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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself."

--Andy Warhol



A Bug In Your Ear... The Good Things

I recently had an opportunity to do a good thing and go out with my significant other and a large number of other well-meaning souls and pick potatoes for the Food Bank. I love the idea of doing good things, and I enjoy the warm fuzzy aftermath of having done a good thing. I enjoy believing that I have helped people in need, and feel inspired to get more involved, be more aware and try harder to be generous of my time, skills and energy. I'm apparently not all that altruistic either, as much of what motivates me is how I feel having done these things rather than just participating because there is a need.

Picking potatoes, however, was as close to an altruistic act as I have ever committed. Somehow, in my not-so-vast gardening experiences of growing up (which included beans in Styrofoam cups in the second grade, raiding my mother's carrot patch throughout elementary school, and

becoming completely terrified of slugs due to weeding duty in the lettuce row) I managed to completely miss knowing how potatoes were grown. Even the term 'picking potatoes' is misleading. Wallowing in the dirt for starchy produce would be far more apt terminology.

I would like to lead a self-defence pitch with the statement that I was truly excited by the idea of picking potatoes. Aside from doing a good thing, I thought it would be fun. At this point, something in my brain should definitely have jumped out and reminded me that a few years ago I thought snowshoeing in five-foot snow into the woods with a hacksaw to drag out my own Christmas tree was going to be a blast too.

Anyway, back in the garden patch I had imagined lovely trailing plants with interspersed potatoes growing on them... much like pumpkins, when I come to think about it. I knew potatoes were dirty, but then again, so are pumpkins, so my brain really didn't think of this idea as so far fetched. I was disappointed, actually, when we got to the field and there wasn't a potato in sight – I was actually a little confused; this was obviously a field that had already been picked. Now, I can only thank my lucky stars that I was feeling too polite to have pointed this out to the farmer. The man giving out gloves to the volunteers in the parking section should have tipped me off. I, of course, had refused the gloves – I don't paint my nails or pay particular attention to cuticle care, so I figured plucking ripe potatoes off the potato tree or vine wouldn't be overly taxing to my already un-babied hands. Needless to say, when they started up the tractor and started driving this thing resembling an upside down shopping cart bedecked with spikes over all the plants I was surprised. When I realized that they did this to get to the potatoes I was astounded.

So, I didn't spend my weekend picking potatoes. I spent it up to the elbows in dirt and feeling like a treasure hunter with every potato I managed to find (although, thank goodness for Brian's sanity, I stopped having to show them to him after about the first fifty...). Overall, it was a good thing. As a group, we picked two five-tonne trucks of potatoes to feed the hungry. And I learned something new this weekend: I now know exactly why my mother doesn't grow potatoes in her garden.



Monarchy and Politics – Strange Bedfellows *Speak Freely About Our Politicians, But Never Question the Monarchy...*

By Tamra Ross Low

This week Queen Elizabeth visits Canada and, as always, her arrival brings controversy.

It is a controversy that will not go away. Every year more Canadians question if

Canada still needs an official monarch, and royal visits will always bring this argument to the fore.

It is a reasonable question. For decades, the official function of the Governor General has been little more than to rubber stamp bills passed by our government, and lend an air of royal prestige to the government's major social functions. Officially, the Governor General has the power to challenge a bill, but it is now generally understood that this will not occur, as the Queen now rarely meddles in Canadian politics and Canadians prefer it that way.

The monarchy's official function is primarily sentimental. However, to allow our government to function under the auspices of a ceremonial figurehead, when that figurehead is still legally capable of vetoing Canadian Government's political decisions, is patently foolish. It is akin to giving an honoured private citizen official authority to command the Canadian army, but with the understanding that the privilege is 'for show' and should not be exercised.

The Queen exercises no significant role in Canadian politics, but nevertheless, she has some authority over our political decisions, plus we must expend enormous sums of money any time the royals want to make a visit to their beloved colony.

Why? We love royalty - or at least the idea of it. Fairytales imbue royals with mystical charm, and history is replete with real and imagined stories about royal conquests, lives, loves and untimely ends. What would the works of Shakespeare be without monarchs? His tales could just as easily be told about regular people [as shown by many modern remakes of his plays], but when the subject is royal [if you'll pardon the pun], the tale takes on an epic quality. Stories about royalty also sparks our fixation with the secret lives of the palace-cloistered oddities that have had such power over nations, but been so vexingly inaccessible to those they rule.

Indeed, the very concept of royalty is intriguing – especially today, when it is entirely at odds with the professed social philosophy of our society.

We believe [or at least profess to] that all men are equal, and that anyone, rich or poor, privileged class, or working class, should enjoy the same opportunities for respect, honour and social advancement. No longer is it acceptable to assume that the richer class is stronger, smarter or more capable than the lower class. Today we believe that the child of a machine-shop worker could be as capable of ruling our country as the child of a corporate head might be. In general, expressions of class superiority are offensive to Canadians. If the son of an old-money family were to boast his superiority to other men due to his lineage, we would scoff, “Who do you think you are, and what have YOU done to earn this distinction?”

But we also support the elevated status of the monarchy – a class that enjoys an almost-holy status due only to their bloodline. Any other family that expected such treatment would be deeply resented, but North Americans are loath to revoke the status of royals for fear of debunking centuries of romantic and heroic rhetoric about the ruling bluebloods. Perhaps by accepting the notion that you can be born superior, we allow ourselves to harbour the notion that we too may be superior to others, regardless of our failures in life.

In America, which has no ties to a royal family, monarchs are created to fulfill the need – hence the fascination with the Kennedy family, and the use of the ‘Camelot’ in association with their time in power. False monarchies abound in the U.S., as evidenced by the American predilection for electing leaders whose close family members have served in public office. George W. Bush and Robert Kennedy are just two political figures that gained significant credentials due to their family affiliations. Rumblings have already begun, suggesting that Chelsea Clinton might one day be president, based on nothing more than respect for her father.

There is nothing wrong with romanticism, sentiment, or cherishing old symbols for their historical and cultural significance, but these factors should be distinctly separate from law and the distribution of authority. When these two realms are allowed to become entangled, foolishness can result. This week, Joe Clark has done a fantastic job of showing just how foolish the obsequious pursuit of royal approval can make even the most experienced politician.

Yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister John Manley commented [SEE: http://www2.alberta.com/news/fs.cfm?source_id=CP&id=1195746] that it is not “necessary for Canada to continue with the monarchy” and that he would like to see “an ‘entirely Canadian institution’ once the Queen's reign end[s].”

Mr. Clark responded to this suggestion by stating: “I thought (Manley's comment) represented, first of all, simple rudeness, and secondly, the worst possible political judgment. I was astounded.”

I’m astounded by Mr. Clark’s toadying response. When did it become unacceptable for a Canadian politician to question the status quo?

Mr. Clark has certainly made ample use of this freedom throughout his career, and especially in the last few years of the Chrétien reign [pun intended this time], which he has publicly criticized at every opportunity. Nevertheless, Clark is outraged – and I think even a little embarrassed – that another government member has exercised his right to question, because this time the topic is monarchy.

It is as though mommy has come home after a long time away, and all her children are vying for favour.... Mr. Clark wants to be first in line.

Is he an insecure child, greedy for the approval of a woman he perceives as his better, or an experienced politician who understands that in a democracy all things can, and should, be questioned, examined, evaluated, and re-thought?

Sadly, I fear it is the former. Mr. Clark has even gone so far as to make a public apology to the queen, on behalf of the Canadian government: "It should be made abundantly clear to Her Majesty that [Manley] does not speak for the people of the country when he says that on the day she arrives in Canada."

Does Mr. Clark have any self-respect? It seems that he is more concerned with demonstrating to the Queen that he is a good little subject, than he is with assuring Canada the best future possible. It's pathetic and embarrassing.

And he's not alone in his sycophancy. Elsie Wayne, a Conservative MP, also denigrated Mr Manley as she fears that "the Queen will almost certainly learn what Mr. Manley said and that will reflect badly on Canada." Well, we can't have that...

Does she think that the Queen is oblivious to this kind of thinking? A gentle suggestion that she may be no longer required as a Canadian Head of State, is nothing compared to the under-currents of anti-monarchism that are rumbling throughout her home in Britain. And it most certainly pales in comparison to the more venomous anti-royal sentiment that has been levelled at her by India, Hong Kong, and even Scotland and Ireland. Let us not forget that many British colonies were taken by force, at great loss of human life and cultural identity. The royals were never in the business of being liked, and the Queen was born, bred and raised to be thick-skinned, and she certainly understands that times change, as do politics.

Besides, Mr. Manley's statements were relatively benign, and phrased with the utmost respect. He did not denigrate the monarchy, but rather stated that Canada may no longer require them. In fact, he very tactfully stated: "I have always said that, first, I think Queen Elizabeth is doing a good job ... [but] personally, I would prefer it if we could have a uniquely Canadian institution after Queen Elizabeth." Nevertheless, this did not stop opposition members from describing Manley's carefully worded comments as "rude, insulting and boorish" and stating that they lacked any "degree of civility." [SEE: <http://www.nationalpost.ca/home/story.html?id={F8215F69-76E8-4774-8D0D-E1FAC5639416}>]."

Even the National Post [SEE: above link] lost all journalistic perspective when reporting the story. Journalist Chris Wattie opened the article “Manley Calls For End of Monarchy” with the statement: “John Manley, the Deputy Prime Minister, called for the abolition of the monarchy yesterday as the Queen arrived for a 12-day tour of Canada.”

