



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"When solving problems, dig at the roots instead of just hacking at the leaves."**

**--Anthony J. D'Angelo**



## **A Bug In Your Ear...**

**Get Your Nominations In For The  
President's Award for  
Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence!**

Nominations are being accepted for the President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence. Nominations must be submitted to the Coordinator, Staff Development in Human Resources by September 30, 2002.

This award recognizes up to two individuals each year for excellence in instructional service to AU students. CUPE tutors, graduate instructors, and academic coaches are eligible for nomination by AU staff and/or students.

Award recipients will be honoured at the Learning Services Conference on October 26th.

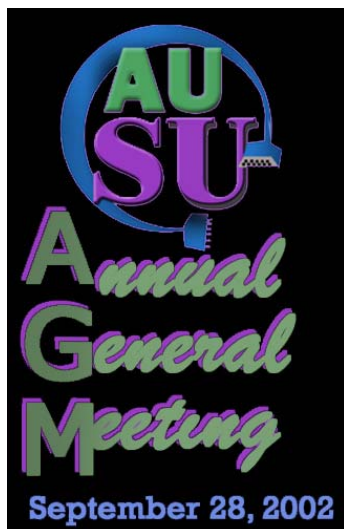
The award guidelines have a link to the nomination form and have information on the nature of the award, eligibility, criteria, the nomination process composition and role of the review committee. The guidelines are available at:

[http://www.athabascau.ca/policy/humanresources/160\\_003\\_2002.htm](http://www.athabascau.ca/policy/humanresources/160_003_2002.htm)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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## **ANNOUNCING THE AGM Provided By AUSU**

**THE VOICE September 18, 2002**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of AUSU for 2000/2001 has been scheduled for September 28, 2002, at 1 PM MST. It will be held at the AUSU Office, #306, 10030 107 Street, North Tower, Edmonton, AB. All members of AUSU are invited to attend, either in person or by teleconference.

This Annual General Meeting will present financial statements for 2000/2001 fiscal year, along with activity reports for the past year.

For further information, please contact [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org), or call 1-800-788-9041, ext. 3413. Students who wish to attend by teleconference will need to book in advance. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Debbie Jabbour, President  
AUSU**



## **What I've learned About AU Students**

**By Tamra Ross Low**

**THE VOICE September 18, 2002**

Most of the time I keep my position as a Voice columnist separate from my position as a councilor on AUSU, but from time to time, I enjoy sharing some of the insights that I have gained through my time with the council.

With the approach of my first AUSU Annual General Meeting, I have spent some time reflecting on why I became a councillor, what I hoped to achieve, and what I have learned. When I began on council, one of my primary goals was to learn more about the AU student population so that I could better determine how the union could serve its members.

I knew that this would be a difficult task due to our students studying in locations far from the main campus, but it has proved to be even more difficult than I had first imagined. My assumption, when my term began this last March, was that I would be receiving quite a bit of communication from AU students.

Surprisingly, in all this time I have only received one student email, and it was from a man who had cc'd his message to many AU and AUSU addresses because he was not certain whom to contact. Of course many students do contact the AUSU by calling or emailing our main office address, and most requests – such as those for publications, study buddies, and general union information – can be handled by our office staff. Also, students do contact AUSU quite often to apply for scholarships, bursaries, and conference funding. What is lacking, are direct to council emails that illustrate student concerns about the council or the university, or that make suggestions for how the union might be better able to assist them.

Our new discussion forums are starting to turn things around. More of you are joining each week, and traffic is starting to pick up. I am hoping that once live chat is available on the new website that we will be seeing even more of you online. Until that time, we will have to continue to think of new ways to gauge the wants and needs of our students. One such effort, that is still underway, is the survey on the AUSU Handbooks, which is currently available through the discussion forums. We hope that more of you will fill this out and let us know what you need.

Despite the difficulties in communicating with AUSU students, I have learned quite a few things about you over the last 6 months.

I have learned, for example, that you are an astonishingly diverse group, who live all over the world. Most of you are located in Canada or the United States, but we also have representatives of 70 other countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa. Within Canada, you come from many ethnic backgrounds, including our aboriginal peoples, and outside Canada are many nationals living away from home, but still choosing to study at a Canadian school.

You cover all age groups, from recent high-school graduates, to senior citizens. Just this year AUSU was proud to congratulate Elizabeth Bassendowski, the year's oldest graduate at the age of 83. AU seems especially attractive to seniors who wish to resume, or even begin studies after the age of retirement. In fact, I was introduced to AU by an old family friend – Joe Bartley, who began taking courses while in his seventies. Joe passed away several years ago, but I know that his life was greatly enriched by what he learned at AU, and that he was a changed man after his first year.

The lives of AU students are often complex, with university studies comprising only one facet of their responsibilities and priorities. Many of you have children, or even grandchildren; some already have established careers, and some battle physical and mental disabilities. Some of you travel extensively, and find AU a perfect fit for your mobile lifestyle. Some AU students already have degrees from other institutions, while others are working on their first – either entirely through AU, or in collaboration with another institution

Speaking of this – I now realize that I had underestimated the number of students who are taking complete degrees through AU. I am doing my degree here exclusively, but I had been led to believe that this was not the norm, and that most students use AU to take supplemental courses. This is not really the case – we have many students here who are taking full degree programs and a full course-load. Some take even more courses than they would at a regular university, as many attend year round. I was taking a full load for three semesters a year myself, but had to cut down, as the courses became more demanding.

In terms of your needs, I have learned quite a bit as well. I have noticed, for example, a distinct lack of communication between AU students and the university itself [outside of tutors and other students].

When students do have a problem, they tend to communicate with other students or friends on the public forms, and no doubt in private as well. Often they do not contact the university. When they do contact AU, experience has shown me that the school is very fast and effective at dealing with individual concerns, but that they often do not work to solve the underlying problems that tend to repeat with other students. However, it is fair to say that a lack of input from students makes it very difficult for the university to discern where significant problems exist.

I think that much of the trouble is due to an insufficient structure, on the part of AU, to inform students as to the various services and departments they can contact for assistance. Too many of

you are still not aware of who your course coordinators are, or how to contact them. Course Materials and Tutor Services handle student inquiries and complaints, but too often students do not know about them either. AU has done wonders in sprucing up their old website, and the new site is filled with great information, but they have still not addressed the issue of making students more aware of which departments they can contact, and for what type of problems. This is, I think, the most significant issue at AU, and something I hope I can work to remedy in the coming year on council. Students should remember that they do not have to come to AUSU only when they want advocacy, but even when they just want some simple advice on who to contact if they want to address problems on their own. We are, of course, also happy to advocate.

In my first year here, I really had no idea who to contact either, and I was a little intimidated about making complaints to some departments as I did not know if they dealt with students directly, or were meant only to speak with staff. In a traditional school this would not be a problem, as those departments that are open to students have offices in public areas, and students can walk in any time they need assistance. I hope that we can find a way to simulate this kind of environment at AU in the future, and that the school begins to make much better use of technology in this area. Until then, and even afterward, AUSU will be here to help direct you do the services you require. I hope we will hear from you, as your input is the only thing that will keep us moving forward, and improve our school for all students. I look forward to learning even more about you.

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*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.*

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## **From My Perspective: *Study distractions***

**By Debbie Jabbour**

**THE VOICE September 18, 2002**

For most Athabasca University students, finding adequate study time is a challenge. We have so many other activities and

responsibilities that demand our attention. Prioritizing is often the key to managing to put these other activities to the side and focus on schoolwork.

