms that included swelling and vision problems. In spite of this, she stood up for her friend at the wedding ceremony, then enroute to the reception stopped at a phone booth to call for advice. The Link nurse immediately recognized the symptoms, and insisted the young woman go to emergency where she was diagnosed with toxemia, a serious and potentially fatal complication. Shortly after arrival at hospital she gave birth to a premature but healthy daughter. You can read the story at: (<http://www.cha.ab.ca/healthsite/pk5413sh.asp?dyn=5414>).

Several of the Link nurses are fellow AU students as well, and one nurse leader is an AU graduate, so we often sympathize regarding our studies. It takes a very special person to be a Link nurse, however, and learning at a distance provides excellent training. Interviews are intensive and rigorous, done both in person and through test phone calls. In addition to medical and people skills, nurses also need to have typing and computer abilities, something not usually required in a hospital or community environment. Training covers the better part of six weeks and nurses are preceptored until they feel confident enough to take their first call alone. As distance education students we understand the challenges of communicating in a non face-to-face environment, yet the Link nurses have to do this every day. They are required to be the “comforting voice” on the other end of the phone, and although they have a protocol to follow, they have to use common sense judgement at all times.

Link also incorporates several other health information services under its umbrella. Requests for immunization records, school health nurse referrals, prenatal classes, and the Healthy Beginnings program all operate from Capital Health Link. For the past year and a half I’ve provided clerical support for the Healthy Beginnings program. This program provides follow-up care for new mothers in the Capital Health region. I’ve found it extremely interesting learning about all the possible complications of childbirth and ways in which community health nurses support new mothers. The nurses have told me about different cultural aspects of birth and postnatal care, and I’ve incorporated many of these things into my coursework. For example I did a research project for SOSC366 on the relationship between breastfeeding behaviour and caesarean delivery, and a paper on culture and childbirth practices for ANTH499.

Now Link is expanding into another field - a collaboration with AADAC - the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (<http://corp.aadac.com/>). A few weeks ago I noticed the ad for a telephone operator for the new AADAC Link line. I spoke with my supervisor and asked what they were looking for. She said that although it is defined as a clerical position, the ideal would be someone with strong clerical and people skills who had some social work or psychology background. This sounded like me...so after some discussion with my family I decided to apply.

Next week: training starts for the new job

Debbie is a native Edmontonian, a single parent with four daughters. She has worked as a professional musician for most of her life, and has enjoyed a rich variety of life experiences - with many more to come! Debbie is working towards an eventual doctorate in psychology, and currently serves as the president of the Athabasca University Students' Union.



The Challenges of Serving on a Distance University Student's Union

By Tamra Ross Low

My first year as a Voice columnist recently came to a close, and I am already in my fifth month as a councilor on the student's

union. As I prepare my 52nd article I reflect on what I've written in the past, and on how I can make my future columns relevant to the AU studentry.

It is a daunting task. AU's student populations is far more demographically diverse than most. Whereas many schools are dominated by full-time students in their early twenties, AU's average student is in their thirties. Many already have careers, or have been in the workforce for some time. We live in all parts of the country, and a number of us live outside of it. A significant percentage of the AU population has never been to Alberta, and some have never set foot in Canada.

We have student's who are senior citizens, retired middle-agers, mid-life career changers, and many who are mildly or severely handicapped. Many have children, many more have full time jobs, and some have both. Some come to AU for a full undergraduate or even a graduate degree – as I have – while others are taking only a few courses. The number of students who use AU courses to supplement a degree at their primary institution is always increasing.

So, there it is impossible to profile the average AU student, nor is there any simple way to know what many of our student's most need to ensure their success. This is perhaps the greatest challenge of serving on the AUSU. Many of our students face unique challenges to completing their educations, and it is the task of the student's union to work toward assisting with these stresses where possible. Therefore, determining the most pressing needs of the student body is essential in providing good service.

I knew this would be a difficult task when I ran for the union position. Often student's unions will look to unions at other schools for direction, but as AUSU is currently one of the largest and most active distance learning student's unions in the world, we are often the first to offer many programs and services. The lack of information regarding the role of student's unions in distance learning became very apparent to me in April when I was working with AUSU's Debbie and Shirley on a paper for the International Symposium on Educational Conferencing [ISEC]. We were writing from the student's union perspective, and wanted to find as much material as we could that was published by distance learning student's unions and their members. We found next to nothing.

This means that we must always look for new ways to gauge the needs of our students. A most pressing need, which was revealed through our work for the ISEC conference, is for access to

and knowledge of the most modern electronic communications tools. This is a fundamental requirement that effects all AU students, regardless of age, locale, course-load, or program. Distance learners majoring in Psychology may be just as dependent on electronic communications with their tutors as are students of Computer Science. Because this need is so basic, we as a union have put a great deal of our energy into creating a more user-friendly and informative student's union website and online newspaper. We are also working with the university through our involvement in educational conferences, and through direct contact with university staff to improve the quality of online communications for all students. These things take time. If all goes well, this article should appear in the first edition of the Voice to be published on our new searchable HTML driven format. A better AUSU site with improved services is soon to come.

I'm pleased that we have been able to address this need, but there is much more to be done. In order to continue to provide quality services to AUSU members, and to be able to provide relevant articles as a Voice columnist, I often worry that I don't know enough about what is of interest to our readers.

This will continue to be a challenge. Our old website had forums where students could post messages on any topic. The new site will include these, and probably a live chat as well. The forums were a valuable tool for student-to-student communication but only a very small percentage of AU students used them, and the bulk of the posts were written by only a few. The posts provided a lot of valuable information to AUSU, but given the small number of students commenting, we must be careful to not assume that they constitute a representative sample of the larger AU student population.