No, he didn’t. And what, exactly, would ‘abolishing’ the monarchy entail, anyway? Would the royals be banished to an un-owned island in the deep Pacific? Or disintegrated in a hot oven, perhaps? The whole concept of ‘abolishing’ the monarchy is vague and nebulous at best: heinous at worst. What it is generally understood to mean, however, is that the royals be stripped of their political power and social privileges, and be forced to eke out a commoners existence on their few billion dollars of ancestral wealth.

This has been suggested by many people – even in Britain – but not by Mr. Manley. At least not on the occasion in question. What he said was that he felt the monarchy should not longer have an official role in Canadian politics. He said nothing about removing power from the monarchs within Britain, or any other country. Ending royal representation in Canada is a far cry from abolishing the monarchy, and Wattie certainly knows this.

Wattie’s article, however, is rife with prejudicial language, and takes great liberties in presenting Mr. Manley’s statements in the most negative context possible.

Freedom of speech in Canada is a nebulous thing. Criticism, accusation and spite are the shameful and unproductive *modus operandi* of our House of Commons, yet even the most carefully phrased and logical arguments may result in an MP being shunned if they encroach upon the taboo topic of royal representation in Canada. Ironically, in this one special case, Members of Parliament and the National Press have banded together admirably to vilify the man who spoke the heresy. I think this proves – clearly – just how dangerous to democracy the Canadian deification of the monarchy is, and why we probably do have to get rid of it. At least we are not afraid to question our politicians.

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.



From My Perspective - Tool Concert By Debbie Jabbour

"Think for yourself. Question authority, strive to be different and unique, never repeat things other people say"

Maynard James Keenan, (from Timothy Leary)

Tonight I did not attend the Tool concert in Edmonton. But I might as well have done so, since it completely occupied my whole evening.

Tool; for the uninitiated; is a heavy rock/alternative band. Frontman Maynard James Keenan is known for his dark, intelligent, compelling, and unexpected lyrical twists. Their roots lie with seminal alternative band King Crimson, and Tool has been influential on groups like Deftones and Godsmack. Maynard also formed A Perfect Circle and has collaborated with groups like Rage Against the Machine and Faith No More, and most recently Trent Reznor of Nine-Inch Nails. Tool takes the viewpoint that music is the preferred way to communicate about life and it should speak for itself. In an interview with the Edmonton Journal, Maynard expressed his disdain for the way rock stars are worshipped, stating "if people want autographs or handshakes, they should go into the emergency room and shake the hand of some doctor who saves three dozens of lives a day. We've never run into a burning building to save anybody. All we did is figure out we're irresponsible and couldn't get a real job" (Edmonton Journal, "Inside the Tool Box", October 5, 2002).

Real job indeed! In spite of their non-commercial and unconventional approach, Tool has reached rock star status and gone multiple-platinum. Their most recent album, Lateralus, debuted at number one. Tool also happens to be my 19-year old daughter's favourite band. As a unique and talented musician in her own right, she also believes in communicating through music and strongly identifies with Tool's anti-conformist attitude and intense lyrics. Since her preferred pastime is to constantly play music at top volume, I've become well acquainted with Tool, and I must confess, I find their music interesting.

So when we heard on the radio that they were coming to Edmonton, I decided to purchase tickets for her. They were to go on sale Saturday at noon, and I started calling Ticketmaster well before 12:00 PM to increase my chances of actually getting through. I used the "front of the line" American Express number, in hopes that I would be able to get good seats. To my surprise, it took less than 45 minutes to get through, and before I knew it I was the proud owner of two prime tickets to Tool on October 6, 2002.

When one of my older daughters discovered I had these tickets, they became a hot item - since apparently all of my daughters are Tool fans! Soon afterward my older daughter was able to purchase a pair from a friend who had received them as a company bonus and didn't want them, so all four of my daughters made plans to attend together. I felt a twinge of jealousy at being left out of the party, but I was thrilled that they would be able to share their enjoyment of this concert together.

Early this afternoon they started playing Tool CD's to get into the mood as they planned their evening. I offered to drive them all to my older daughter's apartment, and from there they took the LRT (rapid transit) over to the Skyreach Centre where the concert was held. Although the two pairs of seats were in different locations, they made firm arrangements to meet at intermission and after the concert, and my older girls took my cell phone along so they could have me pick them all up afterwards.

I dropped them off at around 6 PM, and after running some errands, returned home. I made some token efforts at studying, but my mind kept straying to thoughts of the concert, and I ended up just spending a couple of hours watching television and visiting with my oldest daughter's boyfriend while we waited. At 11:00 PM she finally called to let me know that the concert was just finished, that they were heading to meet their younger sisters and would call me shortly so I could come get them. Fifteen minutes went by, then thirty, and then forty-five. Finally, at almost midnight, she called back. Had I heard from the younger two? Apparently they had not been at the designated meeting place and were nowhere to be found. The crowd was long gone and they were getting worried.

I hopped into my car and was at the Skyreach Centre in a few minutes, where my older two daughters were outside waiting. The two Tool tour buses were parked outside ready to take the band members to their concert tomorrow night in Calgary, and roadies were busily loading equipment into several semi trucks. But the parking lot was virtually deserted otherwise, except for a few stragglers hanging out by the stage door in hopes of an autograph.

We puzzled over where the younger two might have ended up. It was not like them to just disappear when they had been all together at intermission, knowing that I would be picking them up afterwards. Perhaps they had waited at the wrong place and ended up going home on their own? We kept calling home, but no answer. A possible explanation was that they had somehow ended up backstage...my oldest daughter had had an encounter with a girl who had a backstage pass that she was hesitating to use, since her boyfriend might be unhappy if she went to hang out with the band. In my days as a musician I've had a few backstage passes, and I knew that band agents would often collect attractive girls to go backstage after the show to "meet" the band. I'd even had it happen to me at concerts back in the days when I was young, skinny & able to look good in spandex!

I knew that my 19-year old would jump at any chance to meet Maynard, and I knew that had they managed to get backstage it would explain why they had seemingly disappeared without contacting us. I also knew my girls were very capable of taking care of themselves, but all the same I was worried, just in case something else had happened to them. One of my older daughters had an early class, so I drove her home, then returned with the other daughter to the

Skyreach Centre. We scouted the area thoroughly, but still no sign of the two younger girls. Finally we decided that we should go home and wait until we heard something.

By now it was almost 12:45, and we had barely walked in the door, when the phone rang. Sure enough, it was my 19-year old. "Where are you? Where have you been?" I gasped. "We are at the LRT station," she casually advised me. Then added, almost as an afterthought, "Oh... we met Maynard." Relieved and bemused, I got into my car and went back to the Skyreach LRT station to pick them up.

They were both rather subdued, and rather than being all excited about the experience, said that it was a bit "weird." The concert itself was "absolutely awesome," and although their seats were very close to the stage, they did not have a very good view of Maynard himself, since he stood in the back next to the drummer for the entire concert. He wore underwear only, but his body was completely covered in glow-in-the-dark body art - an effect that was apparently "extremely cool" according to my older two who had enjoyed the view from a different vantage point.

At concert's end the younger two headed out the corridor nearest their seats, a corridor which also led backstage (although they did not realize it at the time). The youngest one had stopped in one corner to pull her jacket on, when one of the stage managers approached them and asked if they wanted to meet Maynard. They asked if they could go get their sisters, but he indicated that it was 'now or never,' so they agreed. They were escorted into a room with about 15 other young women, offered water and/or pop, and told to wait. I had to suppress a smile at this typical rock star/groupie set-up coming from a group that professed to hate the whole anti-establishment rock star environment. The irony of it was not lost on my daughters either, and this was likely why they were less than enthusiastic about the backstage experience. My youngest said it was like an episode of 'Eliminate' - with all these young women acting silly and giggly, trying to impress Maynard.

After a little while, the interview was ended, and all the young women present were invited to come down to Calgary for the concert tomorrow. Their names were all put on the exclusive invite list for complimentary tickets, and they were advised that backstage passes would be provided for them again. My 19-year old has asked her boyfriend to take her to Calgary for the concert. I know how much she would love to see the band again in Calgary, but I somehow don't think she will receive quite the same warm reception backstage when she arrives with a boyfriend in tow instead of her sister!

They all agreed that the concert was fabulous, and that although meeting Maynard was not quite what they expected, it was an amazing experience nonetheless. Not only did they get to meet a musician they admired, they also learned an important lesson - famous people are human too.

<http://www.toolband.com>

Edmonton Journal, Inside the Toolbox, October 5, 2002.

<http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/archives/story.asp?id=F94D85BC-1BB6-4417-8CAF-751D5706CE86>

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.



Canadian Fed Watch!

News Across The Nation... The Canada We Want, The Undergrads We Don't, Manitoba Continues to Buck the Trend, Canada Right Over Softwood Lumber...

THE VOICE October 9, 2002

By Karl Low

The Canada We Want - The Undergraduates We Don't

Every new session of parliament begins with a Speech from the Throne that our government uses to make a set of promises about what they hope to do while in office. In this session's speech, titled *The Canada We Want*, we see that the government has exactly nothing to [promise](#) for helping undergraduate students. Graduate student research receives some extra grant money, some support for the indirect costs of research and for the costs of commercialising research is also in there, as well as money for small and medium sized companies to do research and money to develop better workplace training programs and youth and aboriginal employment programs.

But for those of us who are trying to get to the graduate level? Nothing. The only mention is that it *has* invested in access to university. This so-called investment has resulted in the government's

portion of university revenues [declining](#) 14% over the past 10 years, while student fees now account for 7% more than they did the same 10 years ago. This is an investment?