When I first started university it did not seem as difficult to study. I was eager to devour my course materials and my first assignments were exciting and fun to do. Gradually it became harder and harder to keep up the momentum, especially once I started full time studies. In the past year I've all too often found myself getting frustrated with an assignment and unable to concentrate. At times I actively avoid schoolwork. When faced with a choice between cleaning toilets or tackling a particularly difficult essay...I'm finding myself getting really pumped about getting on my hands and knees on the bathroom floor with a bottle of bleach!

Fortunately I've managed to slog my way through even the worst assignments and completed my courses eventually. But lately I'm finding yet another distraction – the research itself. I love doing research, and I've always found that I learn far more from the research I do for a course than from the course curriculum itself. This is, of course, a good thing, a positive outcome of course-based research. Well, at least most of the time it is.

To illustrate: I'm currently taking CMNS 421, Personal Implications of the Internet. It's an enjoyable course, with a discussion board component that encourages students to share website resources with others in the course. It also encourages students to investigate online interactive games, chatrooms, newsgroups, and so on. The first assignment requires researching a topic that demonstrates the psychology of the internet, referring to a variety of different internet-based resources. I chose the topic of gambling support groups online due to my interest in the psychology of addictions. I'm not much of a gambler myself. The few times I've been to Vegas I play the slot machines and have fun doing it, but it's not something that really draws my attention. However I've become increasingly aware of the prevalence of gambling addiction and am curious to learn more. The Internet is also a great place where people can talk about their addictions and remain in a safe, anonymous environment, and support groups abound for every possible need.

My topic had two components, first a discussion of the available gambling resources online, then a look at how online support groups are helpful. I decided to start my research by seeing what it was like to gamble online. It was easy enough to find places to gamble. A Google search using “gambling” as the search term brings up 4,900,000 results!

I began my “research” at [www.gamblingtimes.com](http://www.gamblingtimes.com), an informative site with all kinds of gambling links, jokes, and forums where gamblers can share information about great places to play or talk about their winning experiences. At this site I also discovered several free online gambling games, and decided that rather than risking “real” money I would get my feet wet with some freebies. I selected a slot game, “Triple Crown,” and was allotted \$1000.00 worth of credits. I decided that \$200 would be my limit, and when I lost it all I would quit, so I loaded it into my virtual “machine.” I was placing \$1.00 bets and playing the maximum of 3 credits (\$3.00). It was around midnight when I started my “research”. For the first few hours my wins were small, but I still had most of my money. Then I started winning, first \$400, then \$300. For a long time I was ahead \$600, and could not seem to drop much below that.

Daylight was already peeking through my windows before I finally managed to stop compulsively hitting the “spin” button. I cashed out at \$1377.00. I briefly felt the urge to try my luck at a real game, but resisted. Past experience in real life gambling has taught me that my likelihood of making \$ 1377.00 on a real slot machine was minimal (plus I did not have the luxury of \$200.00 real dollars I could play around with!).

Nonetheless, my research was getting out of hand. While I was playing I kept reminiscing about a computer game I used to play years ago, “Leisure Suit Larry and the Land of the Lounge Lizards,” in which a significant element of the game involves Larry’s trips to the casino to earn enough money to continue his pursuit of “love” (Sierra, 2002). So strong was the memory, that in spite of already having been up half the night gaming, I went in search of my old DOS version of Larry and loaded and ran it. My daughter was getting up for school before I finally quit playing, bleary-eyed and head buzzing. Addictive indeed!

Needless to say, I did not get much real course work done on the project until late the following day, and I had to resist the impulse to check out Triple Crown & Larry when I turned on my computer! I had not learned my lesson though. I decided to start work on the second topic, which would require research on gambling support groups. I remembered a friend I used to chat with on ICQ who was addicted to online gambling, and we used to have some great conversations that were encouraging for both of us. Since I’ve started university I’ve rarely had time for chatting online, and I had not been on ICQ for a couple of years. So I decided to install ICQ on my school computer. I had slept half the day due to my excesses of the previous night, so I was once again wide awake well past midnight.

Once it gets into the early hours of the morning MST the “aussies” start to come online, and I soon connected with an old friend in Australia. We chatted for a couple hours getting caught up on things, and once again I was up all night with no schoolwork done!

This is not the only course where I’ve started doing Internet research and ended up pursuing something online that is quite different. I’ve had this happen when doing research in a library as



well, becoming distracted reading other things unrelated to what I'm looking up. But it is far easier to become distracted when researching on the Internet. I love being able to do so much of my course work research online, and I appreciate that AU recognizes the validity of this type of research. There are some wonderful resources on the Internet. At the same time, as students we need to learn how to budget our time and not become distracted by the sheer magnitude of the information available on the Internet.

I've since managed to avoid Internet distractions and complete my assignment. But I see trouble ahead - my next assignment involves a comparison of how people present themselves in online communication and the differences between one-to-one and group communication online. Guess I have to go find a chatroom to hang out in - and try really hard not to forget my essay project in the process!

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*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.*

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## **Fed Watch!**

### ***News Across The Nation...***

**Saskatchewan Boosting Librarians,  
Maritime Provinces Need Profs,  
Albertans Consulted on Climate  
Change**

**By Karl Low**

**THE VOICE September 18, 2002**

## **Saskatchewan Boosting Librarians**

The Saskatchewan Government has [announced a bursary](#) of \$5,000 for students taking their Masters of Library Science. Saskatchewan has looked ahead a few years and seen that a large number of their librarians will be retiring. The increasing importance of information and being able to access the right information quickly has naturally increased the importance of well-trained librarians.

The bursary does not come without some strings however. The main one of which is that in order to receive the bursary, a person must be willing to work in Saskatchewan for at least two years. On the bright side, anybody registered in a Masters of Library Science program can apply for this whether they current live in Saskatchewan or not.

The sad part about this is how rare it is that the government decides to encourage people trained in skills they need by giving funding directly to those taking the training. More often than not it seems the money goes to businesses to arrange their own training or into creating more "spaces" for that type of student, under the assumption that it is only a lack of space that is holding students back, not a lack of funding.

## Maritime Provinces Need Profs

In a related story, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has put out [a report](#) detailing how Maritime Universities will have to fill about 1,800 full-time faculty members over the next ten years to cope with anticipated retirements. It is expected that approximately three-quarters of these will be required to come from outside the region, and that this is part of a general trend occurring all across Canada and to some extent in the United States as well. In Canada alone it is expected the need for PhD's will be about 32,000 over the next ten years.

In some ways, Athabasca University is in a better position to handle the staffing pressures that will be coming over the next years. As a starter, many of our instructors are not necessarily full Ph. D's, it is also entirely possible to work for Athabasca University without having to physically move to Athabasca, and since our tuition costs are slated to rise by the maximum amount allowable each year, we can only hope that this money is going toward putting together a very competitive hiring fund for tutors and professors.

Even with all these advantages the competition for top quality staff will still be intense. Perhaps Athabasca University can take a page from the Saskatchewan Government and start planning for the future by providing some sort of remission to those Master's level students who graduate and are willing to work for Athabasca University for a period of time.

## Albertans Consulted on Climate Change

With Prime Minister Chrétien's recent assurance that Canada would be ratifying the Kyoto Treaty in the near future, the loudest complaint was heard from Alberta's Premiere, Ralph Klein. Well now the Alberta Government has [announced](#) their Public Consultations on the Alberta Climate Change Plan. The site has a bunch of reading material and a place where people can express their views to the government. Of course, just because you might not be living in Alberta doesn't instantly stop you from using the form. Who knows, you may decide to move here one day, or have to do some residency requirements at AU central. You may as well take a look at the form and let Premiere Klein know what you think about Alberta's resistance to Kyoto.

