

Volume 11 Issue 08
February 19, 2003

www.ausu.org

the VOICE

Quote of the Week:

**“Life shrinks or expands in proportion
to one's courage.”**

-- Anaïs Nin

THE VOICE

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Volume 11, Issue 08

Welcome To The New Format Voice PDF

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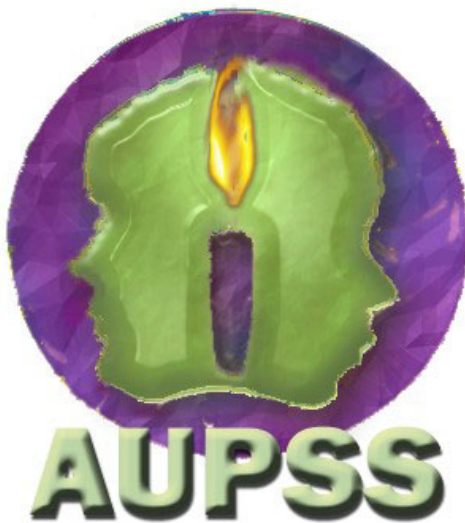
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ATTENTION PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

Every Monday from 9:30 - 10:30 AM MST and Wednesday from 7-8 PM MST the Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society gets together to chat about issues pertaining to the world of psychology at AU. Go to www.ausu.org/psychology/ and log on the discussion forum link, from there click on Psychology at the top written in blue and then go to General Psychology Chat. You do need to be registered in a psychology course to get in. Hope to see you there!

Sandra Moore
Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society





We love to hear from you!

Please continue providing your opinions, comments and ideas; any submissions can be sent to voice@ausu.org.

Please indicate if we may publish your letter.

THIS WEEK, A LETTER *FROM* THE EDITOR

Sadly, we have no letters to the editor this week. I've been concerned about this – and the general lack of reader response lately – but I have decided that this as a challenge! As your new editor, the challenge is mine to meet.

The notice from AUSU last week told you all a little bit about me, and anyone who has read my bio on the AUSU councillors page [I guess it's time we remove that] knows a little bit more. Many of you, I imagine, have no idea who I am.

Let me tell you, then, a few things you might want to know:

First, I am an AU student, taking a bachelor of arts with a major in Psychology, or Woman's Studies, or both. I'm having a little trouble nailing it down, but I'm enjoying myself and slowly making my way toward a parchment of *some* kind.

I started taking courses in late 1998, at which time I tried to complete an absurd 15 courses per year. That only lasted for one year, and several of those courses were extended well into the following year: I clearly bit off more than I could chew. Now I'm working more slowly, both due to the workload of the higher level courses and the staggering financial drain of today's tuition.

In 2001, I began working for the Voice as a weekly columnist, which was my first step toward beginning to understand the diverse and distant community that is the Athabasca University student body. AU students are everywhere – believe me – but we are nearly invisible and may pass by each other on the street or in a store and never know that we share a common AU bond. That bond is so much of what is missing for distance education students.

I have believed since I first read the Voice that it is the most valuable student service offered at AU. I am very thankful that the Students' Union created, and continues to

fund, the Voice and I am excited about making the paper accessible to as many AU students as possible.

This is why I decided last month to leave my position as an AUSU councillor and apply as Voice editor. I'm delighted that I have this job, and I have very big plans for the paper. I want it to be even more enlightening, and much more entertaining. New columns are starting soon, and a whole new look and format is just around the corner. I hope you all like the changes to come. I am especially excited to be taking over at this time, with the Voice's tenth anniversary quickly approaching. Look to the May editions of the Voice for a retrospective of our paper, and archives from our entire ten year history to be available on the website soon.

To begin the transition to the new Voice format, two new columns have been introduced: **X-Press and Featured Fiction**.

The **X-Press** column, as the name might imply, features brief press releases from educational institutions and other organizations that impact education. I hope that by seeing what others universities are offering you will get ideas for using your skills in new ways and become inspired by the multitude of education and career options that await you.

This is to be a main focus of the Voice: How to think creatively when it comes to your educational goals, so that you can apply your education to the things that mean most to your life and create a career that will truly suit you. I want you to inspire you – and myself as well – to 'do what you love' in a way that will also make you successful.

I also want you to have some fun. University is serious business, and very stressful at times. Often, after years of study, students lose their creative muscle. Some might find it very difficult to write creatively after a long time in school, while others may stop reading fiction entirely. This is why I'm introducing the new Voice **Fiction Feature**, which will showcase student creative writing in all forms.

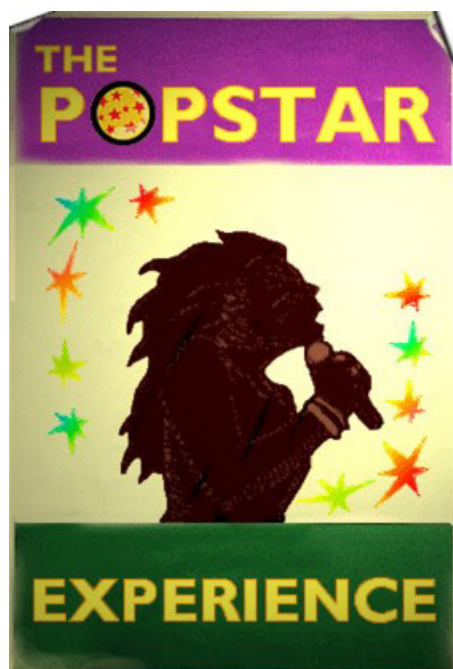
To kick off this new column, we have a special treat – **an original short romantic novel by Carla Johnson**, exclusively in the Voice. This novel will run in its entirety over 5 issues, after which we hope to feature a new short piece of fiction each week.

I hope you enjoy it, and the many changes to come over the next few months.

Tamra Ross Low
Editor
voice@ausu.org

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE THE POPSTAR EXPERIENCE: PART FOUR

By Debbie Jabbour



Part 4 in a continuing series about the Canadian Television talent competition, Popstars: The One.

For part one of this series, see: The Voice, January 29, 2003 [11-04]

True to her word, Amaya called each evening after bootcamp to give us a synopsis of the day's activities, and to let us know how she was feeling about everything. We eagerly awaited each call, with our first question always "do you get to stay another day?" Although she did her best to give us an idea of what it was like, watching the episodes and finally seeing what exactly she was experiencing before those calls has been very revealing.

When the television ads for *Popstars: The One* started airing back in December, we eagerly scanned them for a glimpse of Amaya, but she appeared in none of them. We didn't know what the show format would be, nor how the episodes would be structured. The ads themselves, however, were vaguely disturbing. They seemed to be trying to create a cheap imitation of American Idol, with catch phrases like, "watch dreams

being crushed" and "idolize this." Amaya had told us that the judges were always very nice and encouraging to her, and I sincerely hoped that the program was not going to be administering the American Idol type "dream crushing" to any of the young hopefuls who had gone to bootcamp.

The commercials made me even more disenchanted with the whole thing, and I started to feel apprehensive regarding what it would be like to have Amaya become the subject of commentary, criticism and ridicule – all in the name of making "good TV." Knowing my daughter's tendency to push limits and be "off the wall," I was afraid that she just might do something bizarre that would come back to haunt us when the program finally aired. The absolute absence of any pictures of Amaya on the ads or on the website was strangely comforting. Hopefully she would not end up becoming one of those who became a household name due to some unusual or dramatic occurrence on the show. Once again I was struck by the ambivalence of it all – wanting the opportunity, yet dreading the subjectivity of the Popstars' judges and producers, and what they would portray to viewers across Canada.

We eagerly gathered to watch the premier episode, only to discover that it had no footage of Edmonton at all. We waited for two more weeks for the Edmonton segment. I had not been particularly impressed with the first two episodes that featured other cities in Canada, and the Edmonton one was a disappointment too. Rather than showcasing the talent of those who were chosen, the cameras gave us plenty of footage of the judges discussing their opinions, pictures of everyone's reaction as they received good or bad news, and only short segments of the young performers themselves. While we occasionally heard some sing a few notes, most were not even given a chance to sing on camera, leaving viewers to make a judgement based solely on visual appearance or on

some quirky behaviour (the girl who sang Yankee Doodle with her mouth closed comes to mind). Many were sent to bootcamp without even appearing on the episode except for a picture flashing by at the end!

This continued even once bootcamp began. After watching the first two bootcamp segments it became clear to me why the previous two Popstars groups had gone nowhere. Making a judgement based on what constitutes good television is not the same as choosing real, enduring musical talent. Listening to how the judges arrived at their opinions was an eye opener too.

I was quite disappointed when I heard Erica make a voting decision on the basis of someone being a single mother – what on earth does that have to do with her ability to sing? Or to hear Paul Myers tell one contestant who sings with a high rapid trill, that she should change her voice to something else for the afternoon audition – obviously not understanding that this is how she sings. I found it quite amusing to hear the comments of the Power92 judge - a young man who looked all of 16 years old - claiming that according to his extensive experience, Amaya didn't have "star quality."



It was also quite disturbing to see how the male judges were so obviously swayed by the physical attributes of several of the female contestants. While it is true that beauty sells, it contributed even further to my viewpoint that this was not really going to be about who had talent.

However, it was still thrilling to catch our first glimpse of Amaya on national television. My heart swelled with pride watching her, although I was very disappointed that she was not shown singing. I got a kick out of her confident thumbs up and sassy "good choice" comment after the judges told her she had made bootcamp. She projected such an aura of self-confidence, yet on the other side of the door she had been so ambivalent and hesitant to follow through with the whole thing.

It's been very interesting watching the show with Amaya. She offers additional information on each activity and what it was like. I ask questions about the other contestants, but she keeps saying that everyone was really nice, and is generally unwilling to say anything negative about anyone. On the Popstars website the discussion forums have been actively dissecting the show, the contestants and the judges. Most are as disappointed as I am with the way things have been presented; the fact that audiences are supposed to be part of the voting process, and yet have been given virtually nothing to base their decision on. Many have come to the conclusion that the notion that the audience will choose the winner is just a sham, since people will vote for whoever the producers have picked and presented as the most appealing on camera.

As I watched the first two days of bootcamp, it has become very apparent that viewers are being manipulated. Certain people are given inordinate amounts of airtime, others we see virtually nothing of. The cameras present only the aspects of the person that the producers wish us to see. Amaya has commented how certain performances were not at all like they seem on camera, but that only sections that portray either a bad or good part of the performance are shown. Many of those who seem to be wonderful, unique singers, were in reality not that way in person. Some with unusual qualities, or those that had voices particularly suited to a certain style, were in fact very boring and repetitive, since they were unable to sing any other way or move out of

character. Others who had incredible ability and range were virtually ignored. According to Amaya, the short segments on camera that we've seen so far in no way have showcased those with real talent.