It seems that in the government's rush to make Canada as attractive to researchers as possible, they have forgotten where researchers come from. Oddly, Athabasca University students are in a better position to affect the federal government than the students of any other University. Because we are all over Canada we can have an effect on many ridings across the country. Because we are generally older and more established, we tend to get more respect from our representatives when we write to them.

But getting this attention means we need to take action ourselves. [Write your MP](#) and let them know that as the next generation of researchers, forgetting us is simply shortsighted.

Manitoba Continues to Buck the Trend

The provincial government of Manitoba has [announced](#) 115 grants given out to various students who will be studying medicine, in return for a promise that those students will set up their practice in areas where Manitoba needs doctors the most. This strikes me as a far better strategy than giving money to simply increase the pay that researchers and doctors will receive. Manitoba's strategy guarantees them researchers at a competitive price, and is not subject to having to compete with all the other provinces and the United States as to who can pay researchers the most.

Given the size of the US economy, trying to compete in that arena is almost guaranteed to be a loss in the long run. By paying for the training, and then requiring service for a limited time thereafter, Manitoba is not only benefiting themselves, but the rest of us as well since they are enabling more students to become doctors.

Canada Right over Softwood Lumber -- Again

The World Trade Organization has once again ruled that the US was wrong in its continuing battle to kill our softwood lumber industry. This ruling has stated that the preliminary subsidy determination was flawed, which naturally will reflect on the final ruling.

What this means in the long run is that if the WTO rules that Canada was never in the wrong, the US Customs will have to pay back all of the duties that were collected. Of course, under the Byrd Amendment in the United States, these duties are allowed to be given directly to the companies who felt they were being disadvantaged by the Canadian imports. Even if those companies do wind up having to return the funds, they've still received the competitive benefit of being able to use them in the interim. The interest alone on the significant amount of money these duties took from our lumber industry would be enough to give an unfair competitive boost to those companies.

And once a Canadian company has shut down because the duties made in not profitable to operate, starting it up again will cost significantly more than was originally taken. Then again, some would argue that this was the US Lumber industry's intention all along.

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.



The Administration of Public Sector Union-Management Relations

Part Three: The Effects of Canadian Collective Bargaining Law

By Wayne E. Benedict

In the last two weeks we have discussed the administration of Public Sector Union Management through its past and present place in social construct. Now I would like to discuss some of the surrounding social and political issues which play a part in these relationships.

Canadian collective bargaining law simultaneously *encourages* and *represses* workers' self-expression through the medium of industrial conflict; and second, how this body of law simultaneously *authorizes* and *limits* employee participation in workplace governance.

Whether through the use of *ad hoc* measures (back-to-work legislation, wage controls, abrogation of the right-to-strike, the quashing of legally binding contracts or awards) or through the semi-permanent alteration of labour laws (labour codes, employment standards, human rights law, etc.), the most powerful weapon in the contemporary neo-conservative state's arsenal is legislation. Legislatures create law and courts add to it through interpretation as in the case of the Labour Trilogy mentioned *supra*. Similarities that exist among all semi-permanent public service legislation include: employees are free to engage in union activity without employer interference; employers are obliged to recognize unions enjoying majority support; employers are obliged to engage in meaningful negotiations with unions enjoying majority support; compulsory binding grievance (rights) arbitration for settlements of mid-term disputes (the *quid pro quo* which traded

the right to mid-term strikes in the private sector); Municipal employees are governed by the general private sector legislation (the applicable Labour Code). Thompson and Ponak (1992, p. 10) believe that the most important change in the 1980s to the legal regime in public sector labour relations was a Supreme Court of Canada ruling of 1982[1]. Following the federal Minister of Transport's decision to maintain the commercial air system in the event of a strike, the government requested that the Public Service Staff Relations Board designate most operational controllers in the Air Traffic Control Group as "essential". The Canadian Air Traffic Control Association objected to the employer's request and pursuant to s. 79(3) the Board was required to determine the employees to be designated. The Board, however, assumed authority under s. 79 to determine what level of air services was necessary to be provided in order to ensure the safety and security of the public and the number of employees in the bargaining unit who would be needed to provide that level of service in the event of a strike. The Supreme Court found that, "contrary to the practice followed for fifteen years, the [Public Service Staff Relations Board, which was responsible for administering the Public Service Staff Relations Act] did not have the authority to determine the necessary level of service [during a strike]. Instead, the government would determine the necessary level of service, leaving the parties or the board only the determination of the number of employees necessary to maintain that level of service" (Thompson and Ponak, 1992, p. 10). In effect, the court's ruling left the door open for governments to designate entire bargaining units as belonging to "essential services", thereby abrogating unions' right-to-strike and removing the only real tool with which they can back-up demands at the bargaining table.

The labour relations system established by the end of the third phase of public sector labour relations: permitted bargaining over a wide range of issues, though not to the same extent as in the private sector; all provinces permitted strikes by municipal employees not in police or fire services; almost every jurisdiction had extended the right-to-strike to other groups in the public sector; compulsory arbitration where strikes were prohibited removed the employer's right to unilaterally determine wages and working conditions; public sector employers had established formal structures to deal with unions; the large size of public sector unions did not offset their structural weakness due to large elements of the membership lacking experience in militant action (bargaining or political). The third phase ended abruptly in 1982 when the Trudeau government implemented the "6 and 5" wage controls against public sector workers. In 1984, Mulroney ushered in the era of privatization and contracting-out. Finally, the frequent and flippant use of back-to-work legislation severely limited public sector bargaining rights (Thompson & Ponak, 1992, p. 20-23). The processes which the various Canadian states (federal, provincial, territorial) exert control over their employees are becoming more reminiscent of the first phase of state attitude towards trade unionism. States are acting with hostility toward, and indifference to the protestations of, labour and the weapons with which they are attacking public-sector workers are powerful indeed. Of course, privatization and contracting-out is the state's ultimate weapon against its employees, a means of divesting itself of the employment relationship entirely. States are only one of the two main contemporary antagonists facing public-sector workers—the other is public-sector management, through its role as employer and its inalienable ties to the state.

Next week: The Public Sector Employer

Footnotes:

[1] Canadian Air Traffic Control Assn. v. Canada (Treasury Board) [1982] 1 S.C.R. 696

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Allergic to **Colour**: The North American Bias!

By **Laura Seymour**

What colour are your home's walls? White, by any chance? If they are, fear not, you're not alone.

When Larry and I got to the point where we could become homeowners I started watching the idiot box for decorating shows. First, they're fun. Second, they have a bunch of neat ideas for free. Third, I learn best when I see real people having doubts about themselves and triumphing anyway. The heck with Martha Stewart getting it right every time! The final elements that came into play are that I had wanted colour in my life for eons. As well, I've never been a visual brain and I walk into a room and lack the ability to imagine what else I could do to the walls, floors or furniture. I can usually get some basic ideas by moving furniture around but it's really very lame.

One show came on and began talking about an international furniture store from, I think France. ZOWWIE! The couches had sharp colours that hit me in the face and the rugs were fantastic compliments. Just as I was thinking, "What was the name of this store?" they changed to the North American-based counterpart. UGH! The plain-Jane colours and textures left me with a complete downer. Everything was beige, tan, black or white. I found myself listening to a company aficionado who informed the viewers that North Americans are allergic to colour.

I snarled, "I'm not," at the TV and picked up the remote. Something else must be on...something with zing.

What I did then was hearken back to my early childhood with mom. Mom was allergic to staying put, so we moved to new cities sometimes once a year and always bought our meagre furniture at the Salvation Army. A chair would not match a couch. Our TV was ten years old, and back then we used rabbit ears.

After mother and I moved back to Alberta a second time I put my adult foot down. "Okay but no more Salvation Army. I'm not moving again." Mother was nervous. She whined. She wrung her hands (she really did!) and she worried. She did the "but I wonder if..." a number of times to me before she appeared to calm down. I stayed put, so she did too. Is that freedom to "run away to anywhere" part of the reason she was one of the youngest women in the family to die? I'll never know on this earth...but you can be sure if I see her up there I have a few questions! "Hey Mum! Why'd you ...?"

So what should we ask ourselves the next time we go shopping if we want to challenge this colour stuff? How about, "Do I have to buy BLUE jeans?" "What about some snappy coloured pants?" "How do I feel when I wear certain colours?" I knew a woman friend in Edmonton who only wore the previously mentioned clothes because,

“I don’t want to draw any attention to myself.” True enough she had suffered with the final bout of Polio that had blown through as a child. It left her back deformed and she walked hunched over. I watched her blow off the attentions of a man, stop wearing a bright fuchsia dress I made for her and keep her home exactly the wrong way for Feng Shui to assist her. Cluttered! But that dress! The style and colour brought out the beauty in her skin and eyes. She looked great. Why run from what helps?

Are there emotional components to colour? “Absolutely” say true experts. Prison officials in the United States have found that painting a prison cell for violent offenders in a specific shade of pink calms them right down. How many hospitals have you seen painted in calming colours of blue or purple? These are colours for healing. Green is another big choice. I don’t think it’s a designer choice. The lights are chosen for two purposes: capability to see the problem and ability to turn down low to invite rest.

Chakras, those invisible centres of energy, said to be in everyone’s body are each different colours. It is often said we are keeping ourselves sick or tired by wearing only one or two colours or that there is an abundance of other colours in our “aura”. I really couldn’t tell you. If we are keeping ourselves sick, is this the North American mentale again? Like eating junk food and being less active than other nations. Do we also choose to be less colourful? I shudder to think of myself in those terms! So I’ve been painting my walls! I’ve done the dining room and the office. Larry and I love the look. But of course, SO many friends come in and go quiet. They eventually say, “I’m not much on bright colours!” So surprising! Maybe I’m a European and I don’t know it yet!! What are you? Let us know at the Voice.