I know I will be.

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*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.*

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## **The Debate over the Public Sector: Major Issues**

### ***Part Three: Privatization Mania***

**By Wayne E. Benedict**

**THE VOICE September 18, 2002**

It is not by accident that public enterprise exists in Canada. Hardin (1989, pp. 98-102) explains that the growth of crown corporations in Canada is due to the fact that the Canadian public “chose public enterprise consciously as the better alternative” (over private enterprise) due to factors such as: efficiencies and economies; quality and economy of services; indigenous ownership; & technological forwardness. He believes that private enterprise failed to originally enter the fields that were developed by crown corporations (Ontario Hydro, CBC, Air Canada, etc.) because “Canadians chose public enterprise consciously as the better alternative” (Hardin, 1989, p. 102). If the majority of Canadians were supportive of public enterprise decades ago, something has swayed much public opinion against state ownership. In addition to historical amnesia evidenced by the astounding ignorance of many contemporary Canadians regarding living conditions prior to state social-investment, the propagandist power of the right-controlled mass media plays a major role in manipulating the opinions of many Canadians who benefit most from a strong social safety-net and public enterprise (see Herman & Chomsky quote *supra*).

Canada is not the only industrialized nation undergoing privatization mania—Britain and the United States are two other notables. While the US is the epitome of ideologies such as: “everyone for him or herself in the race to the top” and “no governmental interference in the ‘free’ capitalist market,” there are none-the-less many Americans who believe in social programs and state owned enterprise. Referring to the privatization of American trucking, airlines, and urban transportation systems, Thayer (1988, p. 19) states that “if private entrepreneurs are to deliver public goods or services and simultaneously make profits while reducing public expenditures...” (which is the promise on the lips of every privatization proponent), “...they must achieve substantially lower operating costs than either public or non-profit agencies. The only ways of reducing costs involve cheaper equipment, fewer employees and lower pay”. With “free market” competition acting as a potent motivator in the race to provide the cheapest (shoddiest?) products and services, what is the public to expect from the privatization of historically public-provided services and products? Thayer: “With [the privatization of] prisons, hospitals, and transportation, constant reductions in operating costs amount to ongoing experiments to determine just how much costs can be cut before tragedy strikes”.

In reference to the privatization of American correctional institutions, Keating (1988, pp. 7-12) outlines numerous concerns: the limitation of policy options for governments which have entered into long-term contracts with a private provider; the imputation of liability for the debt of private prisons which go bankrupt; the turning over to the private sector of the inherent state functions associated with the detention/punishment of citizenry; the legal and financial imputation of liability for prisoners who are seriously injured or die in custody; government is accountable to the electorate for its actions (the treatment of detained citizens), who is the private corrections provider accountable to? Keating suggests “there is...a multitude of legitimate reasons for pause before plunging into the privatization of [the US] correctional system”.

What is the impact of privatization on public-sector workers? Dantico & Jurik believe that women and visible minority workers are hardest hit by privatization for various reasons. The relatively recent gains—pay and employment equity—made by designated disadvantaged groups (women, visible minorities, native peoples, and disabled people) has occurred primarily in public sector occupations. Public sector employment has been “especially significant for women and minorities, [the sector acting] as an opportunity ladder for them, [providing] significantly more high-ranking jobs and better wage scales than in the private sector [and] women and minorities have been able to advance into middle and upper-level management [in the public sector, giving] them an opportunity to participate in policy formation” (Dantico & Jurik, 1988, pp. 29-30). With a vast reduction in public sector employment, the human & women’s rights movements will lose much of the momentum that they have gained through governmental example to the private and non-profit sectors. While many public sector workers would be impacted by privatization of public holdings, disadvantaged groups would be disproportionately affected because women and minorities are disproportionately clustered in low-ranking and low-seniority positions. Thus, “women and minorities...will be at ‘double jeopardy’ during cuts. That is, because they have been the last hired, they will be the first fired, *and* because of their concentration in work groups they will have little hope for an alternative supply of comparable jobs in the private sector” (Dantico & Jurik, 1988, p. 31).

Not directly related to the privatization of Canadian public holdings, but food for Canadian thought, is the threat that privatization poses to American citizens’ constitutional rights and access to public services. Sullivan warns that while the United States Constitution protects American citizens against arbitrary government actions and government infringements of individual liberties, it does not protect citizens from abuses perpetrated by private sector corporations. Sullivan points out “a regulated, privately owned utility can deny service under conditions that would not be constitutionally permissible for a publicly-owned institution. ...[N]o matter how closely tied a privately-owned institution may be to the State, the Constitution only restricts actual decisions made or specifically directed by state officials themselves. ...Even when government retains responsibility [for goods or services], through funding or regulation, [when] service delivery or production is privatized, both clients and employees lose rights which they would have had were production kept in public hands” (Sullivan, 1988, pp. 23, 24 & 27).

Even in the face of the myriad aspects to privatization that should give the government and the public pause to reconsider, the privatization juggernaut continues seemingly unstoppably. American privatization “advocates have called for privatizing such widely accepted

forms of public provision as public schools, national parks, waterworks, fire departments, public transportation infrastructure (including airports, bridges, and turnpikes), prisons, Social Security pensions, Medicare, the post office, public hospitals, and social services. ...[P]rivatization may sometimes have other effects—and other motives—besides improved efficiency. ...[W]here the state represents the nation and seeks to speak with one voice it needs public servants loyal to its highest interests, not private contractors maximizing their own” (Starr, 1988, pp. 34, 37 & 38).

Great Britain, under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, was one of the first western societies to undergo the privatization craze, beginning in 1979. Briton Madsen Pirie Ph.D. traveled to Canada in 1987 to deliver a speech on behalf of the right-wing think-tank The Fraser Institute on the *Principles of Privatization*. Not surprisingly, his speech did not touch on a single issue of concern expressed by opponents of privatization, only a few of which are described *supra*. Presumably, everyone in the audience already believed that privatization is a good thing and no debate was necessary. The speech was not a rebuttal of the many challenges against privatization, but rather a “how to privatize” guide for those already motivated to promote governmental divestiture of public assets—the private sector business community. Pirie proposed numerous rules that politicians undertaking privatization should follow: “the public does not take kindly to governments which cancel their human rights. So, never cancel a benefit especially if you can buy it instead; determine who could become your enemies and make them your friends, whether it’s the management, the workforce, customers or the general public; identify all possible objections to privatization...disarm the opposition. Find out every single objection and deal with it in advance; spread share ownership very widely, it’s going to be very difficult for subsequent [governments] to come along and reverse the process; don’t do the difficult and unpopular [privatizations] first. Do the easy ones first and use the success and popularity of those to gain support for the other ones; privatization is easy...because it’s about politics as well as economics” (Pirie, 1988, pp. 109-113 & 115-116). Entirely devoid of social commentary on the subject of state divestiture of public holdings, Pirie’s speech was geared entirely toward methods of manipulating public opinion into the support of privatization.

As with nearly every issue in a capitalist society, the debates surrounding Canada’s public sector boils down to money. Capitalist want to profit through: the acquisition of public assets; private provision of historically-public services; reduced competition between the private and public sectors; deregulation allowing cheaper, sub-standards; cuts to the social safety-net to motivate people to work at the “market” price; etc. The social-minded political-left desire: a strong state; public ownership and control of Canadian assets; a broad-based and secure social security system; regulation of business to ensure health and safety; etc. Only two things are certain: the issues surrounding the “public sector” are complex; and Canadian public-private sector debates will continue into the foreseeable future.