Another source of information we rely heavily upon is our own experience as AU students. Most union members have attended AU for many semesters, and are enrolled in full degree programs. We all feel that AU is the best possible school for our needs, but we have also encountered challenges that are unique to distance learning and that are not yet addressed within the university and student's finance systems. A number of other student's have very likely encountered similar problems, and so we are able to put our own experiences to work in our office as councilors. Nevertheless, we also must be aware that councilors are unique in their high-level of school involvement, and are not necessarily representative of all students.

By far our most valuable tool for gauging how the union should distribute student services is to hear from you – the students. Some of you may feel that the AUSU is less accessible than other student's organizations because we don't have a fulltime office where you can drop in and talk to union councilors when you need to. This is true, but on the other hand, we are more accessible than most because any of us can be reached by email at any time.

No matter how well we promote the new AUSU website, and no matter how many other contact options we provide, I think we will always have a low response rate. This is due in part to a general discomfort with online communications, but I think more so it is because our students are busy people for whom school is only one major commitment that must be balanced with many others. When time for school must be carefully scheduled between children's lunches, business meetings and picking up the dry cleaning, the functioning of the student's union is not a pressing concern. Nor should it be. AU student's success often depends on their ability to prioritize and effectively schedule large projects over scant pockets of free time. And so the onus is on AUSU to continue to learn about our students and their lives so that we can best anticipate their needs.

Serving on the AUSU is uniquely challenging, but also uniquely rewarding. We take pride in blazing trails that other distance learning student's unions are only beginning to tread. Working with such a diverse group of students can be fascinating. It is especially interesting to learn about the factors which effect all of you, and to see how learning at AU can equalize the experiences of people from all walks of life. As our new newspaper site launches we will be working hard to promote it. Our readership is certain to rise, and I sincerely hope that over the next year I can provide articles that are of interest to a number of students, if not all of you at once.

Tamra lives in Calgary with her husband and two cats. A fulltime AU student, she splits her free time between her duties as an AUSU councillor, writing her first novel, and editing written work by other students and friends.



The Empire Never Ended: A Day at the Rodeo

By b.e. hydromako

“The empire never ended,” was a phrase that science fiction author Philip K. Dick was fond of using now and then to describe the state of our world. He was referring to the alleged “fall” of the Roman Empire; however, his sentiment is that there was no fall, but only a changing of the guard. That is to say, Mr. Dick

felt that the Roman Empire has merely changed hands a few times over the course of history, and its mentality has never quite escaped the ruling elite who structure and guide our society. He saw all around him, here in our modern world, the hands of the Roman Empire shaping the course of our lives.

One of the things that the Roman Empire used to do in order to distract its populace from paying attention to how corrupt its rulers were was to put on shows referred to by some as “bread and circuses.” These were the spectacular blood sports held in places like the Coliseum. What the Roman rulers would do is bring in the underprivileged and the marginalized of their society, give them a place to sit, feed them bread, and then entertain them with gladiatorial combat, elaborate games, chariot races, etc. All of this, as far as I can see, centred around three things: food, violence, and persuasion. Certainly, if we are among the lower classes of a society and yet are fed by the rulers of that society, then we are less likely to want to do something about the corrupt elite. Hunger can be a powerful motivational force, and if it is satiated, then people are more likely to remain docile. The spectacle of violence is also a powerful thing in the lives of humans. If our ruling elite offers us violence for our spectator pleasure, then we are again less likely to

resort to violence against these same rulers as they are fulfilling some primal need within their populace. These two things—food and violence—work together to create a powerful persuasive force which quells the opportunities to look at the atrocities of the rulers. I imagine that being able to witness death for sport while having a full belly all because of the ruler's decree would make many people less likely to seek out and reveal the faults and the injustices of the society created and maintained by their ruler. Certainly we can see that Mr. Dick has a good point, if only we take the time to examine the society that we find ourselves living in.

Leaving many of the obvious examples aside for the time being, let us instead take a look at the recent “Greatest Outdoor Show On Earth” that came and went through Calgary earlier this summer.

I saw on the news that this year's Stampede had the greatest number of animal deaths ever in the history of this outdoor exhibition. The rodeo took the lives of several horses and ended the lives of other animals as well. The CTV news [reported](#) that seven animals died for our viewing entertainment—twice as many as usual. One of the most deadly events, for humans and for horses alike, is the chuck-wagon race. Watching those little carts being pulled around the track by a whole team of horses conjures up notions of absurdity in at least this viewer. It appears to me that the proportions of driver and cart to the team of (I believe it's) four full-grown horses are insane, and such scale of power to weight is simply looking for accidents and deaths. This year, the spectators of the Stampede were treated to exactly that: the deaths of horses on the chuck-wagon track.

And isn't this all a little like the chariot races of the Roman Empire. Certainly, we are more “civilized” today in so far as we are not outright allowing the competitors in the event to try to kill each other during the course of the race, but really, how “civil” are we when we can still sit anonymously in a crowd in order to watch a spectacle before us which gives rise to a high possibility of injury and death? What is it that has really changed? We are still as willing to watch blood sports as we ever were, except now we have to pay large amounts of money for entrance to the fair grounds, food, and our seats in the grandstand. So really, the rulers these days are getting even more out of these “bread and circuses” because not only do they continue to distract us from the real problems in our world and also satiate our primal desires for violence, but we also shell out our hard earned money in order to perpetuate this epidemic of distraction.