In other cases excellent performances were cut or not shown at all, and much was made over those that "choked." On Day Two, this was demonstrated by two that had problems in their performance. Playing guitar and singing, Aaron forgot his words and fell apart. He ended up being cut for it. At the same time another singer, Curtis, also forgot his words, but faked his way by crying and claiming the song had reminded him of a broken love affair. This won the sympathy of the judges and he remained. It made better television!

Of course, it's logical that the producers will structure the show in such a way so that they can justify the decisions of the judges and provide maximum entertainment value. Showing 90% of a performance that is excellent is not as effective as the 10% where something less than excellent happened. As we've watched the show, Amaya and I have discussed this. You are only as good as your next performance on this show, and no amount of incredible talent will compensate for one really bad day.

Amaya has always been very determined to try and be true to herself, unique and different in her approach to everything. But would this work with a group of judges eager to find someone who they could mold into their notion of a manufactured popstar? By the time she called on Day Two of bootcamp, I could sense that some of the pressure was starting to affect her. She was thrilled to have made the cuts, and was enjoying a wonderful learning experience, but her initial ambivalence was surfacing again. I did not know it at the time, but she was also bothered by the way they were required to vote against fellow contestants - it went against her notion of respect for fellow performers. Still, I kept reassuring her that we had the utmost confidence in her talent and knew she could go all the way if she wanted to. I encouraged her to just keep learning and having fun, and reminded her that no matter what happened we were proud of her and loved her.

Next week: Bootcamp Day Three

Pictures, bios, episode summaries, and other information are available on the Popstars website at www.popstars.ca.

Edmonton Journal interview, January 30, 2003:

<http://www.canada.com/search/story.aspx?id=867107db-d80f-431f-891f-2828d8e2247e>

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

THE VOICE FICTION



The Voice wants your fiction.

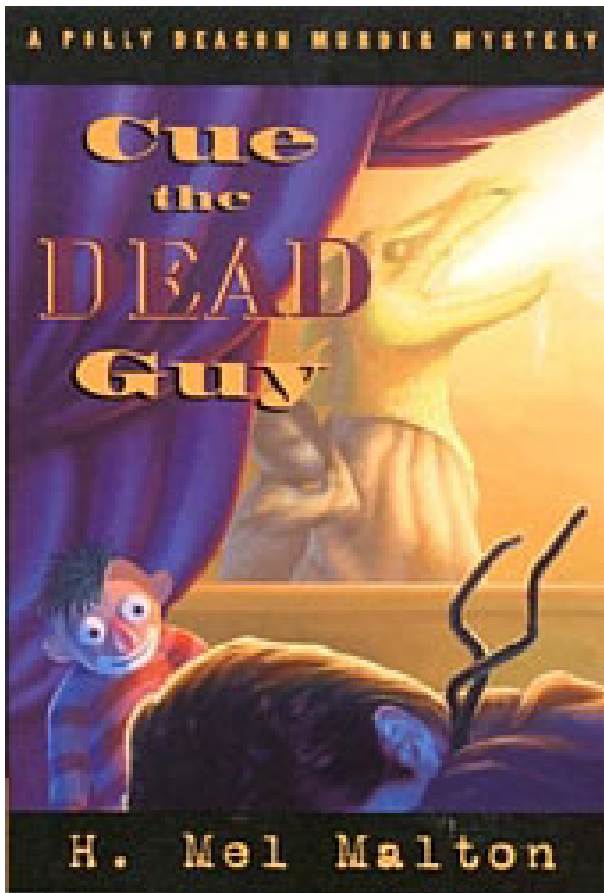
We are accepting creative writing in all genres for a Voice fiction feature.

Send us your stories, poems, and other short fiction.

Send submissions to voice@ausu.org

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR: H. MEL MALTON (A.K.A. 20 QUESTIONS)

By Laura Seymour



First of all thanks for agreeing to be interviewed Mel. This is a real treat for me seeing as you're my favorite author.

Q. Sorry. I have to ask...I'm sure we're all curious what your first initial stands for. Is it a secret?

A. My given name is Helena – a name that was chronically mispronounced throughout my life, prior to the actress Ms. Bonham-Carter appearing on the scene. I got Heleeeena, Helayna, Helenna – every combination except the right one and it drove me nuts. I worked in the theatre biz for ten years, (with its constant introductions to new people) and found it easier to be known as Mel (a family nickname), which nobody could mispronounce, even if they tried.

Q. As a fan of your books and writing style I'd like to know how your hero, Polly Deacon, came about. Is she a collage of people you've known, or a character you cooked up?

A. I wanted to create a character who was different from the competent, tough and oh-so-together women detectives who populate the crime fiction of the day. I wanted her to have as many flaws as I do, and as many struggles with

society, authority and the hydro bill as I know many of my readers have. Basically, I tried to make her human, and not so unlike myself that I would struggle with writing from her perspective. Polly is a figment of my imagination, certainly, with characteristics that a reader might identify with.

Q. How did Polly's "landlord" come about? He seems like a pretty unusual character.

A. George Hoito appeared in the first book as a kind of secular confessor-type, an older, wiser and gentle foil for Polly's impulsive nature. His Finnish background wasn't deliberate, particularly, except that there are plenty of Finns in the north of Ontario, and it's not a culture that gets written about a lot.

Q. Is there a Mark Becker (Polly Deacon's male interest) in your life? What's his occupation?

A. No – Mark Becker is purely imaginary. Although people locally who have read my books often ask if I'm having an affair with a police officer and who is it? (Grin.) I've never dated a cop. I don't think we'd have much in common. Becker might be said to be an amalgam of every difficult man I've ever gone out with.

Q. Who picks those hilarious book titles (e.g. Dead Cow in Aisle Three)? You?

A. Yes – I take a great deal of care with my titles. A bad title will not help sell a book, and I believe a good title will. I also try to make sure the title tells a potential reader a little about my style – that the book is likely to be funny and quirky. I am lucky to have a publisher (Sylvia McConnell at Napoleon/Rendezvous Press) who has faith in my weird choices.

Q. Polly lives in Ontario in a rather unique setting. Is this because you live in Ontario and know the surroundings?

A. Yes. The Muskoka region where I live, which is the basis for the fictional Kuskawa, doesn't appear much in mainstream fiction – it's uncharted territory – rich in character and detail. There's a wealth of material here. It's also stunningly beautiful, and I enjoy the opportunity to describe it.

Q. You're in a rather unique situation as a Canadian writer. You don't write about Canadian history and you're a success story... at least I say you are! How do you feel "pioneering"?

A. The pool of Canadian crime writers who set their books actually *in* Canada is relatively small. I don't feel I'm a pioneer, per se, though it feels good to be one of a small group who remain more interested in creating a fictional landscape that Canadian readers can identify with, instead of setting their books in New York City or London. When my books started getting attention, one of the things people often said to me was "It's so amazing to be able to recognize my own home-town in print!" Of course, Kuskawa is not exactly a reproduction of the real Muskoka, but it's close enough to be familiar to many readers.

Q. Has your publisher or agent been supportive of Polly's unique "smoking" habit from the beginning or did you ever face pressure to kill it off?

A. No – Sylvia has always been supportive of the unusual aspects of Polly's lifestyle, which I appreciate. In the first book, I tended (in early drafts) to use the novel as a bit of a soapbox in order to lobby for the decriminalization of marijuana, and she put a stop to that – not because of the politics, but because it made for boring fiction. Instead, I include Polly's recreational use of pot as an aspect of who she is – not a theme. And you know, this makes a lot of readers identify with her, too. What a concept, eh? She smokes dope occasionally, and it hasn't turned her into a raving maniac! Imagine!

Q. Did Polly ever have to lose other character traits or interests prior to her "birth"?

A. In an early draft, Polly's last name was Sypnewicz. Don't ask. But that got axed fairly early on, which is probably a good thing, as my fingers got knotted up on the keyboard every time I tried to spell it.

Q. Can you give us a little bit of info on your history?

A. I was born in Oxford, England, and my family emigrated to Canada in 1966. I grew up in Bracebridge, Ontario. My Dad was an Anglican priest turned social worker, and my mother was a civil servant. I have two older brothers. We moved to Toronto when I was 15, and I stayed there until the mid 80s, when I began working in the theatre business as an actor and stage manager. I lived in Nova Scotia for a few years and moved back to Muskoka in my early 30s. I don't work in professional theatre any more, though I keep my hand in. I've been a newspaper reporter, a waitress (endlessly), a carpenter, a forms-designer for the government, a drama teacher, and dozens of other things. I don't have a university degree, though I've spent about seven years, all-told, at post secondary studies of various sorts. Lots of life-experience, which has all been useful in terms of providing things to write about. I also work

a lot these days as a cartoonist and illustrator – I went to art college for two years, directly out of high school, and I *knew* that would come in useful some day.

Q. *How on earth did your dogs wind up being named Karma and Ego? (Kewl names by the way!) What breeds are they?*

A. The dogs are siblings – mongrels, really – lab/Shepherd crosses, mixed in with goodness knows what else. When I got them as puppies (they were only 8 weeks old) I was heavily into the puppy training books by the Monks of New Skete, who suggested that the best names for dogs were short, two syllables at most, with hard consonant sounds in them. That makes it easier for name-recognition, apparently. You know that joke – “Your karma has run over my dogma”? That’s where it began, I think.

Next week: In part 2, H. Mel Malton talks about writing, touring, and finding inspiration...

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



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact The Voice editor at voice@ausu.org for details on writing for The Voice. Provide a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



They Can't Get Your Money Fast Enough

It used to be that they waited until winter was nearly over before you started hearing about it. These days, it seems that Valentines Day is the opening day of the season. What season is that? Why the one that all governments love: tax season!

Already the advertisements are starting to appear on the radio and television. They promise to save you more, get you your money back faster, or make the whole thing easier. Rarely do you see them offering to charge less than the competitors however.

Maybe that's because they realize that it's hard to compete with free.

For me, doing the taxes has always been kind of fun. Then again, I'm the kind of person who likes to find loopholes in rules and point them out. For several years in a row, my tax return told the government that they owed me several thousand dollars, because one calculation did not specify that negative results should be changed to zero. The government always faithfully altered my return and let me know that my whopping refund had been reduced to a few dollars as the specific line was supposed to be reduced to zero, but I always kept hope.

No more, however, not only have the forms since been altered to fix that little mistake, these days they don't even want you doing the calculations. That's why the federal government has announced that their NetFile program is now open, and will be staying open for longer this year.

The government likes it when people use NetFile. I'm sure part of the reason is because it makes sure that they don't have to deal with people like me taking advantage of errors on their part. They like it so much that they've put out the top ten reasons why you should use NetFile. For me, the most compelling reasons have always been that the software to use NetFile is free if you have a low income, and that since they know the calculations are correct, you get your refund a lot faster.

Of course, you could choose to go to one of the many tax preparation companies out there, but unless you have some sort of horrendously complex financial situation why bother? For simple returns, all the tax preparers really do is read you the same set of questions you'd be answering if you did it online yourself – but they charge you for the inconvenience of having to take everything down to their office. Thanks, but no.