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*Wayne E. Benedict is a Locomotive Engineer at BC Rail and President of the Canadian Union of Transportation Employees Local 1. He is working toward his Bachelor of Administration in Industrial Relations and Human Resources at Athabasca University.*

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## **From The Show About Nothing to the Column About Nothing**

**By Laura Seymour**

**THE VOICE – September 18, 2002**

*Seinfeld* was a show supposedly about nothing. Is there really such a thing as writing about nothing? My mother used to say that there was no such thing as total silence: there is always sound...but is there a possibility of writing about no subject?

Maybe you wander, and perhaps you don't really pick one subject to wax on and off about but does that make it nothing...per se? My mother was a writer (when she wasn't paying bills as an executive secretary.) She wrote rather dry columns and a book with hilarious stories of our years living in many places. Indeed, I think she subconsciously wanted to fail but found herself occasionally succeeding. She took courses at the University of Alberta on writing. One instructor, U of A. actor/writer Bill Meilen asked the class to write a poem or short story about nothing. Many wrote what they thought fulfilled the assignment's parameters. Oops! Bill critiqued their submissions and the class would inevitably agree that it said *something*. Some students attempted to write something vague or murky but the murkiness became the subject. They couldn't see it. They believed that because they did not name a topic, character time, or incident that they had fulfilled the parameters. But it does not.



What parameters does “nothing” have?

Hmm... It must not discuss a singular subject or idea. It can't express an opinion about anything. So how do you write about nothing? I am actually choosing a subject – it is a debate on the subject of nothingness. The subject is there.

Consider the opening line to a Peter Benchley novel, “It hovered.” We don't get the subject described clearly but we understand that the creature, or something, is animate and it is hovering. We don't know where this “it” is but we are tantalized by those two words so that we keep reading. Or at least I did.

So what *can* you write to say nothing? Exactly what is silence? Is it the same as “absolute quiet”? I don't think so. Indeed, I agree with the professor. I think ***Seinfeld*** was a show about multiple subjects. It pioneered a different writing style and it just took life, as it was, a jumble of happenings from people. But then again, wasn't that the same plot for ***Leave It To Beaver***?

And so, I am actually writing something, and there is no such thing as total silence and I'm not hovering to do it.

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*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).*

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## **WORTH A SECOND LOOK:**

### **Are jobs really the stumbling block to Kyoto?**

**By Teresa Neuman**

Good News! The Prime Minister has finally announced his intention to ratify the Kyoto Protocol by the end of this year. As a union activist, I was glad to see Canada live up to a promise made five years ago, when our nation made a commitment to join others in the fight to stop the progression of global warming. Overwhelmed by delays, the success of Kyoto

hangs in the balance. One simple word could tip the scales the wrong way. Jobs.

Fear mongers would have Canadians believe that if Kyoto is implemented, our current lifestyle will be negatively affected. The Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters warns, that among other perils, that implementing the Protocol will lead to driving smaller cars and using public transportation more often. The media is waving a bigger red flag than the CME. The biggest threat to Canadians according to politicians and industry is that we will all lose our jobs.

If that is true, why should the labour movement urge the Prime Minister to ratify the Kyoto Protocol? Why worry about the environment when, according to political leaders, we could all end up unemployed? Canada should ratify the Protocol because it is the right thing to do. Canadians know this and want the Prime Minister to get on with it.

Alberta and Saskatchewan have been vocal with their warnings about massive job losses in the energy sector if Kyoto is implemented. It is true that jobs may be lost, but the door has been open for some time to create new jobs in public transit infrastructure, alternate fuel source development and environmental protection. Environmentalist David Suzuki disputes the claims of massive job losses and points out that between 1990 and 1998, 80,000 jobs were lost in the energy sector due to technological advances. Another 55,000 jobs disappeared when gas stations converted from full-service to self-serve. That is about a third of the total job loss predicted by the CME and these jobs disappeared prior to the ratification of the Protocol! Labour acknowledges that the concept of our jobs as we know them will have to change. 123,000 Canadians are already employed in “green” jobs in pollution control or recycling.

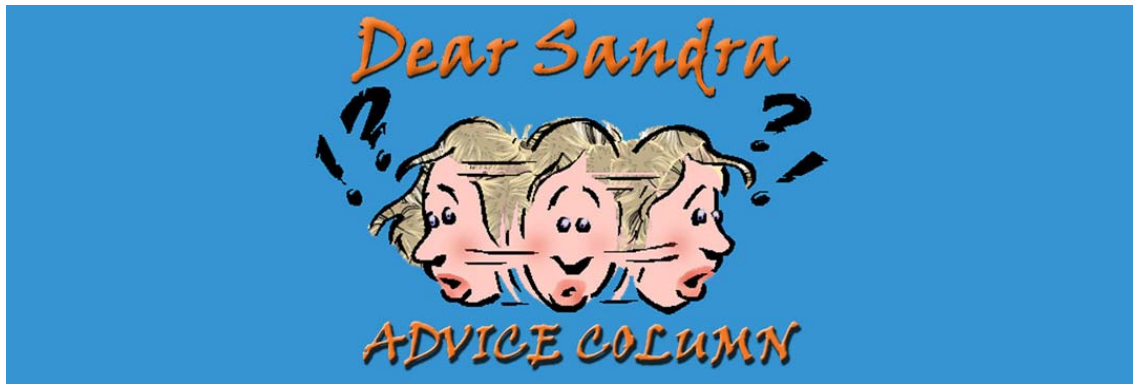
Politicians and industry need to face reality. Most of the major auto manufacturers are developing or have announced the development of hybrid electric/gasoline vehicles. Industries like Canadian National, BP, Dofasco, Inco and General Motors have voluntarily reduced their greenhouse gas emissions and are at levels that meet or exceed the targets specified in the Kyoto Protocol resulting in financial savings and affecting few jobs. Most have plans in place to continue reducing emissions. Large urban centres are aware of the health risks facing their citizens if something is not done to slow the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. Toronto, Regina and Sudbury have reduced their emissions; providing a healthier environment for their citizens and creating jobs in the process. The opponents of Kyoto, while vocal, appear not done their homework. Jobs and environmental protection can mix.

No one knows the exact cost to Canadians to implement the Protocol. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce predicts that by the year 2010, the Kyoto Protocol will cost 2-1/2 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product or about 30 billion dollars. Has anyone considered the cost to Canadians by not ratifying Kyoto? Predictions of 450,000 lost jobs are played up in the media, while the jobs that will be created to combat global warming are ignored. Fear mongering creates great headlines. As a union activist, I encourage the Prime Minister to ignore the voices of those who are using the threat of job loss to manipulate Canadians. Our government should just get on with ratifying the Protocol. Ultimately, Kyoto isn't about the Gross Domestic Product or jobs. Canada is one of the worst polluters on the planet. And it is time to do something about it.

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*Teresa Neuman is a member of the Board of Directors of Briarpatch Magazine. She lives in Regina with her family and is a member is CUPE.*

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THE VOICE – September 18, 2002

**Dear Sandra;**

***My biggest problem is guilt. I have three small children and I'm trying to go back to university to get a degree. Most of the time I do my schoolwork at night when they are already in bed, but sometimes when it gets close to the end of the month I turn the TV on to keep them occupied while I try and finish my assignments before the deadline. I feel like I'm a bad mother for putting my coursework first...I love learning and I feel inspired going to school, but I can't shake these feelings of guilt. Is it wrong to neglect my children this way?***

**Guilty Mother**

Dear Guilty Mother,

You are wasting energy feeling guilty when you should be focusing your energy on more important things like spending time with your children and completing your courses. Today's society has forced some mothers to suffer burnout while they try to be the perfect mother and attempt to pull off a life of their own. Magazine articles are constantly bombarding us with what we should and should not do as mothers. Family, friends, acquaintances and even strangers constantly judge our parenting skills, putting pressure on us to produce happy, healthy, intelligent and emotionally sound children. This intense public scrutiny is worse for women who work or attend school and is rarely focused on a father's parenting skills.