Yep, Philip K. Dick was certainly onto something when he formulated his notion that the Empire never ended. Not only has it not ended, it has gotten more and more efficient over the years at being able to cover itself up in such a manner that not only do we have difficulty seeing how the Empire still exists today, but we also help pay for its perpetuation and maintenance. It is a subtle and vicious empire indeed, if we are unable to even recognize its hand gripped firmly around our throats.

b.e. hydromako is not sure whether his parents were human, and sometimes feels that the sun and the moon are his father and mother respectively (or vice-versa). He doesn't have a belly button, and the operation to remove the alien implants is forthcoming. Sometimes he thinks that the world is a projection of some malfunctioning machine.



Is It Still Better To Give? *Some Restrictions Apply.*

By Laura Seymour

Everyone knows donating your old clothes is fine; just find the nearest bin. However, what if you are trying to donate something larger or you are uncertain they will be able to *use* your gift? Seeing old furniture discarded on streets and in alleys I felt *sure* these people just didn't bother to call someone to donate these items.

This is where I began to get annoyed, and I found out I'm not alone in this feeling.

I phoned the Salvation Army after Larry and I moved to our new condo. We had placed several items for sale and a few were still leftover. My mother had taught me that things I didn't need were usable to someone else. And that there were people somewhere in the world who would be glad to have a beaten down old couch or some nice clothes I was tired of. It was just a question of making some calls. Or *was* it? Let's look at the new rules of donation.

- 1) **Expect delays getting through on the telephone to most charity organizations or women's shelters. If you get through right away, consider yourself lucky.**
- 2) **When I called the Salvation Army I tried several times before finally connecting to a real, live person. I was asked what quadrant of Calgary I live in. "The south west," I answered. She replied, "My next pick-up there is the 28th of the month." Considering the present date was the 14th I was shocked. The new furniture was a great fit in our puny livingroom (it's a *very* small condo). But, now I had to wait two weeks with extra furniture sitting around. Sigh!**

Which brings us to rule number two.

3) Expect a long list of acceptable and unacceptable items.
"We don't take metal desks," the woman on the phone insisted tersely. "Uh...uh why?" I whined meekly.
"They aren't on our list."
"But this is still good and ...ummm...someone must need a desk."
"Oh yes, we take desks...but not metal ones."
This was intensely frustrating.
"Alright," I sighed. "I have a washing machine."
"We don't take washing machines."
"What?! With all those mothers out there trying to do their baby's laundry?"
The Salvation Army lady sighed, "We don't have the space ma'am."

A work buddy heard all about our donation woes and told us he had called a woman's shelter or organization and tried to donate saleable, professional grade machines the group could sell. He told us that a woman sighed that they "didn't know if they could spare the time to pick them up unless it included a financial donation."

What is going on here? It strikes me that these people are behaving in a very picky manner. While I sympathize with the space problems and the need for finances, I truly believe that some of these non-profit groups have not found the best way to assist some of the needy.

I recently began looking for a way to "put to use" our old cell phone. It has a brand new battery, and is perfectly usable. It's just old and clunky. Larry found out on a newsgroup that women's shelters can use your old cell phone to give to women in danger. The inactive-account phones can always get a 911 phone call through in an emergency. It sounded like a great idea! So, once again I got on the telephone trying to track down the appropriate agency.

4) Expect the person on the phone to "enlighten" you about the list of procedures for women's shelter donations.

First, I couldn't figure out where to phone. Then I had trouble getting a person to talk to me. I looked through the list of organizations in the Yellow Pages and found some likely areas to look. Finally I gave up, and just picked an organization. I was told *they* did not use cell phones but to try the Sheriff King's Home. I was told by the harried woman "the number is in the book." Where is another story! I eventually tracked it down under the Y.W.C.A. After phoning the administration number, and waiting 24 hours for an answer, I got a reply and was told to call another number. I phoned the next number and again got a message. This one had a long recorded list of procedures. It included WHEN and WHERE it was all right to donate!

That stopped me cold. Let me get this straight...if I donate at the right place, but at the wrong time my items will be thrown out?! That was what the message said. It also told me I was to fill out a form and have picture ID with me. The message then painted a James Bond meeting-style: "go to a back, middle loading dock door on only ONE Saturday of the month between 9 am and noon!" This attempt at an act of donation was becoming a *huge* hassle. How many others had given up giving important items simply because of this red tape? More than ever we are an impatient society. (How long do *you* wait to connect to an Internet page?!) I had to call back to listen to the message a second time for the address and donation times. I found myself annoyed about yanking myself out of bed on a Saturday morning just to meet their strict rules.

I phoned Mustard Seed organization... I am still awaiting the answer from them. I hope they will need a cell phone and that it will not take a huge amount of time and forms to give it to them.

Now, unfortunately, I am starting to understand why I see discarded furniture on the streets!

To all our VOICE readers, there is a PERFECTLY good children's bike here in my garbage building. If anyone wants it...[email us](#). I promise I won't make you fill out any forms!!

Laura Seymour first published herself, at age 8. She has since gone on to publish a cookbook for the medical condition of Candida. She is working toward her B.A. (Psyc).



Same-Sex Equality Issues By Mark Gueffroy

On Friday, July 12th the Ontario Superior Court of Justice set a precedent by ruling that provinces are violating the constitutional rights of same-sex couples by refusing to issue marriage licenses. As a young gay male that actively participates in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) community here in Calgary, I reviewed the details of the ruling with great

interest and mixed feelings. It is difficult for me to appreciate or respect the opinion that same-sex marriages should not be permitted, because generally the same people that present that opinion are also of the opinion that the GLBT community participates in sexual behaviour that cannot be considered responsible. I am not in agreeance with this, but provided that it was true, would not same-sex marriages promote responsible sexual behaviour to the community that many accuse of being sexually irresponsible?