Alberta's Promise

The spring legislature session in Alberta will soon be starting and on the table are a number of bills that will be decided upon. Looking at the list of bills, you will likely notice a certain glaring omission. There is absolutely

no mention of post-secondary education. Given Premier Klein's recent address to the province, this is hardly unexpected, although it is still disappointing.

Adding to the disappointment are the fact that the University of Calgary is looking at increasing tuition 6.3%, and then still having to cut thirty million dollars from its budget. According to the *Calgary Herald*, Mark Cooper, spokesman for Alberta Learning has claimed that the province has made post-secondary funding a priority. Which of course explains its complete lack of mention in either the Premier's address or the Bills to be discussed in the spring session.

Mr. Cooper tries to show that the 1.2 billion that Alberta puts into post-secondary education is a 38% increase from 1998-1999. Of course, if you break this down, this is an increase of less than 8% per year. Over the last five years university budgets have not increased by this amount, yet tuition fees keep rising. This alone shows that the increase in money going into the post-secondary education system is not going to actually help the post-secondary students.

Where it is going is into targeted research grants and into programs to increase the commercialization of university derived research. Or in other words, it is being used to subsidize high-tech businesses and industries.

I personally do not have a problem with subsidizing high-tech industry. I think it's generally a good plan to encourage a prosperous future. But we should at least be honest about what it is we are doing.

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


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DON'T COMPLAIN IF YOU AREN'T WILLING TO FIGHT

by Sandra Moore

They hesitate, and they regret, and sometimes they petition; but they do nothing in earnest and with effect. They will wait, well disposed, of others to remedy the evil, that they may no longer have it to regret.

*Resistance to Civil Government
-Henry David Thoreau*



I have recently heard a lot of complaints from my fellow students about the proposed 7.3% tuition increase at AU. So many students are ready and eager to complain about this proposed increase, but not one student has ever asked me "What can I do to keep this from happening"?

As with any political problem that affects the masses it is hard to motivate people to stand up for what they believe in. Everyone is so convinced that if the government does not want to fund education, healthcare, etc., then there is nothing that can be done about it. Wrong! We live in a democratic society, which means that the people have a voice, but that voice is not very audible to the government if only a few people ever speak up.

On Wednesday February 12th the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS: Athabasca University Student's Union is a member along with the other 3 Alberta universities) and the Medicine Hat College Student's Association put on a thought-provoking, informative forum to educate the general public about the rising costs of tuition. I, along with David Stevens from the MHCA, promoted this event to the 60,000 + population of Medicine Hat and area. David also promoted it for two weeks at the college to the students. We were both extremely disappointed when only 15 people were in the audience to listen to the speakers talk about the effects of rising tuition. Where were the hundreds of students who attend Medicine Hat College or the 300+ AU students who live in Medicine Hat?

As students, as parents, as aging citizens, what will happen to us if tuition increases keep rising at the alarming rates they have been over the past 10 years (209% in Alberta since 1993)? Think of what it is costing you to go to school. If you are in a 4-year Arts degree program you incur over \$20,000 in debt before you convocate. If you want to go on to grad school, tack on another \$10,000. Now if you have a child who will be attending post secondary education in 10 years, it will cost them close to \$42,000 to obtain that same Arts degree if tuition rises another 209%. Do you think you are putting enough into RESP's every month for your children? In order to afford to send your children to school in 18 years, you need to be putting away \$200 per child a month. Keep in mind though they will still have books to pay for, and living expenses. Of course, they can buy second hand books while living on Kraft Dinner and donations from campus Food Banks. Who says you have to be well nourished to learn???

What about our aging population? All of those baby boomers that comprise a good proportion of our population are rapidly nearing retirement age. That means we will be left with a shortage of skilled professionals, especially in the rural areas. Alberta is already predicting a rapid decline in their workforce in the next 10 years. The United States is also feeling the pinch of a shortage of trained professionals, but they are doing a pretty good job coming up here to Canada to entice our Canadian trained professionals to take higher

paying jobs down there. It's hard to entice professionals, such as doctors and teachers, to stay in bigger Canadian cities, let alone expect someone to go to a rural area to practice. The pay will be considerably lower and the chance for continued learning and advancement slim. Can we really expect a new Canadian doctor with a huge student debt to take a minimal rural position, when he/she could easily go to the States or the bigger Canadian cities and earn more?

Some universities are proposing to differentiate the cost of some of their programs. Differentiating tuition is the practice of charging different fees for different programs, based on the cost of delivering that program and the supposed earning power of graduates of that program. The University of Calgary is proposing an increase in the faculty of law from the current \$4,944 to \$10,700 a year by 2005/2006. How many law students do you think will be able to open their practices and dedicate themselves to lower paying levels of law like environmental law with a debt like this? The cost for one year in medicine at this same university is proposed to rise from \$6,992 to \$14,000 by 2005/2006. With student debt like that we might as well forget about medical students becoming general practitioners, they'll need to specialize in order to have their loans paid off quicker. Economists know that the more you charge for something the less people will want it. Are more people in Canada going to decline the years of debt associated with a post secondary education? What will this do to Canada?

Why does Canada even charge tuition? Other economically developed countries like Germany, France and Ireland as well as some economically underdeveloped countries do not charge tuition. They see providing post secondary education to people as a boost for their economies and as less of a drain on their social assistance levels. Canada's economy relies on highly educated and skilled workers. As our workforce is becoming more in demand of skilled workers able to adapt to the increasing use of technical equipment, and our cost of tuition to obtain the necessary skills to fill these positions is going up and up forcing students to abstain from a post secondary education, our economy is left with a lot of empty positions and a lot of unemployed workers unable to fill them.

In the last 10 years the federal government has cut 7 billion from higher education and training. This, along with provincial funding cuts, is what forces universities to jack up tuition. Mind you though, there are some universities that are run by power hungry administrators, unconcerned with educating their current students, but rather on building up their universities to have them internationally recognized.

What can you do besides complaining as you watch tuition rise every year? Watch the Voice for upcoming tuition events at local universities across Canada. Write or email your local MLA, your provincial Learning Minister, your premier, your MP, even Jean Chrétien. Let them know that you are concerned about the lack of funding by both the provincial and federal governments toward education. Education will soon only be available to those who can afford it here in Canada. Are you prepared to let that happen?

Below are a few websites that will give you more insight into the rapidly increasing cost of tuition and the rapidly declining level of interest governments have to fund it.

- ❑ www.tuitioncause.com - Council of Alberta University Students
- ❑ www.freezehefees.ca - Council of Alberta University Students
- ❑ www.cfsontario.ca - Canadian Federation of Students

Contact information for Provincial and Federal Government offices related to education:

Jean Chretien

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa K1A 0A2
Fax: 613-941-6900
pm@pm.gc.ca

Alberta Learning Minister

Oberg, Lyle (Dr.) The Hon., MLA
204 Legislature Bldg 10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Phone: 780 427-2025
Fax: 780 427-5582
E-mail: learning.minister@gov.ab.ca

British Columbia Learning Minister

Christy Clark
PO Box 9045 - STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Phone 250-387-1977
Fax 250-387-3200

Manitoba Learning Minister

Ron Lemieux
Phone 945-3720, 0418
Fax 945-1291
minedu@leg.gov.mb.ca

Newfoundland Learning Minister

Judy Foote
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Phone 729-5097
Fax 729-5896
Email webmasteredu@gov.nf.ca

Northwest Territories Learning Minister

Jake Ootes
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2366
Fax: (867) 873-0169
E-mail: jake_ootes@gov.nt.ca

Nova Scotia Learning Minister

Angus MacIsaac
P.O. Box 578 - 2021 Brunswick Street, Suite 402
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2S9
Phone (General Information) 902-424-5168
Fax (General Enquiries) 902-424-0511

Nunavut Learning Minister

Peter Kilabuk
Tel: 867-975-5600
Fax: 867-975-5605

Ontario Learning Minister

Elizabeth Witmer,
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2
Telephone: (416) 325-2929 or 1-800-387-5514
Fax: (416) 325-6348
Email: info@edu.gov.on.ca

Prince Edward Island Learning Minister

Chester Gillan
Phone (902) 368-4610
Fax (902) 368-4699
jcgillan@gov.pe.ca
[Sullivan Building](#)
2nd Floor

Quebec Learning Minister

Madeleine BÉLANGER
Hôtel du Parlement
Bureau 2.20
Québec (Québec) G1A 1A4
Phone: (418) 643-7640
Fax: (418) 646-6640
E-mail: mbelanger@assnat.qc.ca

Saskatchewan Learning Minister

Hon. Jim Melenchuk
Room 340
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
CANADA S4S 0B3
Telephone: (306) 787-7360
Facsimile: (306) 787-0237
Email: jim.melenchuk@sasked.gov.sk.ca

Yukon Learning Minister

John Edzerza
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6
John.Edzerza@gov.yk.ca

C A U S
Council of Alberta University Students
Athabasca • Calgary • Alberta • Lethbridge

CAUS represents university students across Alberta. Visit the CAUS and the Tuition CAUSE websites to learn more about what CAUS is doing to keep Alberta tuitions affordable.

CAUS: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/caus/alpha/>
Tuition Cause: <http://tc.su.ualberta.ca/>



THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE



This week The Voice is pleased to introduce our new fiction feature.

To kick off the column, we have a special treat – *Forgotten Promise*, an original short novel by Carla Johnson which will be presented in five parts. After the last instalment we will begin running a piece of student fiction each week, so start sending in your submissions. Any form of creative writing is acceptable, including short stories and poems.

Carla Johnson

Part one...

Laura stood in front of the old red brick building uncertainly, trying to build up courage to enter. Was she doing the right thing after all this time? Perhaps she should have stayed in Vancouver and tried to handle it herself. As she wavered, the door burst open and a tall, elegant woman started down the steps. Laura shrunk back quickly in the shadow of the stairs. The years hadn't changed Vicki too much. The haughty, beautiful face still wore the elegance of old money, the air of thinking herself far too good for the rest of the world. Vicki whirled back towards the entrance and tossed words back to someone inside. She spoke quietly but their sharpness cut through the air clearly.

"You'll hear from my lawyers, and don't expect to get off easy. You couldn't have made it without my money." Laura could not hear the reply, but her heart began to hammer as she realized who Vicki must be talking to.

Vicki turned and stalked away from the building, her perfect face set in an angry mask. She brushed past

Laura in a whirl of designer clothes, the scent of her expensive perfume wafting through the air. Laura retreated further back into the shadows, but Vicki didn't even glance in her direction. Her red Mercedes convertible was parked in the loading zone (typical Vicki thought Laura - total disregard for the law). As Vicki slammed the door and squealed away from the curb, Laura turned back toward the building with trepidation. Maybe this was not such a good idea. Obviously Adam had problems of his own. Laura stood indecisively in the shadows, then felt her stomach drop sickeningly as she recognized the tall figure coming towards the open door. Sudden crazy courage filled her and she turned and mounted the steps before she could change her mind, stepping inside the door before he reached it. She pulled the door shut behind her and faced him.