You are not neglecting your children if you let them watch television occasionally at night while you study, unless you are letting them watch inappropriate or violent television shows all night that they may re-enact on the playground the next day. Television has received a bad reputation, but there is quality television that children can watch; if you can't find it on cable you can find entertaining educational videos at your local library.

If them watching television makes you feel guilty try giving them board games, craft items, or some other age appropriate activity. I understand that this may not work for very small children; I, myself, have a two-year son and sometimes Steve and the gang from Blue's Clues help me finish assignments by captivating the little mover and shaker's attention for half an hour. Another option is getting them involved in your schoolwork - unless it's something really boring for a child like accounting! My six year old daughter absolutely loved learning about Mesopotamia and Egypt when I took HUMN 201 and was grossed out, yet intrigued, looking at brains and eyeballs in my psychology textbooks.

No matter how much time you spend with your children, it will always seem like it is never enough. The important thing is to make your time with your children quality time. Take time out from studying to read to them or run around with them in the backyard. Believe it or not, our children will grow and prosper without our complete undivided attention 24 hours of the day. Children want independence and they need it to grow and prosper into self-functioning beings.

Children learn what they live, and as they watch you dedicate yourself to learning it will foster a love of learning in them as well.

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***This column is for entertainment only. Sandra is not a professional counsellor, but is an AU student who would like to give personal advice about school and life to her peers. Please forward your questions to Sandra care of [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org)***

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## Ash and Ecstasy

By b.e. hydomako

THE VOICE – September 18, 2002

It has been suggested by some that each religion is unique. These people maintain that a religion is an entirely contextual construction, and

thus, the project of looking at the intersection of two or more religions is doomed to turn up empty. In other words, we must abandon attempts at synthesis between the various traditions that the people of our world practice. This is to say that there can be no common core of Truth of which all religions are an expression. Perennial philosophy is dead. Long live the context of our flesh. However, this position leaves us as floundering and blind as if we decided that the only thing to the world's religions *is* the common core—divided we fall. In our previous examinations we have seen that there is good (un)reason to think that whatever the big omega Truth might be, it appears to us in the form we've denoted as **A & ~A**. [1] In this analysis we shall answer the criticisms of those who oppose synthesis, and further, we shall see that Contextualism must be composed with Perennial Philosophy if we are to really make an attempt at deciphering our contradiction.

In "A Problem For Radical Pluralism," Purusottama Bilimoria boldly states "...there is neither one 'absolute' or 'decisive' truth content...in religion... nor a plurality of expressions or articulations inscribing the same truth content" (581). [2] While this is a strong assertion in itself (and one which is at least partially correct), does it follow from such a conclusion that we "...ought seriously to consider rejecting belief in the Absolute...altogether" (580)? Let us suppose that the answer is yes. This requires that every religion be founded upon nothing other than human whim; that is, if there is no Absolute Truth which each religion attempts to express, then there is only relative truth. If there is only relative truth, then this implies that the truth of any religion is an entirely artificial construction of some group of humans. Since we are terminally fallible, this means that there is no good reason to suppose that any religion expresses any truth what so ever. In other words, the truths of a religion are created *ex nihilo*. However, as we established in "The Infinite and The Eternal," relative to everything in our universe the Truth *contains* emptiness in its paradoxical formulation (our unknowable ~A): truths from nothing are implied by our examination of the Truth. Thus, by rejecting the belief in the Absolute, we end up again (in part) at the Absolute.

Keeping the idea of the Absolute, we can still agree with Bilimoria in his criticism of the idea that we are waiting to decide which relative truth is the final formulation "...of the one true Ultimate" (577). In the spirit of our contradictory formula, they *all* are—but not one is! This is what Frithjof Schuon appears to say in "The Transcendent Unity of Religions." A religion does

not communicate Truth in its formulations of the divine. The truths of a religion are, "...transitory and limited by definition" (556). [3] This is due to what he characterizes by the word "dogmatism." However, a given formulation is no longer limited when "...it is understood in the light of its inherent truth" (ibid.). It is this "esoteric" understanding which acts as a catalyst for contact with that which transcends our universe. The dogmas *have the potential* to trigger a personal and immediate confrontation with the unknowable. For, the foundations of religions "...are not chosen arbitrarily and artificially but are established by virtue of a genuine intellectual originality" (557). This spontaneity is generated by the *individual* insight of the transcendent. Thus, while "[e]xoteric doctrine...by no means possesses absolute certitude" (558), it is exactly these doctrines which have inspired various people throughout history (in affirmation, reformulation, confrontation, or denial) into an experience of Truth. So here we see that when we seek the transcendent, we must do it through the *context* of this world. In other words, by going after our ~A, we must use things that are in the world; that is, we find the immanent A as a component of the Truth.

From the above two paragraphs, we can see that there is a natural bridge spanning the divide between the Perennial Philosophers and the Contextualists. The idea that there is an Absolute beyond our world is dependent upon the very fact that there is a contextual environment. If there was no world, then clearly there could not be something beyond it. As well, we have seen that structured religious systems are a direct result of an individual's immediate experience of that transcendent Truth. Without some type of esoteric experience there would be no religious movement to be founded. Therefore, a better way to approach the world's religions is with a Contextual *and* Perennial view.

However, Georges Bataille would be critical of our project: since it is a synthesis, it lacks "...the virility necessary for joining *violence and consciousness*" (69). [4] His stance falls in line with the contextualists where "...the *universal sum* is necessarily that of the religious sensibility in time" (70). Bataille feels that a particular religious structure existing at a certain period of time provokes this unity of "violence and consciousness" in the individual. It is the composition of the wrenching esoteric experience with the worldly formulations of human intellect. However, this is exactly the synthesis that our project is trying to get at.

Our formulation colludes within a metaphorical collision. It *is* striving for "...the highest degree of clear consciousness" in order to promote "...the sovereign[s]...presence in the world" (ibid.). A & ~A acknowledges the importance of dichotomy while recognizing that dualism collapses to singularity. Thus, it seeks to liberate us from our self-imposed structures while maintaining that we must impose structure upon the Self. Clearly, the absurdity of such a formula is a blatant attempt to invoke "...the impossible in laughter, ecstasy, or tears" (ibid.). Since the impossible is by definition *not possible*, the logicians are right to call this expression a *damn lie*. They shall tell us this with solemn demeanour, and they shall never shed a tear over their certainty in the formula's self defeat. It is in this dry climate that the spark of ecstasy is easiest to ignite. Before the phoenix there were only ashes.



## REFERENCES:

Photo Credit: [Michelangelo: Creation of Adam](#)

[1] As a reminder, we have used  $A \ \& \ \sim A$  to denote the following pairs: (immanent, transcendent), (infinite, eternal), and in a subtler presentation (self, other). These pairings are *unordered* in accordance with a Principle of Complements put forth in the unpublished paper “Post-Mortem” by b.e. hydomako. It suggests that all things are composed of a set of unordered pairs which alternate between the conjuncts of any arbitrarily chosen instantiation of  $A \ \& \ \sim A$  (or in that paper’s notation,  $A \ \& \ A'$ ).

[2] References to Bilimoria are from the anthology, “Philosophy of Religion Toward a Global Perspective,” by Gary E. Kessler. Printed by Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont, CA, USA, 1999.