From a legal perspective, the Ontario Superior Court ruling states that refusing same-sex marriages violates the rights of same-sex couples and is unconstitutional. The same ruling states that determining eligibility for marriage is exclusively federal jurisdiction and not within the control of provincial governments. The Court further noted, "This discrimination cannot be justified by the government. The only rationale advanced by government for discriminating was based on the argument that only heterosexuals can procreate. Procreation is not the singular objective of marriage and, in any event, many same-sex couples now have and raise children. The government has advanced no pressing and substantial objective for maintaining discrimination; moreover, excluding same-sex couples from marriage is not rationally connected to the purported objective, the rights of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals are not minimally impaired, and the negative effect of the discrimination far outweighs any speculative benefits of the law."

Does the Ontario Superior Court ruling affect other provinces? It certainly affects other provinces as it creates a Canadian precedent supporting constitutional challenges for same-sex marriages, but it does not bind other provinces to acknowledge the ruling. In a newsletter sent to members of EGALE, the editor stated, "In practice, a Registrar in another province might simply refuse to follow the Ontario judgement, which would then require a further constitutional challenge in that province. The courts of that province would doubtless find the Ontario court ruling persuasive, but would be free to reach a different conclusion. To truly cement a victory across the country, one of two things must happen: (a) a Supreme Court of Canada ruling extending the definition of marriage in both the common law and Bill S-4 would have binding effect across the country; (b) Parliament could legislate to extend the definition of marriage across the country." A former Athabasca University student that completed Legal Studies 369 at that institution also commented, "I would venture to say that there is another possible way to 'cement a victory.' If a similar decision was ruled in each provincial Superior Court, that should have the same effect as the two methods mentioned by EGALE."

Another argument that has been presented in defence of the opinion that same-sex marriages should not be permitted is the “sacredness of the traditional family unit” and the role of marriage in relation to religion. This argument is usually presented by conservative religious individuals and organizations. Personally, I believe that it is possible to reconcile both involved groups and respect the opinions and rights of each. Marriage should have a role within religion and should also have a civil role outside of the religious realm for those who do not identify with organized religion. Religious organizations that are supportive and tolerant of persons that identify as homosexual should also have the right to perform marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples, but should not be forced to do so. The decision to perform ceremonies for same-sex couples should be an internal policy much like the policy of many religious organizations governing the membership of those who identify as homosexual.

Regardless of your opinion on this issue, your views are important and I would like to encourage you to contact your local Member of Parliament to express your opinion. You can obtain the contact information for your MP by visiting <http://www.parl.gc.ca/> or by calling 1-800-OCANADA. You can also contact the Office of the Premier and the Attorney General of Canada to express your views, write letters to the Editor, or support organizations that represent your values. If you support same-sex marriage equality, please visit [www.samesexmarriage.ca!](http://www.samesexmarriage.ca/)

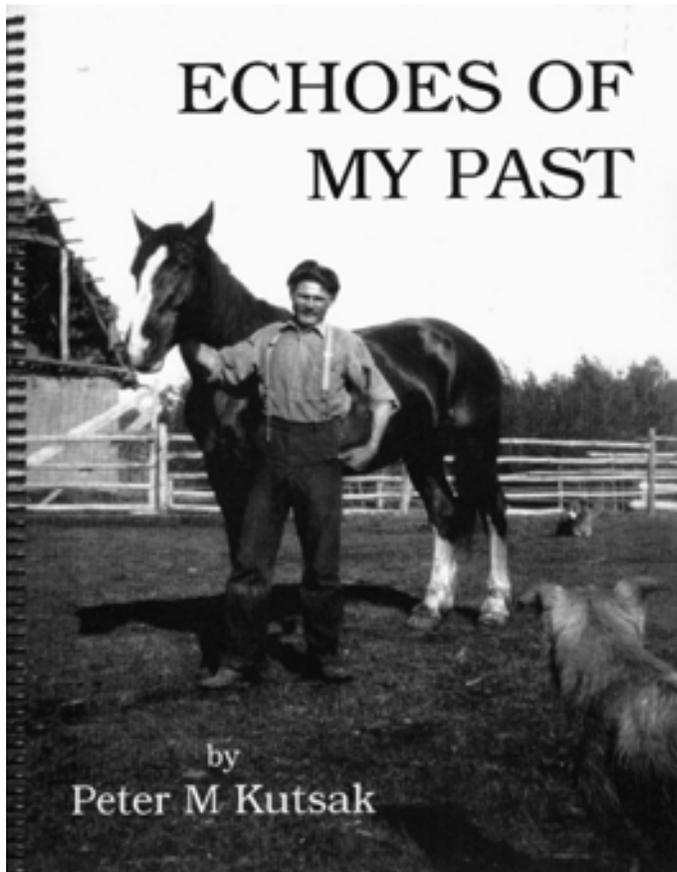
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Mark Gueffroy enjoys media and public relations consulting, and working in the non-profit sector. Mark identifies as a member of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) community and is active in civil rights for the GLBT community. He welcomes your comments and may be reached by email at markcalgary@hotmail.com or by phone at (403) 669-8115.