"Adam." Was all she managed before she froze, her eyes hungrily taking in his appearance. His hair was still black, thick and curly, with that errant lock falling over his forehead. The tips of her fingers

tingled as they remembered lovingly pushing back that stray, stroking the thickness of those curls in the heat of passion. She blinked as she shook away the image. His eyes seemed even blacker, perhaps a little colder. The handsome, chiselled lines of his face and the liveness of his body were still as she remembered; but now deep grooves of weariness and worry etched wrinkles around his eyes and mouth.

He stood without moving for a moment. She was beginning to think he didn't recognize her when she saw the expression in his dark eyes. They had come alive suddenly and he was staring at her with a deep hunger and desire she had relived many times in her dreams, yet thought never to see again.

"Laura?", he whispered, unbelieving. Then she was in his arms, being crushed tightly against him. She felt his lips warm against hers and the years between them fell away. Again she was with him in the gazebo, the breeze gently drifting around them, whispering with the fragrance of lilacs and pine, mixing with the heady warm scent of his skin against hers. She shivered as she felt his fingers burning into her flesh of her back, their heat leaving an imprint through the fabric of her dress.

"Nooo!" she murmured against his lips as her arm went up around his chest to push him away. Instead, her treacherous arm pulled him closer, desire overcoming her momentarily. But good sense washed icy droplets over her suddenly and she broke free of his embrace. He refused to release her totally, still keeping her encircled in his arms, gazing at her face as if he couldn't get enough. His eyes slowly began to caress the length of her body, and something flickered in his expression. Was it dissatisfaction with her appearance?

Self-consciously her hand started up towards her hair, then she angrily pulled it away. In a sudden flash of memory, she saw herself in the mirror - fresh from his betrayal, scissors in hand, her waist-length auburn hair lying forlorn and scattered on the bathroom floor at her feet. As if chopping it off could cut away the memories of his hands caressing it, twisting long fistfuls around his fingers.

"Never cut it Laura...keep it long for me forever", he had whispered.

Forever had ended abruptly. But during the last few months she had been too lost in pain to pay attention to her personal appearance, and her hair had started to grow out, now falling lightly to her shoulders. She had never considered herself beautiful, but the years had given her a maturity of face and figure that made her now an attractive woman, not the pretty, awkward teenager he had known. Her large, deep-set green eyes were still her most arresting feature, but years of bitter experience, betrayal and hurt had blurred their clarity and innocence.

He painfully pulled his eyes back to her face, to meet hers. "I can't believe it, Laura. I gave up hope long ago of finding you. Why did you leave me?" he demanded.

Laura pushed herself fully away from him and spoke abruptly, the betrayal and anger of seven years churning to the surface as she replied,

"Do you really not know the answer to that question?"

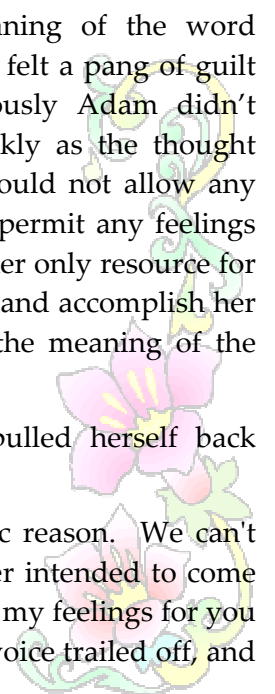
She was rewarded by a sudden ashamed look as he dropped his gaze. He hesitated, then once again met her look straight on.

"What can I say, Laura? Sorry is not a good enough word. If there were even a way to put it in words. I was a young fool, as I've learned these years. I learned too much too late. Believe me, I've suffered for the choice I made."

"Like you even know the meaning of the word 'suffer'" she thought. Briefly she felt a pang of guilt at her uncharitableness. Obviously Adam didn't have a perfect life. But as quickly as the thought intruded, she banished it. She could not allow any hint of sympathy, nor could she permit any feelings of compassion. Anger had been her only resource for survival. She had to remain hard and accomplish her purpose. Adam did not know the meaning of the word suffer.

She drew a deep breath and pulled herself back mentally.

"Adam, I came here for a specific reason. We can't change the past, it's gone. I never intended to come back. God knows I've tried to kill my feelings for you after what you did to me. . ." her voice trailed off, and



then she got hold of herself again. "Recently things changed for me. I really need to talk to you. I...I need....your help. It....involves you.....I have nowhere else to turn". She stopped speaking, biting her lower lip nervously. How was the best way to broach this? He really was a stranger to her in so many ways, living a life even more distant than before. He had a wife, one that obviously had a great deal of power. Would he be willing to help her? More importantly, could she maintain the necessary distance? She had been totally unprepared for her emotional lapse.

"You know I will do anything in my power to help you. But let's not stand here discussing things, where anyone could interrupt." He glanced briefly at the door, and it was apparent what kind of interruption he was referring to. He continued, "We can have privacy upstairs in my apartment."

Laura glanced around for the first time, taking in the impressive, high ceilings and long narrow windows. A bright, wide open area, dotted with drafting tables. The late afternoon sun was now stretching its shadows across the patina of the polished hardwood floor, creating an aura of mysterious elegance. The aged grandeur of the building had been restored to perfection: the ultimate creative environment for Adam. He had always said that perfect architecture required a humble respect for the past.

She turned back to him. "Apartment?" She said in a puzzled tone, "What about your beautiful home?" How many hours they had planned it together? How often had they sat side by side in the tall grass on the vacant lot, gazing at the reflection of the city lights in the river below, dreaming of the day their house would become reality. But the reality had turned out to be marriage to Vicki. Reality had been an end to Laura's dreams.

"Vicki and her .. ah.. friends enjoy it. I spend so much time here that I converted the top floor into an apartment, and I usually stay there. She doesn't join me here, in case you're wondering."

He saw her look of surprise and disbelief, and added, "she was here today because I invited her to discuss . . ." he hesitated, "something. A divorce, in fact. We haven't shared our lives for some time." He made no further comment, and Laura said nothing, unwilling

to consider the possibilities his words brought up. Right now she had only one goal in mind.

"Let's go then", she agreed.

He locked the door and led her down the hall to the elevator. "I usually have a receptionist at the front and the room full of assistants, but we shut down early because of a civic holiday tomorrow." He placed his hand lightly on her back to escort her into the elevator, and once again the warmth seemed to burn through her, a sharp contrast the chill she had felt in her bones since arriving in Edmonton and its accompanying memories. They rode in silence to the top.

"Welcome to my home, Laura." He said as he opened the apartment door. His eyes were warm and inviting, but Laura forced herself to look away. She had to try not to let her emotions rise to the fore. Too much had happened and she knew she mustn't let desire distract her thinking.

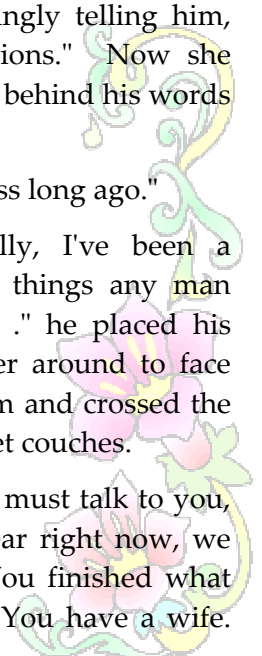
It was a beautiful apartment, tastefully decorated. The same high, elegant ceilings and long windows, the warm patina of aged wood panelling. It seemed exactly the kind of place Laura herself would choose. Her eyes were drawn like a magnet to the coffee table.

"Yes, Laura, I keep it where I can see it everyday." He came up behind her, not touching her, but uncomfortably close. It was a Mexican piggy bank - she had found it in a little import shop and had given it to Adam at his graduation, jokingly telling him, "This is to start saving your millions." Now she refused to consider the implications behind his words and forced a little laugh.

"It must have outgrown its usefulness long ago."

"Yes, financially and professionally, I've been a success. I've got all the material things any man could want. What I don't have . ." he placed his hands on her shoulders to turn her around to face him, but she twisted away from him and crossed the room to sit on one of the plush velvet couches.

"I told you I'm here for a reason. I must talk to you, Adam. And I want to make it clear right now, we can't pick up where we left off. You finished what was between us a long time ago. You have a wife.



You made your choice. Please don't make this any harder for me."

He took a slow breath, then sighed in defeat. "Alright, Laura, we will talk. It's just....you....I....I thought I would never.." He broke off, then pulled away from his moment of weakness.

"Look, Laura, have you had dinner?" He seemed eager to prolong the moment. "My housekeeper always leaves me something prepared, and I think we'd both be more comfortable if we ate first, then talked later." He paused, hesitant again. "Please, Laura?" he added.

"But . . ." Laura started to protest that food was far from her mind, but then realized that her stomach churning was in part due to hunger. She hadn't been able to eat on the plane, in fact had not really eaten for days. Perhaps the ritual of sharing a meal would make her less nervous. Maybe he was right. Adam was always a practical man first. Ignoring the warning bells, she agreed. "Alright, we'll eat first, then talk".

"You mix the drinks while I change." he ordered, taking off his tie and jacket as he headed down the hall.

His confidence that she had not forgotten what he drank irked her; all the more because it was true. She went to the sideboard and found the scotch. "Nothing but the best", she thought as she read the label. Yes, he obviously was a financial success. All the better for what she needed. She poured two drinks of scotch - he had taught her to share his taste in alcohol as well; and went into the kitchen in search of ice. She was returning to the living room when Adam opened the kitchen door and almost collided with her.

"Sorry", she mumbled as she pulled back from his touch, "just getting ice." He had changed into more casual clothes, dark pants and a white shirt that emphasized his dark eyes and made the honey glow of his tan stand out.

Laura started to blush as she realized he was looking at her over as well; and was glad she had worn a dress. He had always liked her in a dress, and she knew she looked good in the one she was wearing. She felt an

absurd rush of pleasure, then quashed it "I'm just softening him up", she said to herself, unwilling to derive any satisfaction from his admiring gaze.

"You've become a beautiful woman, Laura." The corner of his mouth began to twitch, dimpling his cheek. "I can see in your eyes that you like the way I look too."

Embarrassed, Laura dropped her eyes and said in a low voice, "Well, you always were the handsomest man I knew." She handed him the glass of scotch and pushed past him through the doorway, pausing and turning to add, "and the most conceited, too."

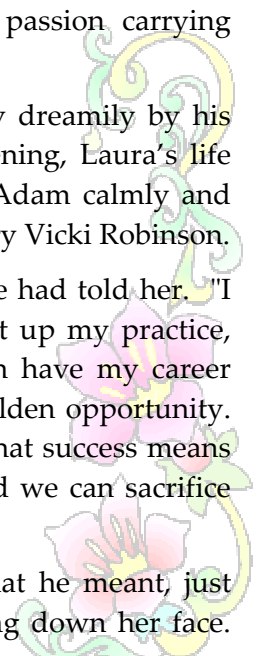
He turned back to the kitchen, his harsh laugh following her return to the living room. It sounded rusty and unused. By the looks of him, he didn't laugh often any more. How she wished she could shut out the memories of the happy times they had spent before laughter had turned to tears. "Get a hold of yourself, Laura! Just get the job done, remember." But as she leaned back into the plush sofa and sipped her drink, the wildly painted piggy bank mocked her, flooding her mind with uncontrolled memories.