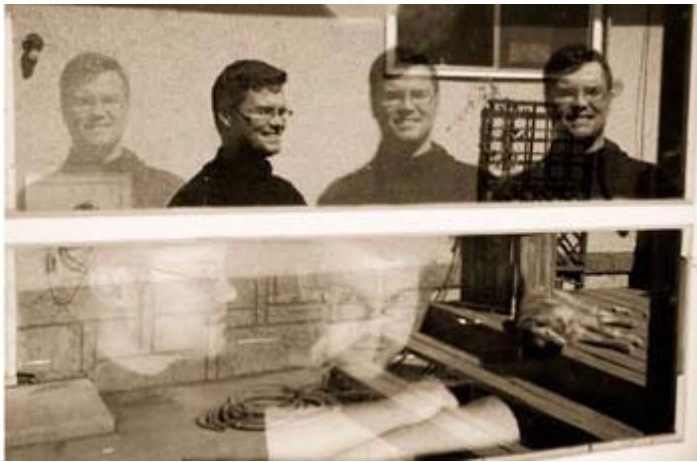
[3] References to Schuon are from the anthology by Kessler.

[4] References to Bataille are taken from the reading package prepared by B. Moran for Philosophy 331 at the University of Calgary, Spring Semester, 2001. Printed by the University of Calgary Bookstore and Printing Services.

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*b.e. hydomako 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.*

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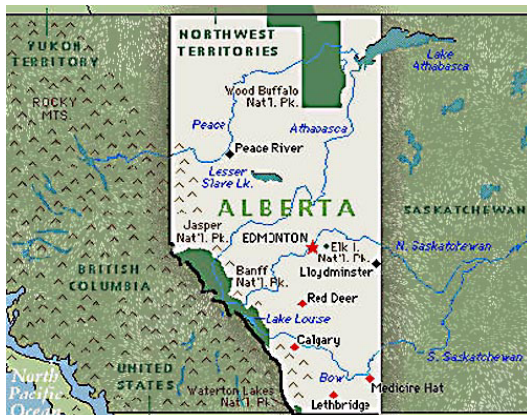
## Wharton in the News (Again)

Contributed By The Insider

**THE VOICE – September 18, 2002**

Thomas Wharton, author of the award-winning books *Icefields* and *Salamander*, who has been on a list of 'Must Read' authors, who recently won a Writers Guild

of Alberta prize, and who manages to round out his waking moments by also working as an AU tutor, has added another item to his list of things to do: he is the new writer-in-residence at the University of Alberta. An article in the Sept. 11 issue of *The Journal* notes that Wharton will be available to offer advice to anyone who has a book on the go, and promises to be gentle in his critiques. One question begs to be asked: "Thomas, when do you sleep?"



## Eco-Conference Kyoto debate leaves questions unanswered

**Panelist calls Alberta government "whiners"**

**By Kristine Owram, Gateway**

EDMONTON (CUP) – A Kyoto Protocol supporter called the Alberta government "whiners" for their

unwillingness to sign the accord during a debate at last Saturday's Eco-Conference at the University of Alberta.

The debate got off to a rocky start for the provincial government after Environment Canada representative Stephen McLellan's failed to show up until 10 minutes before the debate was scheduled to end. McLellan was allowed to address the audience but did little to deflect the criticism focused on Alberta's Assistant Energy Minister, John Donner.

The debate, "The Kyoto Question: To Sign or Not to Sign?" was held primarily to bring the provincial and federal governments together to debate whether or not the Kyoto Protocol, an international environmental protocol aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, should be ratified.

McLellan to wrapped up the debate with his opening statement, in which he reiterated the need for a “workable, fair approach and a lot of common ground in order to make this work.”

The federal government is currently talking with the provincial governments regarding the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Alberta is providing the strongest opposition, as oil and gas revenue play a major role in the province’s economy.

Other debaters included Robert Macintosh, senior adviser to the Pembina Institute, an environmental policy organization; and Jim Badger, economic development adviser for Treaty Eight, one of the largest land settlements undertaken by the Canadian government with the First Nations.

Both of these panelists held more environmentally conscious, left-wing viewpoints than Donner, and focused their arguments toward his responses.

One of the major issues Alberta has with the Kyoto Protocol, said Donner, is that it has been described as “a global solution to a global problem,” when the accord covers only about 35 per cent of the world’s emissions.

“We’re looking for a technologically driven solution where the economy can continue to flourish and grow. This is all about sharing the pain,” said Donner.

Macintosh followed Donner’s statement with an attack on the Alberta government.

“Increasingly, I think the provincial government’s stance has not been ‘to sign or not to sign,’ but ‘to whine or not to whine,’” said Macintosh.

Macintosh criticized some of the major “anti-action arguments” employed by the Alberta government, including the notion that “the economy and the world will collapse. It’s like there are only two choices: reduction [of greenhouse gases] or economic well-being.”

“The Alberta plan is not an option, as it is totally voluntary,” said Macintosh. “We’re falling behind the rest of the world. The longer we wait to develop non-carbon intensive technologies, the harder it will be to climb out of this mess.”

Badger was encouraged by the audience throughout much of the debate with loud applause and cheers. He used the debate to express his avid positions on the environment and the provincial government’s “fear-mongering.”

Badger summarized his view of the Kyoto problem in his opening statement. “I don’t see what’s so wrong with millions of people in Canada who want their children to live with clean air and clean water. Correcting the problem is likely to be expensive and is definitely controversial, but the state of the world’s environment is fragile.”



## **Free Health Benefits for Children in Low-income Families**

**From information provided by Alberta Human Resources and Employment**

**THE VOICE September 18, 2002**

The Alberta Child Health Benefit (ACHB) provides children in low-income families with free:

- Dental care
- Prescription drugs
- Eyewear
- Emergency ambulance services
- Essential diabetic supplies

More families are now eligible for coverage through the ACHB because of increased income eligibility levels, which took effect July 1, 2002. These income levels are associated with the number of children in the family:

- 1 child for family net income of \$ 22,397
- 2 children, \$ 24,397
- 3 children, \$ 26,397
- 4 children, \$ 28,397
- more than 4 children, add \$ 2,000 for each additional child

Enrolment in the ACHB is free. Eligibility for the program is based on the family's net income from their previous year's Income Tax Notice of Assessment (line 236). Once their applications are approved, qualifying families receive ACHB benefit cards that allow them to access approved services and products directly from service providers at no cost.

**To get an application form:**

1-877-4MY-KIDS  
1-877-469-5437  
[www.gov.ab.ca/hre/achb](http://www.gov.ab.ca/hre/achb)



## COMMENTARY AND FEEDBACK!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Letter To The Editor:

In the past issue of the voice Mr. Low discusses the costs of going to AU compared to other traditional institutions. I was just wondering if he added the cost of writing exams for non-Albertan students. I pay \$40 per exam for the privilege of writing at the University of Ottawa. Since the average course I have taken has a mid term and final, that's an extra \$80 per course plus parking fees. If a student was taking a 5 course load that would add \$400 a year to their costs. Maybe it's just time for me to shop around the other at the other institutions.

Still, from the few universities I am familiar with, AU is still one of the lowest.

Trevor Siwak  
Ottawa

*[Editor's Note: Due to publishing timelines, actual article in reference was FED WATCH! in the August 28, 2002 issue]*

Dear Trevor,

Your concern is a valid one, and the increasing cost of post-secondary education is one shared between all post-secondary students at the many various institutions. Your students' union, AUSU is working with AU to make sure student concerns regarding increasing costs are heard. Please forward such concerns to [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org) to make sure your voice is heard and counted

with your many peers. Don't let the illusion of isolation in distance education keep you quiet and afraid to speak out!