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).



Food Safety Part III: *Worth a Second Look*

By Teresa Neuman

I love to cook. But, there are occasions when my husband and I appreciate the chance to relax and enjoy a meal prepared by someone else, and spend a bit of time together. A recent meal out which left us with food poisoning, made me wonder what standards restaurant owners must follow to keep the food safe.

In Saskatchewan, public health is the responsibility of the province, as defined in the Public Health Act, 1994. Public health

inspectors will involve the Canadian Food Inspection Agency if there is a suspicion that the food, not the preparation, is the cause of a food borne illness or if there is fraud in the manufacturing, packaging, and presentation of the food. Restaurant patrons may not be able to consume some foods for medical, personal or religious reasons, so the restaurant must provide accurate information about the food if the customer requests it. Failure to do so is in violation of Section 5 of the federal Food and Drugs Act.

Public health inspectors are responsible for ensuring that restaurant operators adhere to the Provincial Public Eating Establishment Regulations and Standards. While these documents aren't law, they are considered law if attached to the operating license of a public eating establishment.

In Saskatchewan, public health inspectors ensure that restaurants and eating establishments comply with building standards and regulations. There must be sufficient light in the food prep area, the kitchen equipment must be made of materials that can be kept clean and there must be sufficient hand washing stations for the staff. At least one person on duty must have completed a food sanitation course. Food handlers must wear clean clothes, have their hair tied back and wash their hands often. Dishwashing equipment, fridges and freezers must meet industry standards and be operating at proper temperatures. The restaurant must be free of vermin like mice, rats, and flies and if found in violation, extermination of pests can be ordered.

There are also specific regulations regarding food preparation, cooking and reheating. The regulations state that the "food must be clean, wholesome, free from spoilage and prepared in a manner so that it is safe to eat." Food must reach specific internal temperatures for defined periods of time and must be thrown out if reheated twice. The only animals allowed in the

dining area of the restaurant are service animals. Decorative tanks of fish and tanks containing live lobsters for consumption are acceptable.

The public health inspector has the right to inspect the restaurant at any time, to take samples of food and swabs of utensils to test for pathogens, and can take photographs and videotape of the facility and its employees.

In January of 2001, the City of Toronto implemented an aggressive food premises inspection plan. Using a "Green-Yellow-Red" pass system, restaurant owners post a PASS inspection notice informing their customers that they are in compliance with public health regulations. A yellow CONDITIONAL PASS notice will be posted if there are significant infractions of guidelines, giving the owner 48 hours to correct the infractions. The restaurant will be closed and a red CLOSED notice will be posted if the inspector notices violations that could endanger the public. Under the new system, the restaurant would stay closed until the owner corrects the situation. The inspection notice must be posted where all customers can see it, and if the notice is not posted, owners are fined up to \$5,000. The City of Toronto has approximately 18,000 food premises, of which over 10,000 are restaurants and is committed to maintaining its legal responsibility of inspecting these premises up to three times a year.

Public health inspectors protect the public. They are educated at accredited post-secondary institutions and are nationally certified by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI). The Regina Leader Post recently reported that Saskatchewan might be facing a shortage of public health inspectors. A recent ruling by their employer, the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO), determined that public health inspectors were not entitled to a market supplement pay increase, normally used to give workers higher than normal pay raises in sectors where there are problems recruiting and retaining workers. As a result, the Saskatchewan branch of the CIPHI has said that public health inspectors may leave the province in search of higher wages and a lighter workload. Saskatchewan inspectors are the lowest paid of the prairie provinces; earning \$22.00 per hour, compared to \$30 per hour in Alberta and \$28 per hour in Manitoba. The public would soon feel the impact, as restaurants, hotels, swimming pools and water supplies would not be inspected as often.

Public Health Inspectors in Saskatchewan may soon be on strike, as contract talks have broken down between the SAHO and the union, the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS). One of the issues on the table is recruitment and retention of the union's members, including public health inspectors. The union sees wage increases as a way to retain current workers and to attract others from out of the province. With two million cases of food borne illness per year, it seems to me that recruiting and retaining public health inspectors in the province should be a high priority. The safety of our food depends on it.

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.



THE VOICE – October 9, 2002

Dear Sandra,

I have a major problem with motivation. I let things slide - particularly course work, and then have to cram it all in at the last moment. I'm paying through the teeth on extensions and I'm still not getting things done. I mean to try, but distance education seems so easy to put off when real-life pressures and (okay, let's face it) recreational activities are right in front of me. I don't even know how to begin to organize or plan better, and I'm so tired when I get home from work that movies, bars, bowling, going out for dinner are all way more tempting. Help!

Mixed Priorities

Dear Mixed Priorities:

I am surprised the \$496 you pay per course is not motivation enough. I hear you though, it is a lot easier to procrastinate when you are studying long distance than it is if you are in a traditional classroom and assignments are due on certain days. I find myself starting out with the best of intentions of being on a schedule and all of a sudden out of nowhere that schedule is shattered because it is a month to finals and I'm only halfway through my courses. Extensions are one answer to this problem, but they are costly. Studying like mad for a month, getting stressed out and hastily finishing assignments is another, but that compromises your academic performance and your sanity.

So, what is the solution? I have found that taking university seriously works. Easier said than done I know. I took drastic measures to force myself to study. I disconnected my cable, I made a comfortable trendy area of my house to study in, and I learned to say no! I try to do as much of my schoolwork during the day, which leaves my nights free. For someone who works days, why not devote your weekends to studying so your nights are free. Going to university, especially if you work full or part-time and/or have a family, is extremely time consuming and you need to

realize that all this money you are spending will be wasted if you do not commit yourself to studying.

Another solution is to find a study buddy. AUSU keeps a database of students looking for study buddies who are taking the same courses. It is a little easier to stay on track when you have someone else keeping the same schedule as you. AUSU also offers study skills and time management booklets, see the website at www.ausu.org

Finally, the last solution I would propose is that if your life is so busy with extra activities that you cannot give up, ease up on your course load. This of course will mean it will take you even longer to finish a degree, but if your social life is more important, this is your best bet. You cannot expect long-distance university courses to be any less time consuming, or easier for that matter, than a traditional university. Yes, you are free to make your own schedule, but it is still an extremely demanding schedule.

**I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
TELL ME YOUR TROUBLES.
YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY IS ASSURED.**

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



Meditation for a Healthier Us The Benefits of Meditation – Part Two

By b.e. hydromako

We have now discovered that not only do we all have the ability to meditate, but also, we have learned the basics of a meditative practice; however, the question of why we should meditate remains. The answer is that regular meditation has amazing effects on our stress levels, our health, our access to our intelligence, and even influences our world.

We realize that when we meditate, we are consciously relaxing the mind and body. It is obvious that the sense of ease which meditation produces will reduce our stress levels. "Meditation...dissolves stress and so is highly recommended," says Dr. William Weir (tmscotland). He not only recommends meditation to others, but he has also practiced meditation for many years (Ibid.). Dr. Benson says of the subject, "meditative techniques...strip away destructive inner stresses" (24). Stephen Truch, author of The TM Technique and the Art of Learning, has this to add, "The deep rest [of meditation]... allows the release of deep-rooted stress in the nervous system" (190). It appears that anyone who has studied and/or practiced meditation readily agrees that it is an effective way to reduce stress; however, this is merely the tip of the iceberg. With the reduction of stress, we also elicit a higher degree of health.

It is Deepak Chopra's opinion that health originates from the interaction of mind and body (83,84). He is a medical doctor, and author of the book Creating Health. He states that the events in our minds (thoughts, feelings, etc.) have a direct influence on our bodies, and thus, our health (97,98). In the act of quieting our minds through meditation, we remove negative thoughts and emotions. This causes our bodies not to produce the activities that would normally accompany negativity: clenched and tensed muscles, increased acid production in the stomach, and adrenaline in the blood stream, to name a few side effects (Ibid. 97). Research has concluded that meditation does reduce high blood pressure (Benson and Proctor 34) and this alone will alleviate the onset of many diseases related to the heart and circulatory system. There have even been studies which show that meditation lowers the levels of cholesterol in the blood (Chopra 196); most of us are aware that high cholesterol results in an assortment of ailments, and can even be lethal. Overall, it has been illustrated in many studies, conducted by many different researchers, that engaging in regular meditation has a positive impact on our health. If we become regular

mediators, then not only do we require significantly less medical care (tmscotland), but we also pay less for health insurance (Ibid. & Chopra 196)!

We are now aware of the role which meditation plays in the reduction of our stress, and the increase of our health; however, there are still further benefits from this simple practice of regular meditation.

With the clear mind, free of stress, which our regular meditation has produced, we will find that we gain access to a larger portion of our available intelligence. Truch writes that research has indicated meditation "improves learning attitudes, IQ scores, grades and creativity and enhances logical thinking, learning ability and memory" (20). This relates back to the alleviation of stress. It is known that stress can be a debilitating factor when learning or performing complex tasks. Stress, or anxiety, leads to nervous motions (twitching, fidgeting, etc.) and thus, contribute to the unnecessary loss of energy and senseless, distracting activity (Ibid. 50). Wasted energy and unrequired activity will obviously hinder the ability to successfully absorb and retain information, and also inhibit us from recalling what was taken in. We have already seen how meditation reduces stress, and so, it will eliminate these destructive aspects, which stop us from exploiting our full learning potential and also limit our performance. Meditation results in the "Optimizing [of] Brain Functioning" (tmscotland). The increase in cognitive aptitude is due to the fact that meditation promotes a "relaxed state of awareness" (Ibid.) and unity of operation between the two hemispheres of our brains (Ibid.). To put that simply, meditation clears our mind and promotes our brain's natural ability to think.