How he had laughed with her when she gave him the bank. "Yes," he said, "I'll have my million. You know what I want from life. But I want it for us, and for our children." Then he had dazzled her with his smile and held her close. They walked, and somehow ended up in his parent's garden gazebo. There he had kissed her and made love to her, his promises making her heart sing, passion carrying them away into mindless ecstasy.

Less than a month later, as she lay dreamily by his side in the warm late summer evening, Laura's life was shattered into little pieces as Adam calmly and coolly told her he was going to marry Vicki Robinson.

"I knew you would understand", he had told her. "I need money and connections to set up my practice, and with her father's help I'll soon have my career exactly where I want it. It's my golden opportunity. You know me, Laura; you know what success means to me. Surely you understand, and we can sacrifice ourselves for a while".

She didn't comprehend at first what he meant, just stared in bewilderment, tears rolling down her face.



But then he kissed away her tears and said, "You're the only one I'll ever love, Laura. Don't you understand? I'm doing this for us. My marriage will really only be in name. Surely you can't imagine I'd want to make love to that cold piece of glass."

A sudden wave of horror made her physically sick as she slowly realized what he was asking of her. All his sweet words about life and children together were lies. She pushed him away, and with a calmness that surprised her, told him, "Yes, Adam, I understand. To you a career and money come first. It's always been money. You never intended that I be part of your world. I thought I knew you, but I was mistaken. The man I was in love with doesn't exist. Goodbye, Adam." Her voice caught on a sob, and she got to her feet. She walked away, forcing herself not to turn around, for if she had looked back and seen the hurt expression in his eyes, she knew she would have turned around and promised him anything. Anything not to lose him.

But she didn't turn around. She forced herself to concentrate on Vicki. He was going to marry Vicki. Vicki. The rich spoiled heiress who always got what she wanted. And poor little Laura from the "wrong side of town"? He wanted her to wait around for him. In what capacity? Lover? Mistress? Lady-in-waiting? Perhaps he intended to install her as a housekeeper/mistress in his home.

Her heart began to bleed and pain enveloped her as she started blindly running through the grass. Her only thought was, "run, run away. It won't hurt if I keep running". And as she ran, the sky darkened with the grey clouds of a coming thunderstorm. Flashes of lightening began to tear across the sky, the dark rumble of thunder roared in her ears, and the sky opened up, the warm rain washing the salt tears from her face. On she ran, heedless of the wind whipping her hair wildly around, the blackness of the sky matching the emptiness inside, each illuminating crash of light stabbing deeply into her heart. On she ran, hopelessly attempting to escape, the rain soaking her clothing as she splashed through the puddles. The headlights of an approaching car caught her before she almost stumbled off the curb onto the street, stopping her mad dash.

Mindlessly she slowed to a dejected walk. Her life was over. The storm raged unabated around her, but she no longer felt the wind or the rain. At some point during that long lonely night trek, she felt something surround her. A protective wall. A new emotion. A way to survive. Somehow she found herself at her back porch. She gave a prayer of thanks that her parents were asleep as she stumbled into her room. Tomorrow. Tomorrow there would be more things to run from.

But running no longer seemed a possible solution the next day when she woke up violently ill. After the nausea passed, she splashed cold water on her face and realized she no longer had a choice. She had to face her parents and tell them the truth.

Their eager smiles awaited her when she finally stumbled down the stairs. They raised hopeful eyes, awaiting the good news - that she had set the wedding date. Laura felt as if her hopelessness and despair was colouring her as black as last night's thunderclouds, but they seemed to notice nothing. Her heart plummeted as she contemplated how to break the news.

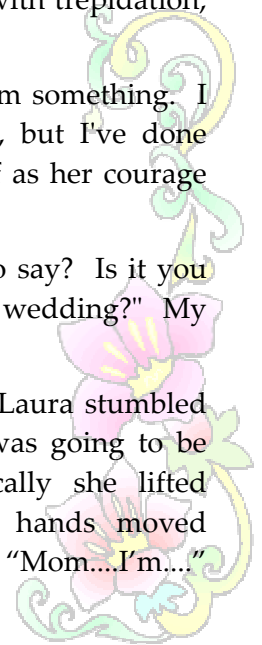
She poured herself a coffee and slowly sat at the table, mumbling a good morning.

Her parents were old-fashioned, loving but strict. They had always made Laura feel that they would stand by her no matter what, but that she better not break the rules or else. Laura didn't know what to expect. She took a deep breath and with trepidation, broached the subject.

"Dad, I . . . I have to tell you and mom something. I love you and I know you love me, but I've done something . . ." her voice tapered off as her courage deserted her.

"Laura honey, what are you trying to say? Is it you and Adam? Have you called off the wedding?" My mother gasped.

"No....Yes....No....I mean...it's not...." Laura stumbled over the words, realizing that this was going to be harder than she thought. Frantically she lifted pleading eyes to her mother, her hands moved protectively to her abdomen. "Mom....I'm...."



Sudden comprehension dawned in her mother's eyes, and she turned to look at her husband.

"No!" was all her dad said. A silence enveloped the room. Finally her mother reached over and covered Laura's hand with her own.

"Well," she said, in a practical way, trying to find a neat resolution to the problem, "we will move up the wedding date."

"You don't understand", Laura said. "There isn't going to be a wedding. He's marrying someone else." With that bald statement of betrayal she broke down. How could she go on?

Mom and Dad were her salvation. Within days they were off to a new life in Vancouver. Laura was blind with grief and did not know how to endure the hours, days, weeks and months ahead. She did not question anything they did or anything they said. Too late she realized what a mistake that had been. But at the time she was happy to let them take care of her. To let them hide her and heal her.

As weeks turned into months, her unborn child became her comfort, her salvation. As she sat dreaming, her parents often looked at her with strange expressions, as if assessing her mental state. They often talked late into the night, voices a low murmur across the hall. But they never shared their thoughts with Laura, and she shut everything out. She concentrated on the new life inside her. Soon she would always have a piece of her beloved with her.

The night they took her to the hospital she was overcome with conflicting emotions. How she longed for Adam. How eagerly she awaited their child. Then the black nightmare descended. After an eternity of screaming pain, Laura awoke to a quiet voice telling her,

"Supper's ready!" She blinked, startled, as Adam's voice brought her back to reality. "Focus on what you must do!" She said to herself. "Stop drifting!"

They made small talk as they ate. Laura tried to completely blot out her awareness of Adam, keeping things deliberately casual and light. Carefully skirting around anything too personal, they discussed what they were doing with their lives. She told Adam about going back to school and getting a nursing degree, specializing in psychiatric nursing, and about her work with disturbed children. In turn he told her about his successful architectural firm, the many projects completed, and the wonderful buildings that would forever bear witness to his vision.

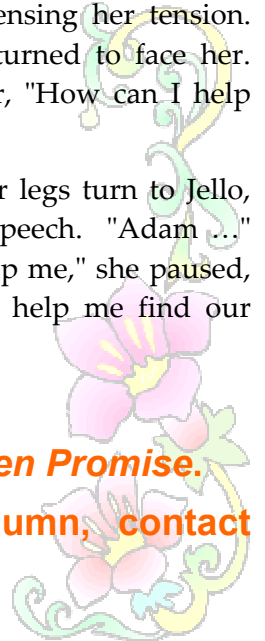
He told her a little about some of the people who worked for him: his partner Jerry and Jerry's family, his housekeeper, and her little granddaughter, who in particular seemed to have caught his interest. Perhaps Laura's discussion of her work with disturbed children brought the subject on, and he told her of this unusual, artistic and sensitive child. In answer to her unspoken question, he confirmed that he and Vicki had no children of their own. Pain flashed in his eyes at his admission, but Laura did not question any further.

All too soon the temporary respite dinner offered had ended. Adam seemed more relaxed. Laura, however, felt even more tense and ill at ease. Many times over the last few days she had rehearsed what she would say, but now she could not speak.

He poured her another glass of wine, and standing, took her hand and led her back to the sofa. He sat next to her, but not too close, sensing her tension. Without releasing her hand, he turned to face her. "Well, Laura?" He prompted her, "How can I help you?"

The warmth of his eyes made her legs turn to Jello, and she forgot all the practiced speech. "Adam ..." she hesitated, "I..I need you to help me," she paused, then blurted out, "I need you to help me find our daughter!"

Read The Voice next week for part two of Carla Johnson's *Forgotten Promise*. For submissions for the upcoming Voice student fiction column, contact voice@ausu.org.





Dear Sandra,

My first AU exam is coming up at the end of this month and I am petrified!!! This is the first exam I have written in 17 years. I am doing well on the course, but I am so afraid of writing the exam. I am studying 5-6 hours a day, yet when I have my teenage daughter question me my mind goes blank and I can not come up with the answers. I am becoming quite irritable and anxious; my poor family is living with a demon obsessed with anxiety over her exam. How can I study properly to retain information and how do I let go of this anxiety that I have about this exam. Please respond ASAP as my exam is on February 28th. Thank you!

Anxiously awaiting your reply in Kelowna B.C.

Dear Anxiously Awaiting,

Slow down lady!!! This is one exam out of many if you are taking a degree and I'm pretty sure your body won't be able to handle the kind of stress you put it under every time you take an exam. Having a heart attack or panic attack while you're writing your exam will only scare the other students in the exam room.

Writing exams is stressful, yes. No matter how well prepared you are for the exam, there is still apprehension that you may have missed an important section in your text or that your mind will go blank. AU has a wonderful site to help with exam anxiety located at:

<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/counselling/ExamAnxiety/toc.htm>

or call the counselling department at 1-800-788-9041 (ext. 6723). Also, it might help to connect with other students. Go to AUSU's discussion forum at www.ausu.org and post your inquiries about the course exam to other students.

We all want to get good grades, but it should not be at the expense of our health. Employers rarely look at your individual grades; they just care about the fact that you got a diploma or degree in your related field. How often do you question potential doctors, lawyers or other professionals about their grades? You just care if they have the degree and the experience to back it up.

From personal experience it is a lot easier to go into an exam with a relaxed mind than it is to go in with a frazzled over-studied one. I learned this the hard way: the first AU exam I took, I made my husband take our two children to his mother's 500 km away so I could study all weekend straight for my exam on Monday. I only got 70% on that exam and I was shaking the whole way through it. Some students, including myself, swear by not studying at all for 24 hours before their exams. Instead they relax before their exams. They take long walks to clear their minds, get a massage, watch a movie, have a relaxing bath, anything but study! The 5-6 hours a day you are studying is more than likely overloading your mind. Cut it down to 1 or 2 hours every

couple of days. You still have almost a week and a half until your exam; that should be plenty of time for you to review.