Sharing the Memoirs of My Father's Life

TATO

By Shirley Barg

My father, Peter Kutsak, turned 83 last January. Eight years ago, he sat down in front of a computer for the very first time in his life and taught himself how to use Word Perfect. Over the next four years he typed up pages and pages of notes, written with his age-wobbly hand, of his memories and life experiences. To him, it was a labour of love for his family. He had left school after completing the eighth grade and as he says, "In comparison to today's standards of education, I rate my status as nearly illiterate." Although he struggled at times for the right words, before his book was

printed, those doing the editing changed very little of what he had written. Peter Kutsak's words and stories reflect him as a man. They're full of life and spirit, honesty and humour, hardship and elation.

As a storyteller, Peter's words come alive on the pages and through them the reader is transported back to homesteader days in eastern Saskatchewan, to the front lines in World War II, and to post-war life in Saskatchewan.

Over the next few weeks, with his permission, I'll share some of his stories with the readers of The Voice.

**From *Echoes of my Past* by Peter M. Kutsak
Copyright 1999**

Tato

The image, although it is now a little bit blurred, is still in my mind of three oxen hitched to a breaking plough with Tato holding the plough upright, one rein over his left shoulder, the other rein under his right arm and both reins tied together in the back.

In my memory the oxen are unruly because of the flies. Tato, grasping the handles, tries to keep the plough in the ground, battling the bounces each time the plough hits a rock. Sweat drips off his face onto a shirt that is already soaked with perspiration. Using his shirtsleeve, he wipes the sweat off his brow in an effort to keep it out of his eyes.

“So this is the life awaiting me,” I must have thought as I followed Tato in the eighteen-inch furrow—a crease created with curses, blisters and sweat in the precious virgin soil of our homestead.

That is the picture of what those pioneers endured. The toil that went into trying to make a living can only be described in the present age as extreme torture. Life was not easy. Just as you began to see a glimmer of hope you were always faced with more adverse conditions to dampen those hopes. Just as those adverse conditions were dealt with, there were other unexpected occurrences.

Tato worked all summer for a farmer to get our first horse to replace the oxen. I was six years old when I saw a strange sight: hitched to a wagon were one horse and one ox. We had to work with this mismatched combination for a couple of years until we had enough horsepower to replace the oxen.

I recall a few years of crop failure when drought, frost or hail reduced the fields to total destruction. We were then faced with a year of no crop and no supply of straw for cattle feed for the cold winter months ahead. During these unfortunate years we had to haul straw from farmers up to eighteen miles away with a team of horses and a hayrack. The normal price for the straw was a dollar a load. We had to sell some of the cattle to buy the straw so that the rest of the livestock could survive through the winter.

We faced considerable hardship in hauling this feed for the cattle. Going with two racks helped us cope with the hazards. One of the hazards was the single-track road. With a load of straw, as you approached another sleigh coming towards you, someone had to yield. If the snow buildup was high around the track ruts on the trail, the load would upset the instant one runner sank into the deep snow. People would usually give way when they saw that they were in a minority against a double load. Another hazard was getting stuck in snowdrifts. When that happened we could hook up the extra team from the other load to pull the stuck load through.

Each year we put up a lot of hay at home in the forest reserve. But without a good quantity of straw, the hay supply would not be sufficient. Haying at that time was not as simple as it is today. With the huge balers today, no hay is handled by hand. One lift of a forklift tractor now and you have one ton of hay loaded. In our times, the hay was cut by horse-drawn mower, allowed to dry a few days, then raked and stacked into coils and left to settle down. The coils were loaded on a rack, and then forked off the rack onto a stack.

I used to enjoy haying on the reserve meadows. It was like a camping adventure. Usually it was a family affair. Sometimes the haying took a whole week before it was completed.

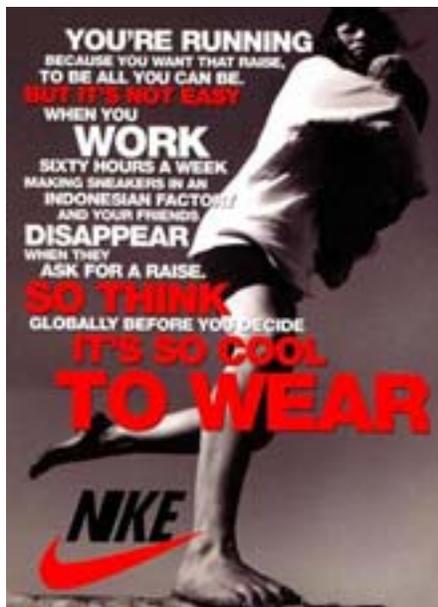
I recall coming from school one summer day and being given the chore of taking a meal and a jug of cold water to Tato and cousin John who were clearing the willow trees on the hay meadow. After eating, Tato sharpened his grub axe with a file, ready to get back to work. He took a good swing with the axe to cut a root under a willow but he hit a rock. He swore in anger,

as he had just sharpened the axe. Now he had to do it again. After filing the axe a second time he went back to the willow to try in a different place. On the first swing he hit a rock again. This time he was so angry that, as he swore, he threw the axe about eight feet away. When the axe hit the ground it again struck a rock.

Tato turned to John and said, "I quit. I am going to Peace River." That was the time when the Peace River area opened land for homestead settlers. He never did go to Peace River, but continued suffering with the rocks, roots and other adverse conditions until the day he retired.

In later years, with heavy tractor equipment and the invention of rock pickers, it became easier to cope with the elements, as they eliminated the use of human labour in dealing with the dreaded chores.