We should be aware of the fact that meditation begins to have a positive impact on our lives from the very first meditation (Chopra 196). "The benefits start to accumulate from day one" (tmscotland). As well, with regular practice, we are able to lapse into the meditative state quickly (Chopra 196), and become able to meditate, without distraction, in public places. Jill Greenacre, an actor and practitioner of meditation, says, "Buses are excellent because you close your eyes and people think you are asleep" (tmscotland). There is also evidence which shows that the results of regular meditation, that is, the feelings of ease and clear mindedness, will continue throughout our daily activities (Chopra 196).

The benefits of meditation to the individual are quite clear, but perhaps the most astounding effect is that which the mediator has on his, or her, environment. Studies have shown that small amounts of people who practice meditation have a great effect on the reduction of crime, sickness and accidents in their community (tmscotland & Chopra 217). Indeed this is quite bizarre, and somewhat unbelievable; however, to understand how this can possibly occur, we must turn to, of all things, the science of physics.

In physical theory, there is an effect known as Bell's Theorem. In short, J.S. Bell illustrated with the aid of a complex mathematical formula, that subatomic particles and waves--the material/energy of reality's construction--are all intimately connected in a whole (Zukav 272). Essentially, this means that the separate parts of the universe--individual people, for example--are in fact always influencing one another, regardless of immediate contact (Ibid.). This is the "oneness" or "wholeness" which many experienced mediators (e.g. Buddhists) speak of. Dr. Chopra illustrates this idea in regards to an Indian tradition known as *Ayurveda*. He

summarizes: "(a) Nature is intelligent, (b) man is part of nature, and therefore (c) the same intelligence permeates both" (222). Once again, it is best that we avoid exploration into the mystical, and the metaphysical. It is sufficient to say that there are a variety of authorities, scientific and otherwise, which agree that things are more immediately connected than they appear (Benson and Proctor 20).

Perhaps the easiest and less obscure way to conceive of the immediate positive benefits of meditation on our environment is this: if we are happy and relaxed, then we will tend to bring about this state in others; people who come into our presence will feel our ease, and they too, will become more at ease. Thus, when we are no longer in their immediate area, they will carry this relaxed state with them, and in turn, pass it on to those people with whom they come in contact. It is like if we told our two friends a secret, and then they told two friends, and then they told two friends, and so on. This concept relates directly to mathematics and science, and it is known as the "Butterfly Effect" (Fractals). This is the proven theory in which small changes in the initial conditions [1] of a system will greatly alter the system over time (Ibid.). In other words, the benefits of meditation tend to rub off on those around us. Of course, it would be much better for them if they would also meditate.

The challenge then, is this: we should all engage in meditation. We have been exposed to the benefits of meditation; they are both immediately personal and far-reaching with positive effects on society. We have also seen that all of us have the ability to meditate, and that really, it is very easy to accomplish. It costs no money, and for a mere forty minutes of our time each day, we ensure well being, health, intelligence, and a better quality of life for ourselves, and our world.

Footnotes:

[1] For our purposes, we can conceive of the "initial conditions" as when another person, or people, come in contact with us, the mediators, and partake in our relaxed manner.

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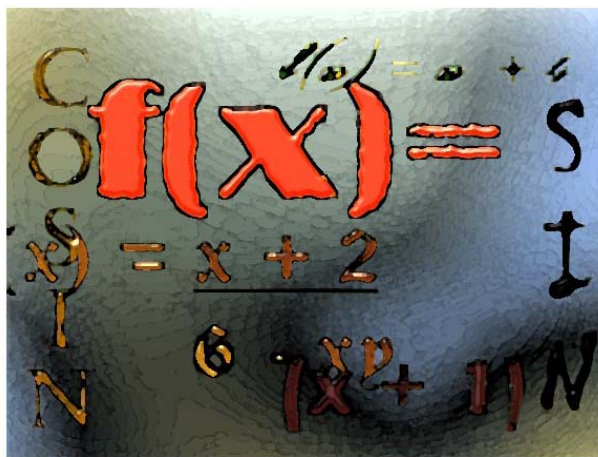
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b.e. hydromako is not sure whether his parents were human, and sometimes feels that the sun and the moon are his father and mother respectively (or vice-versa). He doesn't have a belly button, and the operation to remove the alien implants is forthcoming.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



The Harried Student Reviews Calculus

By Audrey Karperien

Suicidal moths pinging against my window, I read. I read again. I write it down. I invert it. I write it down inverted. I break it into phrases. I look each word up. Each one. One at a time. Like the death bent moths, one by one by one...

Then I realize it's not me. Like the moths in the blackness, the words are struggling to get out of their sentences. They don't even like each other. Like sparks rising from hell, they hiss and spit at each other in succession. They not only fail to explain what a local integral is, they endeavour to protect it from being grasped by any mind out to integrate it. Those pompous words do not teach calculus. They bury it in the area under their curve.

I open the window, letting in the moths, and scream into the bleak, British night "What do you mean we call a function singular in the region surrounding a point if its local integral diverges or vanishes with a noninteger exponent when the region of integration goes to zero".

Instantly penitent, I look for signs of a police car, pray that no windows light up. Only misty silence greets my furtive search. Then a haughty voice whispers from the darkness, "If you order it, it will come".

Night after night the play unfolds. I work till the wee hours. Then, the occasional fall breeze on my hot cheeks cooling my passion, drying my tears, checking my anguish, each night I bid the moon farewell, each night I hear faint whispers in the trees. He marks my leave-taking. Then I sleep disturbed, knowing the glinting cover of my current textbook, *Torture through the Middle Ages: Applications of Calculus*, leers until daybreak at my supplementary study aid, *Test of Calculus as a Second Language*.

Finally, obsessed, pushed, driven by pompous, disjointed pebbles of arithmetic, dragged by a voice in the inky night, I go online. I order.

And so I wait. I lay awake through the night, waiting, watching the pyre of my current textbook, kindled with my supplementary study aid, now flickering, now humbled, now ashes. As the last embers die, I hear a sound as of angels. Bing bong. I wipe away the last bad memories from my hollowed cheeks, grab my housecoat, and fly down the stairs. I open the door to a glorious, clear day. Finally, blinking back the sunlight, I accept the package, wrapped in blinding white. With Visa as my saviour, I know I am avenged. I pull back whitest paper, and cry tears of joy as I read: *Calculus for Dummies*, specially packaged with the paperback workbook *Forgotten Calculus*.

Audrey is a distance ed maven and part-time writer living in the United Kingdom. She is finishing her last year of an honours Master of Health Science degree, in preparation for a distance ed PhD in how to get a distance ed PhD. A mother of four, she sporadically sleeps, is in love with fractal math, and has found peace where neuroscience and Java programming meet.



Free Health Benefits for Children in Low-income Families

From information provided by Alberta Human Resources and Employment

THE VOICE October 9, 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



Throne Speech Gets Mixed Reviews

Critics say plan is more of the same

By Ned Richardson-Little, The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Prime Minister Jean Chretien made clear that he wants to leave a strong public education system as part of his legacy in the Speech From the Throne Monday, but commentators in the education community are divided as to whether his policies will

deliver.

“[The government] will continue to increase its funding to the federal granting councils to provide young Canadians greater support for graduate studies and research,” said Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson, who read the Prime Minister’s speech as per tradition. “It will work with universities on the indirect costs of research and on strategies for its commercialization to create opportunities for entrepreneurs and to fuel innovation.”

“It’s all pretty much more of the same,” said David Robinson, associate executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

“We’re concerned over the focus on commercialization,” said Robinson. “There are serious implications for the integrity of research and the level of input from the investors.”

Robinson cited the interference Dr. Nancy Olivieri experienced at the University of Toronto as an example of the impact of commercialization on university research. In 1996, Olivieri discovered that a drug she was studying for the international pharmaceutical company Apotex caused liver damage. Apotex tried to prevent Olivieri from releasing her findings, even to the test patients involved in her research.

Robert Best, vice-president national affairs for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), thinks otherwise.

“We were very pleased by the Throne Speech,” he said. “It’s very encouraging.”

Best believes fiascos like the Olivieri case are the exception to the rule when it comes to joint ventures between universities and the private sector.

“The current issue is how the universities set up safeguards to ensure the integrity of their research,” said Best.

Robinson is equally critical of other education-related issues raised in the speech, describing the government’s record on education as a “complete and utter failure.”

“[The government] has just rolled out the so-called ‘ Agenda of Innovation’ again,” said Robinson. “The Liberal approach to education has ignored the real problem of education: core funding. We haven’t seen any real increases in funding operating costs.”



Tuition highest in 60 years

Students paying more than ever

**By Adam Grachnik,
Ottawa Bureau**

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Even with inflation, tuition fees for Canadian students are at the highest level in 60 years, according to a new study released by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

Access Denied: the affordability of post-secondary education in Canada states that “when fees are adjusted for inflation, undergraduate university students today are paying more than at any other time in the past century, and six times what a student was charged in 1914.”

Student lobbyists believe these numbers finally prove to older generations that students are burdened with soaring tuition fees.

“This report shows that we are facing a completely different situation [than they did],” said Erin Stevenson, communications coordinator for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). “It shows people that we are not kidding when we say tuition fees are increasing.”

According to the CAUT, which represents 30,000 academic staff, their study is extremely telling.

“It was more affordable to send a child off to university in the 40’s-50’s than today. We are more elitist than we have ever been,” said Dave Robinson, CAUT associate executive director, adding that the current debate about funding for post-secondary education is the same debate that occurred in the twenties about high school, an institution at the time deemed “critical” and made free.