I want you to remember that it takes a long time to get a degree or certificate; do you really want to waste 2-4 years of your life studying the days away? You have a family and a life besides school. Don't give up living your life to succeed in your studies. Try to sit down and find that perfect balance between life and school. Most importantly, ease up on your expectations of yourself. Convince yourself that getting perfect grades is not the only option. Doing your best and passing is what matters. Good luck on your exam!

Sandra

**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 smoore@ausu.org



Are you an artist? AUSU supports the arts!

AUSU is interested in purchasing original works of art from students for 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:

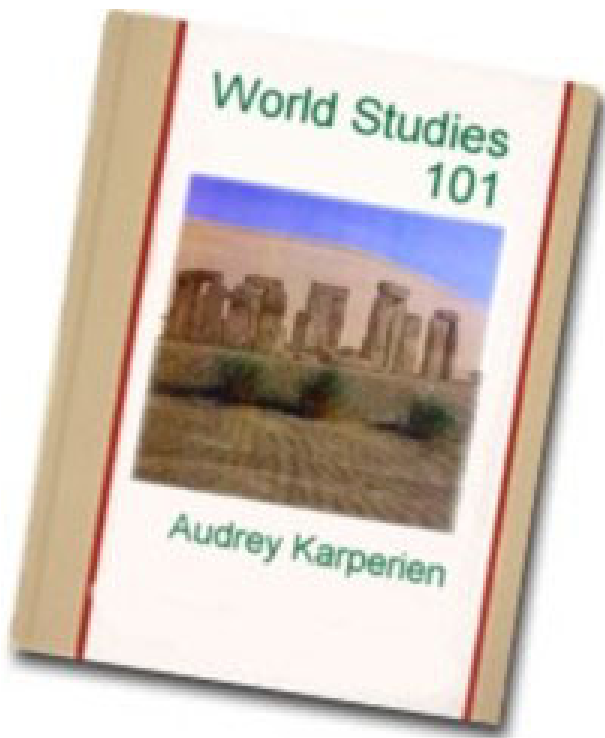
- be created by an AU student
- have a value range \$0-\$500
- be accessible or easily transportable to Alberta.

If you are an artist of any kind who creates a product you feel we would be able to use for such a purpose, contact: Debbie Jabbour [djabbour@ausu.org].

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

THE HARRIED STUDENT STUDENT OF THE WORLD

by Audrey Karperien



My new editor asked me a question. She asked: Did you have a major system shock coping with the climate change from England?

A fair question. But it can only be understood if you know my situation. I'm a Canadian, an Albertan, to be specific. I've been doing distance ed since before the hoodoos were carved. I finished my undergrad degree through distance ed, and am now doing a masters program through distance ed. I recently moved back to North America from England. I was there for a year doing distance ed acrobatics with my espoused in Salisbury, a lovely, historic city near Stonehenge, but am now in the United States, still doing my own distance ed thing but watching my husband do F-16 aerobatics in the Mojave desert, which is near Death Valley. Yes, the desert. I live there. Honest.

My editor wondered how I coped with the change when I moved. Well, I did notice a difference as I made the transition from continent to continent. The English temperature, for instance, was moderate and fluctuated

little, whereas the Mojave's, in contrast, is wholly ungoverned and mostly extreme. It's near freezing in the morning, 25 degrees Celsius at noon, and bone chilling cold by supertime—akin to driving north-south across Alberta every day, if you know what I mean.

I noticed a difference in the rain, sun, and wind, too. England was wet. The desert is not. In England, sunglasses were an accessory, but in the desert they are a necessity. Even indoors, the glare is amazing. You wouldn't believe me if I told you. So I won't. But I will say for those of you who ski or play outdoor hockey that it is a lot like the glare that makes you snowblind. As well, in England the wind could whip around a bit, every once in a while grab some thatch off the roof or send the odd sheep over. But in the desert the wind screams and howls and the trees curve in perpetual obeisance to its might, which, incidentally, approaches that of the sort of wind that could carve a hoodoo.

I noticed that even the colour of the landscape and the types of living things that abound are different. For instance, while England was green, the desert is not. England has trees, a multitude of trees, and bushes and grasses and heather, like you find in Alberta's diverse parkland. But the Mojave has scrawny bushes, spaced out Joshua Trees, the odd palm, and a few conifers strewn about a sandy base. If you want to visualize this, take a swath of Boreal forest, grab a few tumbleweeds south on Highway 2, add some deformed cactus-like things, and spread it all sparsely 'round the Drumheller rockscape,

Another change I noticed was in the wildlife one tells one's children about. England had spiders whose only claim to fame was frightening Miss Muffet, but the desert has rather cruel ones who kill Mr. Muffet in chilling fashion and remorselessly sting like irritated wasps. And whereas England had

huge, friendly, slimy slugs that make great if short-lived house pets, the desert has huge, unfriendly, scaly rattlesnakes that will stick you and snicker as your leg goes gangrenous. Deadly as a bear but sneakier.

So, sure, there are differences. I left a gentler place for harsher, unforgiving reality. But were the differences shock inducing? Maybe for some. But for me and my kind? How did I cope? Huh? Who needs to cope? I've always worn shorts with my parka. Scorch me and blow me around like a mobile home, Mojave breeze, for I have bathed in the breath of the Chinook and ridden the Alberta Tornado. My sister got kicked off the men's hockey team for playing too rough, and my brother rides his 10-speed through the Rockies and to the badlands. Up hoodoos and down again, mister. I ain't afraid of no snakes. Bam-a-lam, Black Betty, bring it on spider Widow Woman and sting me. I'll like it. Come, come now. I can get a distance ed degree and turn around and ask for more. I can hack the desert program. Desert, shmesert. I am the harried student from Alberta.

Audrey is a distance ed maven and part-time writer living in the shadow of barren mountains, beside yellow-red lake beds without lakes, amongst the tormented Joshua trees, in the Mojave Desert in the United States. 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.

AU Profiles:

STUDENT: Angela Fergus

What province and city/town do you live in?

Just outside Saint John, New Brunswick (Nerepis).

Do you have a family/ kids/ pets ?

I have a wonderful husband, 2 children (a son aged 13 and a daughter aged 11), three cats, a hamster and lots of fish.

What are your hobbies / interests/ activities/ etc.

Many.. I am a guide leader, a spark leader, Home and School executive member, catechism teacher, a sports “ mom”. I enjoy camping, travel, reading, music, penpalling, TV, movies, my job and being involved in my children's activities.

Can you tell us about the AU Courses you are taking at the moment, or a favourite course?

I am taking Nursing 322 at the moment. It is my second course. I am finding it interesting, but the assignments are a bit difficult. I plan on taking an English course next.

How long have you been a student? (And where)

I have been a student at Athabasca almost 1 year now.

What do you think of your courses/ the AU experience/ distance education?

I think distance education is a wonderful opportunity for people that are unable to attend a “stone and mortar” university. I am able to further my education while still participating in all of my activities and working full time. I find the distance education support from AU is great.

Do you work? What do you do?

I am a full time nurse. I am the charge nurse of an oncology unit at the Regional Hospital.

How is AU helping you toward your goals?

I am furthering my education to obtain my BN.

What are your future goals?

To obtain my BN (someday), travel, enjoy my family and stay healthy.

Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for other students?

If it is a dream, go for it. Nothing is impossible if you truly want it. Even when you don't do well, keep going. It will all be worth it in the end. Don't wear yourself out. Some things may need to be put on the “backburner” for the time being, but it will be worth it.

Anything else we should know? Funny stories about the dog eating your laptop/ praise for AU, a friend or a tutor?

I credit a co-worker and friend for her support and inspiration.

*Thank you for taking the time to let us get to know you, Angela.
We wish you the best of luck with your courses and your pursuit of a nursing degree..*

Any Athabasca University student, faculty or staff member interested in being featured in AU Profiles should email the Voice Editor voice@ausu.org. Thanks for your participation and readership!



CANADIAN LABOUR A SHORT HISTORY [PART 9]

Worker Gains and Changes in the Working Class and Labour Movement 1940-1975

By Wayne E. Benedict



In the wake of the so called “post-WWII settlement”, the economy was strong, labour organizations were more legitimized and secure than they had ever been, and working-class families had more real purchasing power in relation to the pre-war depression and war years.

There is no doubt that workers made gains in the 1940-1975 period, but at what cost? Positive results that the labour movement enjoyed through Privy Council order PC 1003 of 1944 and its more permanent replacement the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act (IRDIA) of 1948 were compulsory employer recognition of majority labour organizations, compulsory collective bargaining, dues mark-off, and general union security.

The labour movement, however, paid for these accommodations through severe curtailments to their right to strike, bureaucratization, loss of organizing and mobilizing capabilities, accommodation at the expense of radicalism, and in many cases a polarization within the union leadership/rank-and-file relationship. Many view the 1940-1975 years as the golden age of labour, but in hindsight, could it be that the postwar compromise—while undoubtedly garnering real gains for the working-class—was a novel state-run experiment that attempted to constrain class antagonisms and preserve productive peace through a straightjacket of industrial legality? This paper will explore some of the issues surrounding changes that the Canadian working-class labour movement underwent in the “golden age of labour” and the gains—real or perceived—that were made.

During World War Two (WWII), the labour movement demanded that collective bargaining be made compulsory. This demand was not only to provide the legal right of workers to bargain for improved wages and conditions, but also to raise the status of the working-class through decisional participation at the industrial and governmental levels. Glaring inequities in Canadian society prompted craft and industrial unions to vastly increase organizing efforts and political lobbying for protective labour legislation.

Some of the sources of labour dissatisfaction were insecurity over wage rates and workers’ organizations, inequalities over the government imposed wage control policy, and the societal hypocrisy evident in the request that labour sacrifice as “equals” in the war effort to preserve democracy while they were dismissed as an underclass in regards to their rights on the job, in the economy, and in the councils of the nation. Labour and business sacrificed unevenly because while labour was subjected to strict wage controls, “business was being subsidized for its capital expenditures and was allowed to maintain a comfortable profit” (MacDowell, 1992).

The government’s handling of several strikes during the war years—NASCO, Peck Rolling Mills, and Kirkland Lake—served to alienate labour because of obvious governmental bias siding with the employers and the

marked discrepancy between governmental industrial relations theories in principal and its theories in practice. Labour/government trust was finally shattered when the Mackenzie King cabinet struck an agreement with the steelworkers to end their 1943 strike.

The National War Labour Board (another arm of the federal government) subsequently reversed the deal and King refused to intervene to guarantee his own commitments, citing that the board was “independent of politics”. By 1944, the King government found it politically necessary to enact protective labour legislation in order to mollify labour in an attempt to regain some of the electoral support that the Liberals had lost to the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF). The result was Privy Council order PC 1003, which guaranteed the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively.