Photo credit: Shirley Barg



Presto Chango: Nike not welcome in Toronto's Kensington Market **Contributed By Community Networks Group**

Maquila Solidarity Network -Nike Campaign News Release, July 19, 2002

Photo credit: Spoof ad campaign of Adbusters

When Nike moved into Toronto's Kensington Market, a vibrant neighbourhood of alternative youth culture, they should have known they would have a fight on their hands. Shortly after the Nike "Presto showroom" opened, local graffiti artists let Nike know it wasn't welcome by tagging buildings and mailboxes with messages like, "Nike = sweatshops = get lost." Earlier this week, a pair of sneakers, dripping with red paint, appeared overnight hanging from the Presto sign.

The battle culminated last night when local youth, together with the Maquila Solidarity Network and UNITE, organized an anti-Nike street party and counter-concert to protest the company's sweatshop labour practices and infiltration of the Kensington Market. Staged on a balcony three doors down from Presto, the concert opened with the local break-dancing crew SheBang! B-Girls. Before a crowd of over 300 people, electronic artists mixed beats between speeches by MSN, UNITE, local author Jim Munroe and the Toronto Public Space Committee. The street was shut down for two hours as youth danced, partied and chanted "Nike go home!"

It was an unfortunate choice when someone at Nike decided to market their new "Presto" sneakers to an alternative, "indie youth" crowd. To reach the target market, Nike opened a music venue called Presto in the Kensington Market in June. They hired a youth marketing firm to book local alternative bands who were encouraged to wear Nike's new Presto sneakers during their shows. "Wardrobe Guidelines" in the bands' contracts explicitly forbade the wearing of any logos of Nike's competitors. Bar staff were issued Nike shoes and apparel, and a display of Presto gear went up on the wall. It was a marketer's dream come true.

Surprisingly the familiar Nike swoosh was nowhere to be seen on the club. Many residents had no idea it was a Nike marketing project until they walked through the door and saw the sneaker display on the wall and all the staff wearing Nikes. But it didn't take long for opposition to grow against this attempt to infiltrate the local indie arts community. OPPRESTO the counter-concert Members of Future Rhetoric, a collective of local electronic artists and DJs, had been invited to play at Presto. When they learned they were being used to market Presto sneakers, they immediately pulled out and decided to organize a counter-concert and street party called Oppresto, with the help of MSN.

Market residents also approached their local city councillor to complain about Presto's high noise levels in a residential neighbourhood. By-law inspectors were sent to Presto one night and found the club was running without a permit, with noise levels exceeding allowable limits. On July 18, the night of the counter-concert, Nike decided to pull the plug on music at their venue and simply use the space as a Presto display room until August 17. At that point the marketing project ends and Nike will pull out of the Market. *They are not expected back any time soon.*

Maquila Solidarity Network / Ethical Trading Action Group

606 Shaw St, Toronto ON M6G 3L6 Canada

Tel. 416-532-8584 / Fax.416-532-7688

www.maquilasolidarity.org



COMMENTARY AND FEEDBACK! LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to all of you who have been providing us with such great feedback on The Voice. Please continue providing your opinions, comments and support; any submissions can be sent to tmoore@ausu.org

Accepted letters to the editor have not been edited, nor do they necessarily reflect the opinions of The Voice staff, AUSU, or Athabasca University.

Tammy Moore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

I have recently received several 'Letters To The Editor' in regards to the missing archive files. I thank you for your patience during this time of transition regarding our webpage, and I would like to assure all of you that the Archives will be updated and included shortly after our new site becomes available.

Thank-you for your support and concern,

Tammy Moore, Editor



ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION!

WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact Tammy Moore at tmoore@ausu.org for details on writing for The Voice, providing a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.

The KAIROS REGIONAL GATHERING 2002 Pleasantview Bible Camp, Lloydminster, Alberta (Canada)

Contributed By The Community Networks Group

October 4-6, 2002

We invite you to join us at a regional KAIROS meeting in the fall of 2002. We are bringing people together who share common values and vision for strengthening regional ecumenical justice networks. The meetings will include opportunities for networking with others from a different church or faith community, people who share your passion for justice on an issue as well as opportunities to find resources and support from KAIROS at the regional and local level for your ongoing work. There will also be opportunities to discuss justice and network building commitments you might make together as a region. And as always, worship, community and renewal!

For more information about this regional gathering, please contact:

Infoline: Lana Schramm: lanas@telusplanet.net
Phone (780) 766-3058

About KAIROS...

KAIROS is a national partnership of eleven Canadian churches and church-related organizations dedicated to offering a faithful decisive response to God's call for respect of the Earth and Justice for its peoples. KAIROS gives national leadership in the Church and community on a host of justice issues from refugees to Aboriginal land rights to human rights, from climate change to international debt to Canadian health care. We do this work together as churches with partners in the Global South, Aboriginal communities and local activist groups.

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
129 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, ON M4V 1N5
Tel: (416) 463-5312 / Fax: (416) 463-5569
Visit our web site @ www.kairoscanada.org

Youth Entrepreneur focused organization introduces Media Center on website

What: The Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) has introduced the addition of a media center to their organization's website. Members of the media are able to collect necessary information in a one-stop style. Everything from client success stories and recent press releases to national events and FAQ's are available.

When: This service is available immediately! The information contained in the media center will be updated to reflect new and exciting developments within the organization and with partners.

Where: The media center can be accessed by logging onto www.cybf.ca and clicking on the media center icon on the main page.

Why: This service is designed to provide timely and efficient information pertaining to the CYBF and the clients it serves.