Tammy Moore  
Editor of The Voice

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**Dear Readers,**

**I have received a number of email asking for printable editions of the current Voice. The current issue is always included in the list of PDF Archives for your printing convenience.**

**Thank-you for your readership and support!**

**Tammy Moore**

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**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](mailto:tmoore@ausu.org)**

**\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER ALL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE MARKED "FOR PUBLICATION".**

**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**



## **AUSU News – Summer**

**PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE September 4, 2002**

**Provided By AUSU**

July was an exciting month for AUSU. At long last the Voice Students' Publication has a permanent home online. Our new site launched with the July 24th issue. The completion of the Voice website is a landmark event as we are now able to move on to an even larger project - the construction of the new AUSU home site. We realize that many of you have been frustrated with the changes that have occurred over the last several months, but you won't have to wait much longer. We are planning to have the new site up and running by fall of this year, and it will feature everything you liked about the old site plus a lot more.

In the meantime, we have endeavoured to make the current website as useful as possible. To better serve you in the coming months, we have reintroduced message forums, and we hope you will find them valuable for making contact with other AU students. We have also included a section for course reviews, as many of you have told us that this was one of your favourite parts of the previous site. The new website will also feature improved course review pages, including online surveys and reviews for programs of study.

At the AUSU council meeting in July we discussed many other issues of interest to students. Scholarships and awards are under review, and while no final decisions have been reached yet, we are considering some new awards to the top grad[s] each year.

The Groups and Clubs committee has finalized its operating policy and is looking forward to creating its own space on the new website. This committee is dedicated to helping AU students form links through clubs based on common interests. Among our goals is forging links with clubs at other universities to increase networking and to help new clubs get started at AU.

AUSU is also finalizing plans for this year's Annual General Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>. The date should be finalized by the next printing of the Voice, and will be included in the News and Events section. Students may attend at the AU offices in Edmonton, or via teleconference. Keep watching the Voice and the AUSU website for information on how to attend.

Another topic of discussion was volunteers. Some of you have generously offered to donate your time, but we have not been very good at taking you up on it! This is going to change. We are currently discussing projects that will make good use of volunteer hours and you



should be hearing from us shortly. We really appreciate your offers of time and expertise, and we do need you!

Finally, an item of great concern to AUSU is the Alberta Government's suggestion that they may start funding distance education students differently than students in traditional classes. We are keeping a very close eye on this situation, and have sent representatives to relevant meetings to ensure that your voice is heard. Look for more information in the Voice and on our website in the coming months.



## **Notice to AU graduate students and those considering entering graduate studies at AU:**

**PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE September 4, 2002**

Athabasca University Students' Union is in the process of establishing an AU Graduate Students' Association.

Here's a sampling of benefits of belonging to a Graduate Students' Association:

- **Graduate student representation on University Committees**
- **University and government advocacy and lobbying**
- **Affiliation with provincial and national graduate students' organizations**
- **Assistance with university/student dispute resolution**
- **Information source**
- **Networking**

For more information contact:

**Shirley Barg, Vice-President**

**Athabasca University Students' Union**

**Email: [sbarg@ausu.org](mailto:sbarg@ausu.org) or call 1-800-9041 ext. 3413**

**Edmonton local number: 497-7000**

**Calgary local number: 298-2905**

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## Conference Connections

PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE September 11, 2002

### Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **Public Sector Management Development** - 17th annual conference - Sept. 12-14, 2002 - Erlangen, Germany - "Where Public and Private Meet - Challenges for Management Development." Details: <http://www.efmd.be>
- **American Political Science Association** - 98th annual meeting - Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2002 - Boston, Massachusetts. Details: <http://www.apsanet.org/>  
Mark your calendar for the Association's Centennial meeting - Aug. 28-31, 2003 - Philadelphia, PA.
- **National Policy Research** - October 23-25, 2002 - Ottawa - "Future Trends: Risk." Details: [http://policyresearch.gc.ca/page.asp?pagenm=conf\\_wel](http://policyresearch.gc.ca/page.asp?pagenm=conf_wel)
- **AU Learning Services** - Oct. 25-26, 2002 - Annual conference to be held at Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton. More information to follow.
- **Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation** - Sept. 25-28, 2002 - Edmonton, AB - "Canada: A Global Model for a Multicultural State." Details: <http://www.cmef.ca>
- **European Conference on E-Government** - 2nd annual - October 1-2, 2002 - St. Catherine's College, Oxford University. Details: <http://www.mcil.co.uk/2g-ecg2002-home.htm>
- **Society of Research in African Cultures** - Nov. 7-9, 2002 - Montclair State University, New Jersey - "Internalist vs. Externalist Interpretations of African History and Culture." If you propose to give a paper, abstracts must be received by August 30, 2002. Send to [Dr. Daniel Mengara](#), Executive Director, SORAC.
- **CASE District VIII** - March 8-11, 2003 - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - "Connect in Coeur d'Alene." Details: <http://www.connectincda.com>
- **ICDE World Conference** - 21st annual - June 1-5, 2003 - Hong Kong. Deadline for abstract submission is Aug. 1, 2002. Details: <http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/HK2003>
- **CADE** - June 7-11, 2003 - St. John's NF
- **International Studies Association and the Central and East European International Studies Association (ISA/CEEISA)** - June 26-28, 2003 - "The Global Tensions and Their Challenges to Governance of the International Community" conference at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

# ESSAY CONTEST 2003

## The Elie Wiesel PRIZE IN ETHICS



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### SUGGESTED TOPICS:

Reflect on the most profound, moral dilemma you have ever encountered and analyze what it taught you about ethics.

How can human beings move beyond hate toward reconciliation?

Explore ethical responses to fanaticism, hate and violence.

What ethical issue concerns you most and what concrete proposals would you make to deal with it?

## DEADLINE: DECEMBER 2, 2002

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- **ELIGIBILITY:** Full-time undergraduate juniors and seniors during the fall 2002 semester.

**Students must complete an Entry Form along with their Faculty Sponsor.** Any interested professor may act as a Faculty Sponsor and endorse the quality and authenticity of the student's essay. In addition, students are asked to include a letter from their registrar verifying eligibility.

FIRST PRIZE: \$5000.00

SECOND PRIZE: \$2500.00

THIRD PRIZE: \$ 1500.00

HONOURABLE MENTIONS: \$ 500.00 EACH

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Entry forms, detailed guidelines and further information are available online at [www.eliewieselselfoundation.org](http://www.eliewieselselfoundation.org), or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics  
The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity  
529 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1802  
New York, NY 10017

Telephone: 212.490.7777



## ENLIGHTENING INFORMATION!

### WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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

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## STRENGTHENING Volunteer Boards

### Contributed By The Community Networks Group

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2002

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Place: Grant MacEwan College, City Centre  
Campus, Room 5-305

Registration Fee: \$15.00

**INFOLINE: 497-5616**

As a board member of a non-profit organization, have you ever wondered: *What are my legal and ethical responsibilities? What role do I play in governing our organization? How can our board organize its work fairly and efficiently to avoid volunteer and staff burnout? How can we develop policies that will help us make consistent decisions? How can we encourage teamwork between the board and staff?*

If you're a new board member wanting to learn more about your role, or an experienced board member wishing to enhance your skills and work effectively as a team member, this workshop is for you. Workshop content will focus on incorporated and non-profit organizations and is not appropriate for advisory boards. Limit of three board members per organizations, please.