Peter Adams, the Liberal MP and member of the government caucus on post-secondary education and research, said the report “doesn’t surprise me.”

“[I’ve] heard all the arguments, but tuition isn’t the largest thing people face,” Adams said. “I like to think that federal government is concerned about access.”

Robinson doesn’t think so.

“The priorities they have are wrong. They need to put more money in core operating funds,” he said. “We are putting burden and barriers on households.”

“If were not careful the only people going to law school will be sons and daughters of doctors and lawyers,” said Robinson. “[Liberal Government] policy pursued over past 10 years is a recipe for disaster.”

Since 1993 the Liberal government has axed billions of dollars from the Canadian Health and Social Transfer fund (CHST), which, among other services, provides funds for post-secondary education.

“I don’t want to go back to expensive strings that existed in 1993. It used to be very expensive,” said Adams, adding, however, that some funding seems to be returning to the CHST.

Adams shifted the blame in the funding debate towards the provinces.

“However more we support students, the more [funding] provinces will take away,” he said, explaining that if the federal government increases funding, the provinces will use it as a ticket to reduce their contributions.

Robinson said that when he meets with the federal government to discuss his funding strategies, he gets a different story privately than publicly.

“Privately [they] say you’re absolutely right, but than tell me that the provinces will never go for it,” he said.

He believes the two levels of government need to get together to find a solution.

“We can’t get rapped up in constitutional side. We have to sit down with provinces and get it done,” he said. “Post-secondary education is absolutely critical.”



CFS and CASA Rally for Changes to Federal Transfers

Both student groups want money earmarked for education

By David Burke, The Muse

secondary education.

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. (CUP) -- Normally considered rivals, Canada's top two student organizations have found some common ground thanks to a proposal to alter federal transfer payments to benefit post-

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) both agree the federal government should earmark a portion of the Canadian Health and Social Transfer (CHST) for post-secondary spending.

"Our thoughts on this are that wherever there is common ground it makes sense to have a common message," said Erin Stevenson, CASA spokesperson. "I think there are certainly some common areas – maybe just differences in approach in how to accomplish the goal at the end of the day."

Both the CFS and CASA want the federal government to alter the format of CHST payments so that either the entirety or a part of the CHST can be spent on post-secondary education.

In 1995, the federal government began distributing the CHST to provinces. The payments are flexible money provided to provinces to use for needs and spending plans, says federal Finance department spokesman Jean-Michel Catta.

Although provinces can use CHST payments any way they please, they normally choose to put the money into health care, Catta said.

"To make the CHST strictly for post-secondary education might not allow for provinces to put the money where they think it might be needed, like health."

Ian Boyko, CFS national chair, says it's reasonable to ask the federal government to allocate money to universities and colleges from the CHST.

"When we're asking for increases, what we're asking is that they actually dedicate money to education so it receives the proper amount of funding necessary."

Boyko says the student lobby is drafting a proposal for national post-secondary regulations.

“There’s our Pan Canadian Accord on Education that we’ve been working on, which would basically be an agreement amongst the federal government and all the provinces to establish some minimum standards along with funding for education.”

Boyko says the proposal is similar to the Canada Health Act and allows student unions to sign in or opt out.

The Canada Health Act, a piece of federal legislation, sets up certain standards of health care service that must be met everywhere in Canada.

“From our standpoint, what we’ve been pushing for several years is a post-secondary act that would enshrine legislation designed to earmark money for post-secondary education institutions,” said Stevenson.

CASA has also begun to lobby provincial governments for changes to the CHST. The CFS has plans to promote their ideas at their national lobby fair beginning in October.



**'Toronto City Council
Unanimously Supports "No
Sweat" Motion'**

Maquila Solidarity Network

Contributed By The Community Networks Group

On October 1, Toronto City Council strongly endorsed the idea of becoming a No Sweat city. Councillors voted unanimously in support of a resolution calling on the City to "enact a purchasing policy requiring the purchase of garments, uniforms, or other apparel items from No Sweat manufacturers."

The aim of the No Sweat policy, which has yet to be developed, will be to improve working conditions in the garment industry by requiring city suppliers to respect international labour standards and local labour laws.

The City of Toronto's Director of Purchasing is expected to work with the "No Sweat Toronto" coalition in developing the policy. Coalition members include MSN, UNITE, Oxfam Canada, Toronto and York Labour Council, Anglican Diocese of Toronto, Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, high school students, local garment manufacturers, and municipal employee unions.

The Coalition is calling on the City to adopt a policy that requires public disclosure of factory locations and independent monitoring so citizens can know where and under what conditions city uniforms are made.

In April, the coalition demonstrated broad support for the No Sweat initiative in a series of rousing deputations before City Council's Administration Committee. But the coalition faces an uphill battle. Once the No Sweat policy has been drafted by city staff, it must be approved by the Administration Committee before it can go to City Council for approval.

Since April, the chairmanship of the Administration Committee has shifted to Doug Holyday, an unabashedly right wing councillor from Etobicoke. Over the last two years, the City of Toronto has made more than \$6.1-million in apparel purchases. The No Sweat motion, brought forward by Councillor David Miller (Parkdale-High Park), is an important first step toward ensuring that these garments are not being made in sweatshops.

Campaigns for No Sweat purchasing policies are also underway at municipalities in British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. For information on how to start a No Sweat campaign in your community, including the City of Toronto resolution, a model resolution and model purchasing policy, and other campaign materials, please contact MSN or visit our website: www.maquilasolidarity.org

Maquila Solidarity Network / Ethical Trading Action Group

606 Shaw Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6G 3L6

Tel: (416) 532-8584 / Fax: (416) 532-7688

Web site: www.maquilasolidarity.org



Beyond the Headlines (c)

Contributed by The Community Networks Group

As you recall early this year we started a new monthly feature (Beyond the Headlines) that focuses on the good work of Alberta-based NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations) working on international development projects.

We have featured thus far the courageous & inspirational engagement of groups such as *HumanServe International*, *Change for Children*, *Cause Canada*, *Rainbow of Hope for Children*, *RAFIKI Friends of Rwanda*,

Sombrilla Refugee Society, and *Friends of Nepal Society*.

In this issue of Beyond the Headlines our feature group is **Transgenus International** a group with a mandate is to work in partnership with **aboriginal communities** around the world. Again, we hope this special feature is informative and useful, and invite you to consider supporting the work of our NGO's who's tireless efforts for a better and more just world should be commended...

About Transgenus International

Our Mission is to assist indigenous peoples in alleviating poverty. We engage in a process of capacity building for/and networking with communities, groups and individuals, and are committed to creating opportunities for all peoples and organisations involved. **Transgenus** engages in capacity building for, and networking with, these communities, groups and individuals. It is committed to creating learning opportunities for all persons and organizations involved in this educational process.

Transgenus International was founded in 1994 through the particular initiative of Dr. Sybille Manneschmidt, a psychologist and anthropologist with an interest in tribal groups around the world; an interest which stemmed from, and is fed by, her extensive travels to, and work in, remote areas of the world. Through her observations and work with these groups, she became convinced that the best way to effect positive change was to answer the needs of these groups as expressed by them, and not as expressed by the state governments or foreign aid organizations.

The first project Transgenus undertook was to raise funds to support a locally based and locally operated health education program for the Kham Magar community in the mountains of Nepal. In 1997, Transgenus, working with the Canadian Peigan Indians (one of the Blackfoot Nations of the western Great Plains of North America), raised money which has gone to the purchase of a 40-foot-diameter tipi. It will be used by the community for ceremonial and cultural events. In

1999, Transgenus focused on a group of Mam-Maya people in the western highlands of Guatemala.

Transgenus worked with Pueblo Partisans, an NGO that supports the Mam-Maya in improving the community's health, education, literacy, agriculture, and craft production. Transgenus' 2001 project is to support a group of Samburu women in Kenya. The funds will help initiate a health education project, will assist with the establishment of a potable water system, and will support further activities with a women's camel ownership program.

After reviewing possibilities, Transgenus chooses a project it wants to support by working directly with the community in question or with local development groups which work directly with the community. To fund each project, Transgenus publishes and sells a calendar based on original photographs of the community which will be the eventual recipient of the funds.

Calendars have been published in 1995 for the Kham Magar, in 1997 for the Blackfoot Peigan, and in 1999 for the Mam-Maya. Transgenus has also become engaged around informing Canadians of the [human rights situation in Nepal](#).

Transgenus International

P.O. Box 2154

Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0

Fax. (403) 627-3915

Email: sybman@telusplanet.net

www.canuck.com/transgenus



'DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE URGES JEAN CHRÉTIEN TO STAND FIRM AGAINST UNILATERAL MILITARY ACTION IN IRAQ'

**Contributed by The Community
Networks Group**

The Canadian Catholic Organization for **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** (CCODP) is urging the Canadian Government to continue resisting pressure from U.S. President George W.

Bush to support a unilateral military attack on Iraq.

In a [letter sent to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien yesterday](#), CCODP President Roger Dubois reiterated the longstanding **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** position that "any military intervention in Iraq must receive prior approval by the United Nations Security Council," and "be conditional on proof being provided that Iraq is directly involved in supporting acts of terrorism."

The Prime Minister and the U.S. President discussed Iraq today during a private meeting in Detroit, Michigan. CCODP, along with many other Canadian NGOs and church groups, has been urging the Canadian government for more than two years to do whatever it can to lift all non-military sanctions against Iraq, and to increase Canadian aid for infrastructures, food, health, and education in the country. "Let's not turn the people of Iraq into victims of the war on terrorism, too", Mr. Dubois said.