Contact: For more information please contact Jaime Hurlbut, Marketing Specialist with the CYBF at 416.408.2923 ext 2301 or toll free 1.866.646.2922 ext 2301

The Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) is the only national organization in Canada that enables young entrepreneurs to pursue their aspirations of building successful enterprises by providing business assistance not otherwise accessible to them.

Founded in 1996 by the CIBC, the Royal Bank, and the Canadian Youth Foundation, the CYBF was initially created in response to high youth unemployment and underemployment. It has evolved into a leading organization that encourages and supports Canada's high entrepreneurial activity and aspirations.

Modelled after The Prince's Youth Business Trust, a foundation that since 1986 has helped some 35,000 young entrepreneurs in the U.K., the Canadian Youth Business Foundation enhanced the model significantly - making it unique and distinct from any other program in the world.

Announcing [The Sustainable Times Webzine...](#)

"Jobs vs. the Environment?" Get with the Times! That cliché has been recycled as more and more businesses, individuals and communities find ways to create jobs *and* protect the environment. That's right people, welcome to [Sustainable Times webzine](#), (<http://www.sustainabletimes.ca>) the internet site about solutions.

We tell real world stories of struggle and success, and explore practical alternatives to the way we now do business. Featuring original [articles](#) from Canada and the [Third World](#), the Sustainable Times webzine is for those seeking down-to-earth answers to our most pressing problems.

The Times is about what's right, not just what's wrong. The Sustainable Times webzine edition is published by [CUSO](#), a Canadian international development agency that works for sustainable development in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. You can 'Write the Times' at:

1657 Barrington Street, Suite #508
Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada) B3J 2A1

Tel: (902) 423-6852 / Fax: (902) 423-9736 E-mail: Times@chebucto.ns.ca

[The Barcelona Forum 2004](#)

Contributed By The Community Networks Group

The first **Universal Forum of Cultures** is a new international event which will bring thousands of people to **Barcelona** from all over the world in 2004. The Forum's principal aim is to contribute to a renewal of thought and attitudes, providing a new platform for moving towards a new coexistence without conflict and in a world fit for living in.

The first Universal Forum of Cultures will take place in 2004 in **Barcelona**. It opens on the **9th of May**, Europe Day, and closes on the **26th of September**, coinciding with the local festivities of La Mercè, the city's patron saint. The Forum will last 141 days!

The [Barcelona Forum 2004](#) is co-organized by the Barcelona City Council, the Catalan autonomous Government and the Spanish Government, with **UNESCO** as the main partner. The Agenda for this major gathering is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the working principles of the United Nations.

In agreement with Unesco, the **Barcelona Forum 2004** is structured around three core themes: **cultural diversity, sustainable development and conditions for peace**. Join us at the Barcelona Forum 2004 as move forward towards a world that is sustainable and more humane.

Breaking Bread... For Women In Afghanistan Contributed By The Community Networks Group

Breaking Bread... For Women in Afghanistan is a volunteer fundraising project to support much needed education projects for Afghan women and girls. You can participate in this unique cross-Canada fundraising initiative by **Hosting a Pot Luck Dinner** with nine of your friends.

As Host you are asked to invite your friends to your home, request that they bring a dish to share for dinner and ask each participant to donate \$75 towards education in Afghanistan. Each Pot Luck Dinner will raise \$750 (tax receipts available) and will pay the salary of a teacher for one year in Afghanistan.

Do some good... Become a host for "Breaking Bread" -- enjoy the company of your friends, some excellent food and share the opportunities to participate in facilitating REAL CHANGE for Afghan women and girls...

For more information on **How to Host the Pot Luck Dinner**, please call:
1-416-366-2516 or e-mail: info@breakingbreadforwomen.com (or) visit:
<http://www.breakingbreadforwomen.com>

Employment Opportunities Rooftops Canada / Abri International

Contributed By The Community Networks Group

1) Overseas Job Posting: Senior Technical Advisor Cooperative

Social Housing, 2 years, full time, Johannesburg, South Africa

Starting Sept/Oct. 2002

Deadline for applications: August 16, 2002.

Rooftops Canada /Abri International requires a Senior Technical Advisor work with the Social Housing Foundation to build skills in the emerging South African co-operative and social housing sector. The Advisor will help ensure that training materials and programs are developed in all areas of housing development and management.

The Advisor will also work with several pilot co-op/social housing projects emphasizing special needs housing. The Advisor will initially be based with in Johannesburg with travel to other parts of the country. The Advisor may later be based in another city to work with specific housing projects and organizations.

Candidates should have in-depth relevant experience in the Canadian co-op/social housing sector including: the design and implementation of training programs for co-op/social housing development and management, and special needs housing. This is a two-year contract position based starting October 1, 2002 or earlier. Salary/benefits will depend on experience and CIDA norms. Interested candidates should submit their resumes and a covering letter before August 16, 2002 preferably by e-mail to:

Barry Pinsky, Rooftops Canada, 2 Berkeley Street, Suite 207, Toronto, ON M5A 4J5.
Phone: 416/366-1445 ext 243 Fax: 416/366-3876. E-mail: barry@rooftops.ca.

2) Overseas Job Posting: Technical Advisor Social Housing

Terms: 3 months, Johannesburg, South Africa

Starting Sept/Oct 2002

Deadline for applications: August 16, 2002.

Rooftops Canada /Abri International requires a Technical Advisor to work with the Gauteng Province Department of Housing in Johannesburg. The Advisor will guide the development of the business and operational plans for a new social housing institution that will own and manage 6000 housing units. This will include 2500 existing social housing units and several large new developments. All of the housing will be in the Greater Alexandra Area, which is the target of a presidential reconstruction and urban renewal project.