**To register contact:**

The Resource Centre for Voluntary Organizations  
Grant MacEwan College, 5-132, 10700 -104 Avenue  
Phone (780) 497-5616 / Fax: (780) 497-5634 or (780) 497-5617

Sponsored by:

The Board Development Program  
Alberta Community Development  
The Resource Centre for Voluntary Organizations  
Grant MacEwan College  
The Muttart Foundation

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## **CHILE: THE OTHER SEPTEMBER 11**

**Contributed By Leo Campos A.**

Many of you will recall another infamous September 11. It is the anniversary of (sadly) U.S.-sponsored terror against the people of a Latin American country in 1973. Ocean Press has just published a rich book reclaiming September 11 for Chileans and all victims of terror for

which Washington is - or has been responsible.

**CHILE: THE OTHER SEPTEMBER 11** - An anthology of reflections and commentaries on the 1973 coup in Chile Edited by Pilar Aguilera and Ricardo Fredes

Contributors include: Ariel Dorfman, Pablo Neruda, Victor Jara, Salvador Allende, Fidel Castro, Beatriz Allende, Joan Jara among many others...

The terror, trauma and tragedy of General Pinochet's U.S.-backed coup against the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende lasted 17 years, and Pinochet and his key U.S. accomplices still walk free. This book recounts the *historical significance* of the "other" September 11 for all those who oppose U.S. the war mongering machine, its incessant interventionism abroad and genuinely advocate for a more just and peaceful world.

It is available from Cuba Books a non-profit volunteer project based in Vancouver. You can find out more at <http://www.cubabooks.ca> Cuba Books offers titles by Cuban and international authors on the people, culture, government and history of Cuba and Latin America, world politics and social change. It provides books for students, people who want to learn more, and those working for a better world. All proceeds from sales are donated to organizations in Cuba promoting peace and equality.

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## **The Community Networks Group Event Calendar**

- **Global Visions Film Festival**  
November 6-11th, 2002  
Edmonton Arts District  
INFOLINE: 414-1052
  - **The Parkland Institute's Annual Conference**  
'Trading in Violence / Building for Peace'  
Nov. 15-17, 2002  
INFOLINE: 492-8558
  - **Nicaragua Night: A Change for Children's Event**  
Saturday, November 23  
Proceeds support CFC's Nicaraguan projects.  
INFOLINE: 448-1505
  - **Just Christmas 2002!**  
A Global Crafts & Fair Trade Marketplace  
November 29 & 30  
INFOLINE: 474-6058
-



**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE September 18, 2002**

**Contributed By The Community  
Networks Group**

**AWARENESS PROGRAMS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA**

**Volunteers Needed and Invited to Help**

**Infoline: 924-3432**

We are a volunteer, registered non-profit society which has been serving the work of Wanjiku Kironyo in Kenya for seventeen years. Wanjiku works in the slum communities with the women and street kids, handicapped children and youth groups. Our chairperson, Rosalind Shepherd, is leaving for Africa and we need someone to help us to hold the work together while she is gone. Our Board consists of ten people, who work on various aspects of the work. We need someone who has space for a small office, and the skills to be hub of the wheel for a meaningful and satisfying international project for AIDS orphans. If you are a people-person who enjoys office work, has a little spare time and spare room, phone us at 924-3432, or e-mail us at [rozshep@oanet.com](mailto:rozshep@oanet.com).

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## **The Psychology of Money With Dr. Dragana Breberin**

**PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE September 18, 2002**

**Contributed By The Community Networks Group**

**September 25, 2002**

**Suite 710, Sun Life Place, 10123 - 99 Street**

**Dinner: 5:00-6:30 p.m. / Seminar: 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

**Question Period: 8:00-8:30 p.m. / Social time: 8:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Parking is available under The Citadel or on the street ...**

**INFOLINE: 448-2707**

People speak of money as though they understand it: what it does for them and how best to use it. But is that really the case? Is your financial status controlling you or serving you? What are you trying to accomplish with money? What is the best way to achieve your desired results? Whatever your circumstances, you will find it beneficial to discuss what money can and cannot do for you, where you got your ideas about money and how you use your attitudes about money to guide your handling of money matters. Participants will have an opportunity to share their feelings and experiences about money and to examine alternative attitudes towards it in a constructive, thoughtful environment.

### **About Dr. Dragana**

Dr. Dragana Breberin is a clinical physiologist with an extensive, inter-disciplinary education and over twenty-five years of experience in helping a diverse range of people to become the best that they can be. In her experience, peoples' perception of money is often mismatched with the true possibilities available to them with it. Money is an artificial construct therefore our attitudes towards it determine our experience with it. We have far more control and opportunity with our financial status than most people realize.

**Registration fee: \$85.00** All registrations and payments must be received prior to September 19, 2002. Payments may be made by Cheque - VISA - American Express - Money Orders - or Cash or By PHONE: 448-2707, by mail to address above or FAX: 426-3459.

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## [The Barcelona Forum 2004](#)

**Contributed By The Community Networks Group**

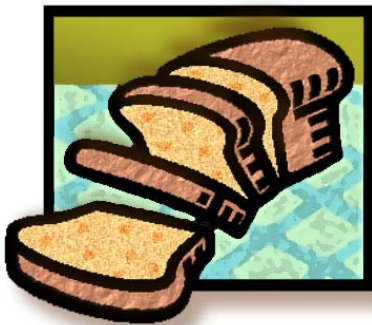
The first **Universal Forum of Cultures** is a new international event which will bring thousands of people to **Barcelona** from all over the world in 2004. The Forum's principal aim is to contribute to a renewal of thought and attitudes, providing a new platform for moving towards a new coexistence 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 **9<sup>th</sup> of May**, Europe Day, and closes on the **26<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **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](mailto:info@breakingbreadforwomen.com) (or) visit: <http://www.breakingbreadforwomen.com>

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## **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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when  
**People**  
need an ally ...

Your donation  
of reusable  
clothing helps  
support the  
Association's  
efforts



CANADIAN  
DIABETES  
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION  
CANADIENNE  
DU DIABÈTE

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

## 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:

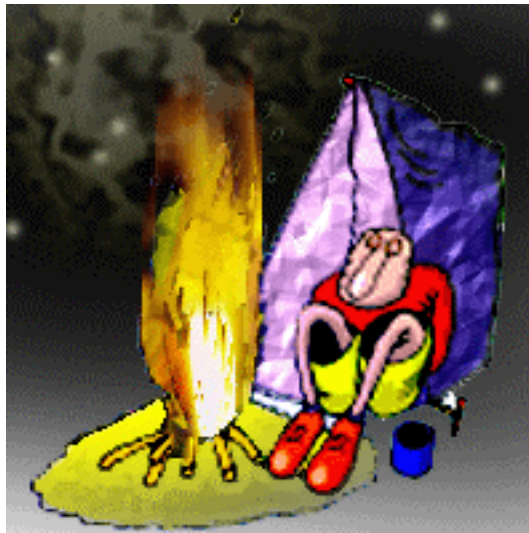
- Clothing
- Linens
- Toys
- Small Appliances
- Jewellery
- Shoes
- Luggage
- Sporting Goods

Canadian Diabetes  
Association

403.509.0070

403.509-0072 (fax)

1.866.811.0070 (*outside of  
Calgary*)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:tmoore@ausu.org) for details on writing for The Voice, providing a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.

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## **‘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](http://www.athabascau.ca).

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## **CLASSIFIEDS:**

**PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE September 11, 2002**

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### **FOR SALE:**

1986 Chrysler Le Baron GTS [5 door] - burgundy, good interior with velour bucket seats and digital dash panel. New brakes/pads/shoes, cooling system and hoses, battery and engine coil. 162,000 kms. \$900. Call (403) 273-9434 in Calgary.

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