"Further military action will only add to the terrible suffering they have endured since the end of the Gulf War. **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** is the official Catholic overseas development agency of the Canadian Catholic Church, and a member of [Caritas Internationalis](#), the Catholic Church's Rome-based international aid and development organization.

For further information, please contact:

Jack Panozzo - Toronto 416-922-1592, # 222 jpanozzo@devp.org

François Gloutnay - Montréal 514-257-8711, # 318 fgloutnay@devp.org



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 or call 1-800-9041 ext. 3413

Edmonton local number: 497-7000

Calgary local number: 298-2905



AUSU SPEAKS: Fall Session Provided by AUSU Council

AUSU met on the evening of September 16th for the last regular council meeting of the 2001/2002 fiscal year. Finances and our preliminary budget for the upcoming fiscal year were the main topics of discussion, and we laid the groundwork for some exciting new scholarships and student awards. Also under discussion was the possibility of selling AUSU promotional items in the future.

The most important topic of the evening was our upcoming AGM. For those who do not already know, the 2002 AGM will take place on September 28, 2002 at 1:00 PM MST, and all students are welcome. You may attend in person at the Edmonton AUSU offices, located at #306, 10030-107th Street, Edmonton, AB, or you may attend via teleconference from any location, worldwide. Call our office at 1-800-788-9041, extension 3413, or email

ausu@ausu.org for more information. Please reserve your spot as soon as possible, so that we know how many attendees to plan for. We'd love to see you there.

Also on the table this week was a proposal for new scholarships and student awards, which was approved by all councillors. Information about these awards will be available on our website as soon as we hammer out the last of the fine details. The details will be posted on the AUSU Services page.

The fate of the AUSU Handbook/Planner is still up in the air. We want to be able to give students items that will be useful to them in their studies, but we need to be certain that the handbook is the best choice before we commit to having more printed. Student input so far has indicated that a smaller planner might be more useful, while other suggestions have included wall calendars, desk calendars, and other items. So far, however, we have had only a few responses to our survey, and we require more.

Please check out the [AUSU discussion forums](#) on our website and select the Handbook/Planner Survey topic to download the survey file or to comment in the open forum. Alternatively, you may mail your comments to dkereluk@ausu.org. We'd like to know what might be useful to you, what items you have received from other students' unions that you have used and enjoyed, and if you have any opinions on the old format of the AUSU Handbook.

Speaking of student input, we are pleased to say that since the first issue of the AUSU newsletter started arriving in students' mailboxes, we have had many entries for the contest, and a significant increase in Voice readers and users of the AUSU forums. For all of you who just checked out AUSU for the first time this month - welcome!

Finally, back to business matters, AUSU council has approved the proposed preliminary budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and we are very pleased to announce that our expenditures for the 2001/2002 fiscal year will remain within budget for that period.

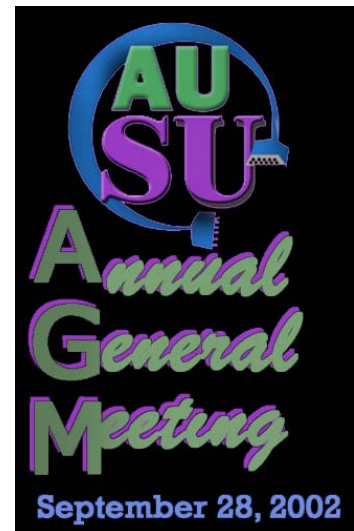
Many new projects have been initiated since the new council took over in March, and we're very excited about the coming year. Expect a summary of our work so far to appear in the Voice or on the AUSU website very soon.

NEWS FROM THE AGM

Provided By AUSU Council

The 9th Annual General Meeting of AUSU was held this past Saturday, September 28 at 1:00 P.M. Eleven students were in attendance, nine in person and two via teleconference. Quorum was satisfied and the meeting could proceed. In the President's welcome, Debbie Jabbour commented that the low attendance should not be taken as an indicator of apathy, but rather one that speaks to the reality of the lives of Athabasca University Students. Many may be interested in participating in student affairs, but few can manage to find the time to do so. Debbie also spoke of the uniqueness of AU students, and the importance of having a good relationship with the university administration.

Judith Hughes, Athabasca University Vice President External and Student Affairs, brought a welcome from AU and seconded Debbie's words about the importance of collaboration and cooperation between the university and the students' union. Many changes are occurring within our university, and development of strong alumni is a first step towards strengthening the image of AU and finding alternate forms of fundraising to benefit the university. By working collaboratively, AU and AUSU can also have a more effective voice in lobbying the government for policy changes that recognize that AU is different and should not be considered under the same funding policies as other universities. Current policies do not recognize our technological infrastructure and open entrance policy, and the result is that AU must rely for the main part on tuition fees rather than government funding to maintain operations.



Activity reports were presented. It was recognized that most of the current group of Council members were not part of the 2000/2001 fiscal year, and did not have input into the financial statements presented. However, Council wanted members to know a bit more about us, and let everyone know what we've been up to recently and what is being planned for the future, so each Councillor submitted an activity report.

The financial statements were presented. Treasurer Gurpreet Dulai explained that an operational deficit had been incurred due to the reprint of the student diaries. Steps have been taken to ensure this type of problem won't re-occur, and during the 2001-2002 fiscal year, the deficit will be recovered. He also explained that increased convocation costs were a deliberate move intended to raise AUSU profile and provide greater graduation support during the most important event of the year. Overall AUSU began the 2001/2002 fiscal year in a financially healthy position.

Once those in attendance approved the financial statements, and an auditor appointed for the upcoming fiscal year, the floor was opened to general discussion and questions. Several Council members spoke about their experience of being on Council during this past year, and how positive and educational it has been. Darren Kereluk, who along with Gurpreet Dulai, are the only Council members who had any significant presence during 2000/2001; Derek spoke of how different the experience has been this past year from the one he had when on Council previously. Even though disagreements occasionally occur, this group has been able to resolve things without entering into the type of conflict that tore the previous Council apart. Others on Council agreed that the atmosphere among this group has been always positive. Even when there is disagreement on how to proceed, the attitude is to discuss it and move on - move forward whether or not there is 100% consensus on issues.

Debbie Jabbour brought the meeting to a conclusion by thanking everyone on Council, volunteers and staff for their participation in making this last year such an enjoyable venture. She noted that in future years, other Council groups may look back at what we do and wonder "what were they thinking?", and that although we may make mistakes, we are all working with good intentions to improve the student experience for all AU students. The upcoming spring

AGM will be a celebration of the 10th anniversary of AUSU, and plans are already underway to make it a very special meeting.

The 2001 Annual Report is available to any AU student who wishes to obtain a copy, and we encourage you to do so. You can request one by calling 1-800-788-9041, extension 3413 (local to Edmonton 497-7000); or by email to ausu@ausu.org. Please include your full name and AU student ID, as well as a mailing address. Indicate whether you prefer a hard copy mailout or a pdf copy by email (include your email address).

Thank you to everyone who showed an interest in the 2000/2001 AGM. We look forward to seeing you next spring for our tenth anniversary AGM!



Conference Connections

PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE October 9, 2002

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **National Policy Research** - October 23-25, 2002 - Ottawa - "Future Trends: Risk." Details: 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.
- **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.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

ESSAY CONTEST 2003

The Elie Wiesel

PRIZE IN ETHICS



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

- **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

Entry forms, detailed guidelines and further information are available online at www.eliewieselfoundation.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

Kinsmen and Kinettes Bursary - Hal Rogers Endowment Fund

Value: \$1000

Application Deadline: February 1

Description:

- Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- Must be full-time students in the upcoming school year at a recognized post-secondary institution
- Selection is based on demonstrated high ideals and qualities of citizenship
- Recipients must not have previously received a bursary from the Hal Rogers Endowment Fund
- Applicants WILL NOT be eligible for consideration if the application form is mailed directly to the Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs of Canada without receiving prior endorsement from a Kinsmen, Kinette or Kin club

Instructions:

- Application forms must be submitted to a Kinsmen, Kinette, or Kin Club closest to the applicant's permanent residence
- For further information about application procedures, please contact the administrator listed below or visit www.kinclubs.ca

Contact Information:

Kinsmen and Kinettes Bursary Program
Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Canada
1920 Hal Rogers Drive, P.O. Box KIN
Cambridge, Ontario
Canada
N3H 5C6

Phone: 519-653-1920

Phone 2: 1-800-742-5546 ext.215

Fax: 1-800-742-5546

Web Site: www.carville.com/kinclubstest/href1.htm

Email Address: bzak@kinclubs.ca

Michael Luchkovich Scholarships for Career Development

Value: Not specified

Application Deadline: August 1

Description:

- Residents of Alberta
- Present full-time employee pursuing further training
- Minimum full-time work history of 3 years
- Program of study may be up to six months of full-time study or up to one year of part-time study

A semester of study towards an undergraduate degree or diploma program will normally not be considered

Instructions:

- Application deadlines are December 1, April 1 and August 1
- For further information please visit

Contact Information:

Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund
9940-106 Street, 9th Floor, Box 28000, Stn. Main,

Edmonton, Alberta
Canada
T5J 4R4

Web Site: www.alberta-learning.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp



COMMENTARY AND FEEDBACK!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter To The Editor:

I would like to respond to the very interesting article by Tamra Ross Low “What I’ve Learned About AU Students” and perhaps provide some helpful advice for all AU students. The Information Centre was established to provide a first point of contact for prospective and continuing students. We have a staff of sixteen full-time, part-time and casual Information Attendants who answer a wide range of questions through our toll free number 1-800-788-9041. Attendants undergo a rigorous 2-month training period and provide general information. Students requiring more detailed or specific information are transferred to the appropriate department. Most concerns can be resolved by an Attendant. The Information Centre receives an average of 8,500 calls per month.