Candidates should have in-depth senior level experience in the Canadian social and/or co-op housing sectors including: conceptualising, developing and managing large social housing institutions; and, familiarity with all aspects of housing development, management and finance. This is a three-month short-term contract position based in Johannesburg starting as soon as possible in Sept/Oct 2002. Candidates should be open to one or two follow up missions of about three weeks during 2003. Fees/benefits will depend on experience and CIDA norms. Interested candidates should submit their resumes and a covering letter before August 16, 2002 preferably by e-mail to:

Barry Pinsky, Rooftops Canada, 2 Berkeley Street, Suite 207, Toronto, ON M5A 4J5. Phone: 416/366-1445 ext 243 Fax: 416/366-3876 / E-mail: barry@rooftops.ca

Please visit our web-site: www.rooftops.ca

ART EXHIBITIONS

Call for Submissions

Mujeres - Women: A journey of the Senses

Curatorial Statement - Vision

To share with Edmontonians the artistic - craft work that is being produced by **Canadian women of Latin American ancestry** living in Edmonton.

Exhibit Statement

This arts & crafts exhibit planned for the Spring of 2003 aims to build bridges of understanding between communities and its artists / artisans and will challenge stereotypes of traditional women's roles within Latino - Canadian culture and women in general.

The intention of this exhibit is to share with Edmontonians the creative endeavours of Canadian women of Latin American ancestry. The exhibit will be open to the public at large and members of the Latin American communities. Products will be available for sale directly from the artists / artisan.

Thematically, 'Mujeres - Women: A journey of the senses' will emphasize the commonalities between artists / artisans and the public at large and will foster a dialogue between artists - artisans, the public, and the Latino-Canadian community, particularly among women & youth.

Call for Submissions

We are inviting Canadian women of Latin American ancestry living in Edmonton to submit their best fine art work and/or top quality crafts to partake in this arts & crafts exhibit. Submission can include: video, poetry, stories, photography, sculpture, calligraphy, printmaking, textiles, metals, glasswork, clays and leathers. Submissions will be selected by a Steering Committee using a broad criterion, based on quality, presentation, creativity, complexity, visual appeal, and variety, uniqueness and utilitarian worth.

Entry Fee & Deadline

A non-refundable entry fee of \$55.00 is levy for all applicants. This entry fee helps cover in part the cost of producing this event. Applicants will be notified by mail one month following closing deadline, which is **October 01, 2002**.

Venue & Engagement

No venue has been selected but it's anticipated that a high profile facility will be chosen to highlight these works. The arts & crafts exhibit will include an opening (Friday) evening with a keynote speaker on its main theme, some light entertainment and a full day (Saturday) for show & sales.

For further information & to request an application form, please call:

Paz Walton, Artistic Director @ 479-6435

Leo Campos A., Executive Producer @ 474-6058 / Cell: 995-6819

Contributed and produced by:

The Community Networks Group (c)



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People
need an ally ...

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Association's
efforts

 **CANADIAN
DIABETES
ASSOCIATION** | **ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE
DU DIABÈTE**

What We Do

Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) is a non-profit, charitable organization with over 150 branches across Canada. CDA volunteers and staff work directly with people with diabetes and their families at the grass roots level. The CDA Collections Program collects clothing and reusable household items as an entrepreneurial fundraising venture. The funds raised from this program assist in promoting diabetes research, education, service and advocacy.

What We Accept

We gladly accept donations of:

- Clothing
- Linens
- Toys
- Small Appliances
- Jewellery
- Shoes
- Luggage
- Sporting Goods

Canadian Diabetes
Association

403.509.0070

403.509-0072 (fax)

1.866.811.0070 (outside of
Calgary)

[Email Us!](mailto:info@diabetes.ca)
www.diabetes.ca

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

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. Supply a brief description of the art object, a picture if you have it, and its market value.

WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact Tammy Moore at tmoore@ausu.org for details on writing for The Voice, providing a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.

‘Learning is Learning’: Challenge for Credit Option Exists for AU Students

Many students may not be aware that AU recognizes prior learning and encourages students to use the challenge for credit process if they feel they have knowledge or expertise in a particular subject area.

The process is not easy, but it is not insurmountable, and it can save the cost and time of taking a course if prior knowledge exists.

“We want to raise students’ awareness about the option and let them know that they don’t need to re-learn material or spend money on a course they don’t really need to take,” said Joan Fraser, director of the Centre for Learning Accreditation.

“Learning is learning and a student shouldn’t be penalized if that learning was not done within the confines of bricks and mortar,” she said, adding that those students with significant life or work force experience are typically those who pursue the challenge option.

Challenge for Credit is handled by the Registrar’s Office. Students are encouraged to check the course description to see if a challenge is permitted for the course they are interested in. If so, then the student must investigate a number of things prior to deciding whether to proceed.

First, and most important, the student should discuss the matter with the course coordinator. The coordinator will be able to give a better idea of the depth of the materials covered in the course, and the student’s chance for success should he/she opt to challenge.

The AU calendar outlines the challenge steps, notably completing the Challenge for Credit Application and accessing the course materials, which further allows the student to review the materials and determine if the challenge is viable. There is a non-refundable challenge for credit fee (check the web site for the current fee), but it should be noted that no withdrawal is allowed once the application has been completed.

“It (the challenge for credit) is something that’s there for you – use it,” Fraser said.

Anyone with questions about the process is encouraged to call Joan Fraser at (780) 675-6481 or check AU’s website at www.athabascau.ca.