It also: established a procedure for the certification and compulsory recognition of trade unions with majority support; recognized exclusive bargaining unit rights; defined unfair labour practices; provided for remedies; outlawed company unions; established an administrative tribunal to enforce orders; required compulsory conciliation prior to a legal strike; prohibited strike or lockout during the closed period of a collective agreement. PC 1003 laid the groundwork for the postwar industrial relations system but it was only a temporary wartime provision that would end with the wars end.

Resultantly, there was a new wave of industrial strife after the war because labour was concerned that the gains that had been made organizationally and legislatively were in jeopardy. The provisions of PC 1003 were enshrined in a more permanent legality with the enactment of the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act (IRDIA) of 1948. “The provinces either entered into the federal legislation or adopted similar acts of their own” (MacDowell, 1992).

Next Week: We are looking at Worker Gains and Changes in the Working Class and Labour Movement 1940-1975 and the Anti-Labour State Ideology and Tactics occurring within this time frame.

References:

MacDowell, S. (1992) The Formation of the Canadian Industrial Relations System During World War II. In L. S. MacDowell & I. Radforth (eds.), *Canadian working class history: selected readings* (575-594). Toronto Ontario: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Notice to AU Graduate Students and Those Considering Grad Studies at AU

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 grad students' association:

- Grad 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 [sbarg@ausu.org], Vice-President
Athabasca University Students' Union
Call: 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413

2003 BRYON PAEGE MEMORIAL AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



CUPE Local 3911 is currently accepting nominations for the 2002 Bryon Paege Memorial Award. This annual \$450 award, sponsored by CUPE Local 3911, is presented at the end of June in each year to a recipient selected by the Bryon Paege Memorial Award Selection Committee from among those nominated. The election committee is composed of two members delegated by CUPE 3911, one member delegated by AUSU, and one member delegated by AU Counselling Services. The Committee will make their best effort to select a worthy recipient from among those nominated, and their decision is final.

Bryon Paege graduated in June 1988 with a Bachelor of Administration from AU. Starting in 1990 he was employed by AU as a tutor, and worked in that capacity until his untimely death in 1995. He really lived the ultimate AU student dream, achieving his degree and then joining the AU academic community in giving his knowledge and expertise back to other AU students.

Bryon was a valued member of the AU family. He is vividly remembered by his sisters and brothers in Local 3911, and it is their intention that his achievements, contributions, dreams and passing never be forgotten.

Any AU tutor, AU counsellor, or AU student may make nominations for the Bryon Paege Memorial Award. Self-nominations are also acceptable. Tutor and counsellor nominators must obtain written consent to disclosure of personal information from their nominee. Self-nominations should be accompanied by a written reference from a teaching or counselling member of an academic community.

Nomination and consent forms are available at <http://www.cupe3911.net/paegie.shtml>

CRITERIA:

A nominee must:

- be currently enrolled in an AU course, or have successfully completed one within the six months prior to the nomination deadline;
- have, in the opinion of the nominator, demonstrated courage and/or resourcefulness worthy of commendation in the overcoming of, or current coping with, some particular challenge or adversity in order to pursue distance education studies. Such challenge or adversity may include:
 - financial adversity;
 - being a member of a minority or marginalized group required to make challenging adjustments to mainstream Canadian academic culture;
 - physical disability, or any challenging health problems, generally;
 - personal loss (for example, loss of family member, loss of job);
 - adjustment to a new country and culture;
 - difficult family circumstances, past or present;
 - other challenge that in the opinion of the nominator corresponds with the spirit of these criteria.

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 10TH, 2003

If you have any questions about this award, please direct them to donna@athabascau.ca or (780) 424-2915



CUTTING-EDGE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK DEGREE FEATURES CONSTANTLY CHANGING CURRICULUM

UNB Press Release

Students with an interest in multimedia may be excited to learn that the faculty of arts at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton has a program in Multimedia Studies.

Designed to prepare students to work and live in a world of technological change, the program is so current, that the curriculum is continuously evolving.

"This provides students with the opportunity to create a unique and intellectually exciting program of study," explains John Rowcroft, dean of arts. "Everything in the field of multimedia is changing so quickly, we are constantly incorporating those changes into the degree. I think this is one of its selling points."

The degree has captured the attention of students and employers. "People from all over the country have heard about it and want to attend," says Dr. Rowcroft. "Employers look very favourably on students from this program, because it offers the right mix of skills and creativity."

After extensive program development, the faculty of arts believes its degree in Multimedia Studies is unlike anything else being offered. "The unique part of this degree is its emphasis on three different aspects of multimedia studies - technical expertise, creativity, and critical analysis of the social and cultural implications of media," says Dr. Rowcroft.

Other arts courses such as film analysis, historical and sociological interpretations of technology and psychology courses dealing with perception and persuasion are combined with media courses in production, language, culture and literacy. Courses in media are carefully integrated with the faculty's

standard degree requirements. Along with classroom learning, students in media courses spend a good deal of time in workshops, developing hands on expertise and applying creative concepts.

"Students must develop the technical skills in order to be able to think critically about how multimedia works," says Dr. Rowcroft. "Society needs multimedia graduates who have creative and design skills combined with the intellectual background to think critically about the future roles of multimedia."

Anyone interested in information about the program can contact the faculty of arts by e-mail at arts@unb.ca or by phone at (506) 453-4655.

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE OFFERS FIRST APPLIED DEGREE IN COMPUTER NETWORKING

Centennial College Press Release

TORONTO, March 27 /CNW/ - Addressing a skills shortage in computer networking, Centennial College has become the first college or university in Ontario to offer an applied degree in networking. The new Computer and Communications Networking program is designed to produce graduates who are "bilingual" - competent in both the technology and the business applications that rely on networks.

The four-year program is among the first applied-degree offerings approved by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, a landmark move permitting community colleges to provide applied degrees in academic areas not presently addressed by universities. Despite a perception that the "dot-bomb" has wiped out jobs, Statistics Canada identifies computer-infrastructure employment as a high-growth field. And employers are keen to gain access to applied-degree graduates.

"We believe that this program serves to graduate exactly what Canada is looking for," says John Cameron, President, Avaya Canada Corp. "We are impressed with the value of the program, the core professional networking courses and those that are related, the attention paid to enabling technologies such as wireless and broadband, and the importance placed upon network security policy development and implementation."

[Read More...](#)

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



GO CANADA! NATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION

Value: \$5000

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 14, 2003

Administrator: University of Toronto JD/MBA Students' Association

Notes:

Open to full time undergraduate students enrolled in a non-professional faculty of a Canadian university or cégep in the 2002/2003 school year. Must write an essay: "What steps should Canada take to improve its competitiveness in the global economy?"

Contact Information:

Go Canada! National Essay Competition

Web Site: <http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/gocanada>

E-mail: gocanada@rotman.utoronto.ca

CAP STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Value: \$500

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 01, 2003

Administrator: Canadian Association of Principals

Notes:

Must be entering an accredited Canadian post-secondary school, entering or in first year of study. Based on academic merit, community involvement and leadership. Applicants should maintain a course average of 80%, and be Canadian citizens.

Contact Information:

Ms. Marie Schutt - Executive Assistant

National Office, 124 O'Connor Street, Suite 500

Ottawa, ON K1P 5M9

PHONE: (613) 233-3665

Fax: (613) 233-3674

Web Site: <http://www.cdnprincipals.org>

E-mail: CAP@bellnet.ca

T-Shirts all in the wash?

Buy a new one, from AUSU



AU HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS NAMED

Contributed by The Insider



**Honorary AU Degree Recipients
Vicki Gabereau & Robert Stollery**

The Honorary Awards Committee of the Athabasca University Governing Council is pleased to announce the recipients of the Honorary Degrees to be presented at Convocation ceremonies on June 13 and 14.

An Honorary Doctor of Laws will be conferred on Robert Stollery of Edmonton. As one of the leading forces behind the PCL Construction Group Ltd. where he was chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer for many years, Mr. Stollery was instrumental in making that firm the largest construction company in Canada.

In addition to his outstanding contributions to the construction industry, Mr. Stollery has been generous in giving of his time, energy, and resources to an extensive list of worthy causes in Alberta and Canada. Many of the organizations to which Mr. Stollery has contributed have honored him by bearing his name, such as the Stollery Children's Health Centre, the Stollery Centre of the University of Alberta, and the Stollery Women's Pavilion at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Mr. Stollery was recognized last year with the Order of Canada.

An Honorary Doctor of Letters will be conferred on Vicki Gabereau of Vancouver. Ms. Gabereau is well-known to Canadian audiences for her many years as a broadcaster - including more than 20 years on CBC Radio, and since 1997 as host of Gabereau Live! on CTV.

Ms. Gabereau was a recipient of the Jack Award, named for its first recipient, Jack McClelland, which honors an individual within the Canadian publishing industry or media, who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of Canadian authors and books. She is a three-time ACTRA Award winner for best radio host-interviewer, she has published two books, and she has been a board member of the Vancouver East Cultural Centre and was honorary Fundraising Chair of the Central City Mission.

Contributed by *The Insider*

UARCTIC GOES ONLINE

Contributed by The Insider



Building upon the success of last year's pilot of the introductory course of the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies program, the University of the Arctic (UARctic) has begun both web-based and classroom delivery of Contemporary Issues in the Circumpolar World. A recap from the UARctic news release provides details:

Twenty-five students at eight sites around the circumpolar North are now enrolled in the online version of the course. Additionally, a second group of 15 students is taking the course in a traditional classroom setting at the University of Northern British Columbia, in Prince George. A second course in the Contemporary Issues unit will be piloted online later in this academic year.

The curriculum of these courses provides an opportunity for students to get a solid understanding of the most important challenges – and opportunities – facing the region today. The focus is on contemporary issues of sustainability, such as personal and community well-being, health and health care, political development, tourism, sustainable wildlife management, land claims, and indigenous rights. The modules in the courses also address key environmental issues, cultural diversity, women and gender relations, and economic diversification.

These courses bring together students from all across the circumpolar region, who share can share different perspectives on issues they face in common. Bringing together such diverse and distant institutions paves the way for new linkages between northern communities across the globe and future international collaboration on Arctic issues.

Athabasca University is providing online access to students in the course through UArctic's Arctic Learning Environment (ALE) portal. Funding for the online pilot, which will develop the delivery model for all later BCS courses, is being provided by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The government of Canada has supported the development of the curriculum of the core courses of the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies.

The eight institutions participating in the pilot are University of Greenland, Nuuk, Greenland; Bodø Regional University, Bodø, Norway; Yukon College, Whitehorse; Aurora College, Fort Smith; Yakutsk State University, Yakutsk, Russia; University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska; the University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George; and the University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland.

The Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies is a comprehensive curriculum program that provides a solid understanding of northern issues with a circumpolar perspective, an integrative approach that includes social and natural sciences, and local knowledge, and at the same time reaches a broad base of students.