Another means of communication for students is to access our instant response e-mail system at AskAu (<http://www.askau.ca>). It is designed to respond immediately to individual questions. We have a bank of over 150 responses covering a wide range of areas from how to become a student and register in a course, transfer credit information, exam bookings and invigilation, contact information for various departments, and a host of other information to ensure students are given the assistance they need. Students may also e-mail the Information Centre directly through AskAu if they require more specific information, or their question has not been fully answered. During the month of August '02, over 7,000 students got an instant response through AskAu. We invite all new and continuing students to visit this site.

Another function of the Information Centre is to process Calendar and other publication requests. Requests are generally processed within 2 business days, and are sent out by Canada Post 3rd Class Mail.

Tamra mentions that AU 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. The Information Centre provides a monthly Caller Concern report, which tracks individual and group concerns, and will highlight patterns of repeated problem areas. Students are encouraged to contact the Information Centre with their concerns, and these concerns will be documented if the student wishes, and then forwarded to appropriate departments for resolution.

The Information Centre is committed to providing professional, superior customer service for all our students. We accept calls from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. MST and are here to assist you and make your educational experience with AU a positive one.

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

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

****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



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 Boreal Abstracts...

October 10th @ Lazia Restaurant & Bar

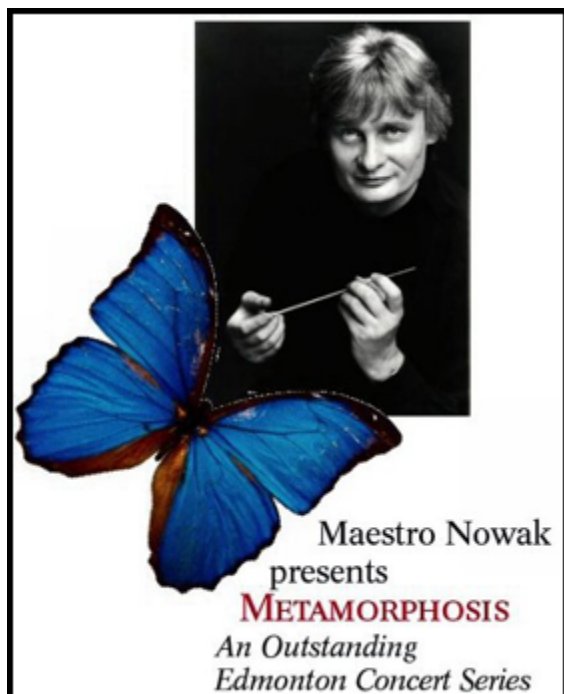
Edmonton City Centre West - 10200-102 St.

Time: 7-11 p.m.

Infoline: 430-7937

Emerging artist Cheryl Paige invites you, your family and friends to her first solo show on Thursday October 10th at Lazia Restaurant. Appropriately titled: "The Boreal Abstracts" Ms. Paige will be unveiling 10 new, large, vibrant pieces full of colour and texture, and will have other new works on display and for sale, including one original piece up for bid in a blind fund raising drive for Change for Children.

In addition two dollars from each dinner entree purchased will also go towards this long-standing and reputable organization. Please visit www.changeforchildren.org to find out more about their enduring projects. The BOMBA Trio will be providing live upbeat Latin Rhythms to entertain and you will also all be treated with a complimentary glass of wine, appetizers and plenty of great drink specials. To make a reservation for this very special evening, please call: 990-0188.



Maestro Nowak is back...

Contributed By The Community Networks Group

On June 8th this year world-renowned Maestro Grzegorz Nowak performed his last concert with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Now he's back and the "metamorphosis" begins.

METAMORPHOSIS is a series of classical concerts featuring 70 of the world's top artists under the leadership of Maestro Nowak (see schedule below). Join the Maestro as he launches the first of his controversial METAMORPHOSIS concerts Monday, September 23, 2002 at Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium.

The program features:

- * I Vespri Siciliani Overture by Verdi
- * Cello Concerto by Schumann
- * Symphony No. 8 "Patethiqe" by Tchaikovsky

This event's Special Guest performer is a rising young Canadian star - Cello Soloist Denise Djokic - playing an extremely rare Stradivarius cello valued at \$4 million USD.

Tickets NOW available at Ticketmaster & the Winspear Centre.

Subscription packages are also available:

1. Full package (10 concerts) with 30% discount (3 concerts FREE).
2. Two mini-series (5 concerts) with 20% discount (1 concert FREE).

For more information and programs visit METAMORPHOSIS online at:

www.metamorphosis.home-page.org

METAMORPHOSIS Concert Schedule*

11-Nov-02 Winspear Centre**
17-Dec-02 Jubilee Auditorium
16-Jan-03 Winspear Centre
4-Feb-03 Winspear Centre

11-Mar-03 Winspear Centre
2-May-03 Winspear Centre
17-Jun-03 Winspear Centre

*All concerts start at 8:00 PM --- **Tickets for all Winspear Concerts available at the Winspear Box Office & TicketMaster.



P.R.C.S

Palestine Red Crescent Society

PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY **--- Humanitarian Services Delivery - Under Siege**

Place: Engineering Teaching and Learning Centre
(ETLC), Theatre 001 - University of Alberta / Date: **October 11, 2002**
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Cost: Free and open to the public - donations welcome

Younis Al Khatib, President of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), will be speaking in Edmonton at the invitation of HUMANSERVE International, an Alberta based NGO serving displaced and refugee populations in the Middle East.

The **Palestine Red Crescent** (www.palestinercs.org) provides on-going emergency medical services, primary health care, mental health and social services to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza as well as throughout the Diaspora.

Mr. Khatib will speak about the challenges of delivering emergency medical services under siege and relentless curfews, highlighting some of the more innovative approaches that have been undertaken to ensure access to quality health and social services. *"During times of conflict, everyday people become heroes and the human capacity to thrive is strengthened."*

Mr. Khatib will be joined by **Shane Dabrowski**, a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Ft. McMurray Fire Department who will speak about his personal experiences working with the Palestine Red Crescent ambulance services. Mr. Dabrowski was with PRCS in Ramallah/El-Bireh in the West Bank during a 6-month period (March to September 2002) working as a consultant to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and as an incident commander at the site of the Jenin refugee camp.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the University of Alberta's Student's Union for their 2002/03

“Revolutionary Speakers” Lecture Series.

For more information, please contact:

Vanessa Ali (780) 481-4887
Karen Hamdon (780) 489-5920

Visit HumanServe International web site at: www.humanserve.org



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
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLISHED IN THE VOICE OCTOBER 9, 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.



**ATTENTION: PLEASE INFORM
YOUNG PEOPLE OF THIS
UNIQUE VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITY - Be part of the
Global Picture with Canada World
Youth**

**Contributed By The Community
Networks Group**

How BIG is your world? How big would you like it to be? Next year you could be living, working and learning in Bénin, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, India, Indonesia,

Kaliningrad, Poland, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay, or Vietnam! (Countries and exact dates are subject to change).

Discover other countries and other regions of Canada. Learn about social justice and development issues. Live and work with people from other cultures. Acquire practical work experience and other skills. Gain academic credit in some post-secondary courses.

The Youth Exchange programs are for 17 to 20 year olds and for up to seven months. You spend half of the program in Canada and half in the exchange country. During the program you live with a host family and take part in a volunteer work placement at a local community organization, farm or small business. These programs focus on social and community development issues.

Programs start summer 2003. Also, ask us about our customized programs (these programs have a special focus, and are up to age 29 in some cases), or our joint initiatives/school programs.

How to reach us:

CANADA WORLD YOUTH, Western Canada Regional Office
#205 10816 A - 82 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 2B3
Tel: 432-1877 (or) 1-877-929-6884 -- e-mail: west-ouest@cwj-jcm.org

Want to apply? You can get more information by contacting our regional office or apply on-line at www.cwj-jcm.org **Deadline** for applications is December 6, 2002.

About Canada World Youth

Canada World Youth is a national, non-profit, non-governmental organization that has been co-ordinating international programs for youth since 1971. Our programs promote intercultural understanding, increased awareness of development issues, and personal and professional skills development. Canada World Youth receives funding support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Industry Canada, and thousands of individual, institutional and corporate donors from across the country.



[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>

when
People
need an ally ...

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



CANADIAN
DIABETES
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE
DU DIABÈTE

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

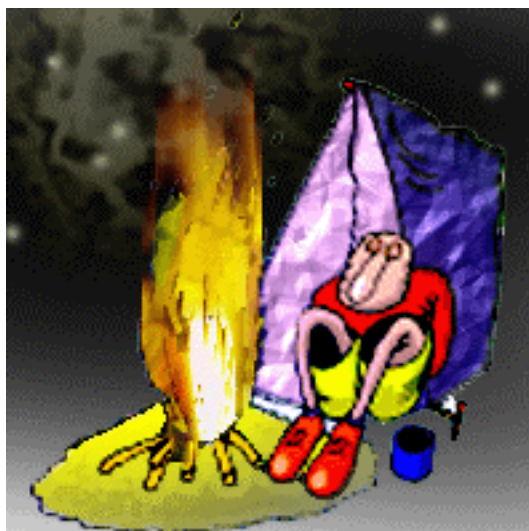
Canadian Diabetes
Association

403.509.0070

403.509-0072 (fax)

1.866.811.0070 (outside of
Calgary)

[Email Us!](#)



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
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Semi-private	\$55.00	\$51.00
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Weekly rate in a dorm room	\$129.50 (non-refundable)
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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.



CLASSIFIEDS:

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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.