The University of the Arctic aims to promote cultural diversity, language plurality, and gender equality while highlighting the partnership between the region's indigenous peoples and other northerners. UArctic is also focusing on the sharing of knowledge and history, as well as provide for quality discussion on contemporary issues related to the circumpolar North.

For information: www.uarctic.org



Conference Connections

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **CU Expo** – Community University Institute for Social Research – “Partnerships, Policy & Progress” – May 8-10, 2003, Saskatoon, SK.

Details: <http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/cuexpo>

- **AMTEC (Association of Media & Technology in Education in Canada)** - "E-convergence: Education, Media & Technology" - May 25-28, 2003, Montreal, Quebec. Call For Papers deadline is Dec. 15, 2002.

Details: <http://www.amtec.ca>

- **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>

- **CASE District VIII** - March 8-11, 2003 - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - "Connect in Coeur d'Alene."

Details: <http://www.connectincda.com>



PRIZE FOR CREATIVE NON-FICTION 2003

ABOUT THE PRIZE

This Magazine's Prize for Creative Non-Fiction honours the brightest new voices in Canadian letters. Send us your work, and join This Magazine's long tradition of publishing outstanding literary and creative non-fiction. We're looking for personal and journalistic pieces with a strong voice, attention to narrative, experimental styles and, of course, compelling subject matter.

Creative non-fiction is a hybrid of literature and journalism. It uses the essay form, standard rhetorical patterns, and focuses on ideas and researched facts. Literary elements include: a literary voice, story/narration, characterization, descriptions of place, scenes, settings, a personally engaged author and polished language.

Entries should present holistic pictures of their subject, using concrete examples and narration to support a thesis. They must be based on exhaustive research and present subject matter grounded in real-world facts, and offer insight into important social, cultural and/or political issues.

Past winners include David Surjik for "A seedling for Samantha," a moving memoir of mental illness; Chris Tenove for "The Weight of Evidence," an exploration of the legacy of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia (the piece also received an honourable mention at the National Magazine Awards); and Joelene C. Heathcote for "Boys in Pieces," a powerful, poetic account of an attack on her brother.

WHO QUALIFIES?

Your first publishing credit (outside of a school or university publication or self-published chapbook or zine) must have been within the last 10 years. Of course, unpublished writers are welcome too.

SEND ENTRIES TO

This Magazine Prize for Creative Non-Fiction
401 Richmond St. W., Suite 396,
Toronto ON M5V 3A8.

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2003.
2. There is no entry fee.
3. You may send in multiple entries.

4. Entries must be submitted by post or messenger. Fax and email submissions will be discarded unread.
5. All entries must be original and unpublished.
6. Entries must be no longer than 3,000 words.
7. Entrant's first professional publishing credit (outside student media and self-published chapbooks or zines) must have been within the last 10 years.
8. Previous winners of the contest are not eligible.
9. The prize is \$250, plus publication in the May/June 2003 issue of *This Magazine*.
10. Judging will be blind. Entrant's name **MUST NOT** appear on the manuscript itself. Include your full name, address, telephone number and email address on a separate sheet.
11. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for notification of results.
12. Manuscripts will not be returned. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS.**

ENTRANTS ARE ADVISED TO:

- * Read back issues of *This Magazine*. Previous winners of this contest are included in our May/June 2001 and 2002 issues. General writers' guidelines are available at <http://www.thismagazine.ca/>. Entries should be on a subject suitable for the magazine.
- * Research thoroughly and provide accurate data. Combine primary research (interviews, trips to the place, personal experience) and secondary (library) research. Cite sources so readers know how you gathered the information. Give background to educate readers, and information to help them understand the subject better. **DO NOT** invent or change facts or events.
- * Cultivate relationships with subjects over a period of time to create trust, absorb information, note change, and know individuals in order to describe their thoughts, feelings, and attitudes correctly.
- * Organize the story in a logical, but interesting way (i.e. chronological, spacial, dramatic, general to specific)
- * Use interesting language: revealing metaphors, compelling imagery, vivid details, germane quotations. Aim for a clear style with rhythm, colour, and a dramatic pace.
- * Analyze, interpret, explain, synthesize the information, to convey the story's importance to readers.

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2003

Winners will be contacted by phone. Entrants who provide a SASE will receive contest results by mail.

Community Networks Group



Fireweed Institute Spring 2003 Workshops

Information & Registration: 492-3116 / 492-7237

e-mail: info@fireweedinstitute.org

www.fireweedinstitute.org

1. SPIRITUALITIES: RETRIEVING FRAGMENTS FOR LIVING

This one-day workshop gives participants a brief history of key spiritual traditions - East and West, old and new. Often, there are fragments of wisdom from each of these traditions that speak to us. This is your opportunity to get a broad overview of these traditions (**Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Jewish, and Earth-Based traditions**) and the contributions each can make to a rich inner life.

By critiquing as well as learning about the best in these traditions, we can reflect on our spiritual paths, make conscious and imaginative choices about the fragments we integrate, and find resources to assist us on our way. Such spiritual practices help us make the shift from consumer and work-driven lives.

Facilitators: Rev. *Dr. Bruce Miller and Dr. Elizabeth Lange*. Bruce Miller, minister at Robertson-Wesley Church, is a noted lecturer on many topics including comparative religion, as well as a social activist in and out of the church. Beth Lange, University of Alberta, is an educator/facilitator of transformative learning in schools, universities, churches, and international communities.

Date: Saturday, Feb. 22, 2003

Time: 9:30 - 4:00 pm / **Cost:** \$30 (\$27 members)

Location: Robertson-Wesley Church

2. THE ART OF MINDFUL LIVING

Today's environment promotes perpetual activity that can become overwhelming with demands, worries, and distractions. This leaves little time to reflect upon what has meaning in our lives and to attain a wholesome balance. This two-session course introduces concrete practices that can help cultivate mindful living: including, various reflective practices that will deepen daily awareness, foster a sense of place, and awaken the best of our human capacities. These practices form an important element of sustainable living, keeping us centered and connected to what is most important.

Facilitator: Kathy Patterson blends her professional experience as a human resource trainer with six years experience in developing practices of meditation, visualization, mindfulness, and living rituals. She offers her presence, knowledge, and skills to individuals and workplaces.

Date: Two Tuesday evenings - March 4 and 11, 2003

Time: 7-9:30 pm / **Cost:** \$60 (\$54 members)

Location: Robertson-Wesley Church

Information & Registration: **492-3116 / 492-7237**

e-mail: info@fireweedinstitute.org / www.fireweedinstitute.org

Courtesy of: **The Community Networks Group** (c) Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 Cell: (780) 995-6819

IRAQ & PALESTINE: VIEWS FROM THE GROUND

February 21, 2003 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
@ the Canadian Islamic Centre
13070 - 113 Street / Infoline: 717-6519

Admission is free and includes a free dinner
Space is limited / Please RSVP @ 717-6519

In 2002, two brave Canadian grandparents travelled to the middle east to observe the reality on the ground for civilians caught in the tragedies of war and social conflicts. They have recently returned to Canada and this evening, they tell their story...

JANE MACKAY WRIGHT

From October to November 2002 Jane, a former professor of media arts, participated in a delegation to Iraq co-sponsored by Christian peacemaker teams and voices in the wilderness to witness the effects of 12 years of sanctions and bombings on the civilians of this country.

LOUIS SCHMITTROTH

From June to July 2002, Louis, a retired computing science professor, took part in a journey to Palestine organized by the international solidarity movement to witness the reality of life in refugee camps and under military occupation.

'In wars it is the civilians that suffer--let us look for alternatives to violence.'
- Jane & Louis

Sponsored by: Canadian Friends Service Committee, Edmonton Quakers, Life for International Relief & Development, CEPPal, Muslim Association of Canada and the Edmonton Mosques.

For further information, please contact:
E-mail: events@edmontonmuslims.com
Website: <http://CEPPAL.tripod.com>

Courtesy of: The Community Networks Group © Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 > Cell: (780) 995-6819



Are you an artist?

**AUSU supports
the arts!**

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

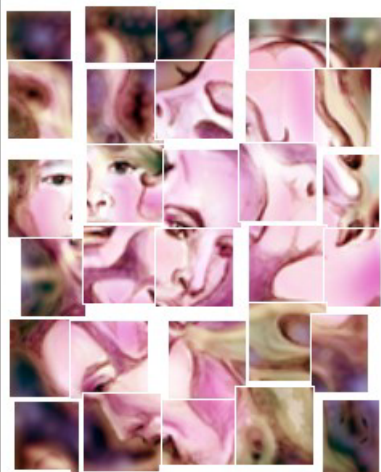
The works of art must:

- be created by an AU student
- have 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, contact:

Debbie Jabbour
[djabbour@ausu.org].

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



**WRITE FOR THE
VOICE!**

Contact The Voice editor
at voice@ausu.org for
details on writing for The
Voice. Provide a sample
selection of writing
and preferred genre.



AUSU SPEAKS: January Session Provided By AUSU

News from the January 19, 2003 council meeting

AUSU Council met on the evening of January 19th for a regularly scheduled council meeting. The main item of business for the evening was AUSU finance, and the annual audit for the 2002 financial year was reviewed and discussed.

Following this, tentative plans were set for the next Annual General Meeting of AUSU, which will take place in the spring of 2003. The date of this meeting will be announced once plans have been finalized.

Also on the agenda this week was the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee of AUSU. We didn't have one, but now we do! The new committee will focus on AUSU's future, and will establish long term goals for projects, finances, and student programs. AUSU Secretary-Treasurer Gurpreet Dulai will chair.

In order to help introduce new users to the chat function on the AUSU website, times will be scheduled when councillors will be present. We will try to schedule morning, afternoon, and evening times each week, and the scheduled times will be posted on the AUSU home page and on the AUSU calendar [on the right-hand information bar of the home page]. Drop in and say hello, or ask a question or two!

If you want to get even more involved with AUSU, consider volunteering. We have a really big project in the works that we hope will dramatically improve student-student relations, and we will need a lot of help getting it going. Write Sandra Moore [smoore@ausu.org] if you are interested in becoming an AUSU volunteer.

You can also contact Sandra if you are interested in starting up an AUSU club. The time has never been better. This year the Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society [AUPSS] has grown enormously, and two new clubs are in the works. If you have a special interest or simply want to form a students club for people who live in your area, let Sandra know.

We realize that some students might be reluctant to start up clubs in their local area for fear that they are the only student in their locale. If this is the case, let us know. You may be very surprised at how many other AU students live in your small town.

AUSU council had a great year, during which we saw many of our planned projects come to fruition. The most exciting so far have been the launch of the new websites for The Voice, and AUSU. Council members Debbie Jabbour, Gurpreet Dulai, Shirley Barg, Sandra Moore, Tamra Ross Low, Nicholas Palamarchuk, Mac McInnes and Karie-Anne Getta have plans for a number of new student services, and are looking forward to an even better 2003. Darren Kereluk is no longer a councillor with AUSU.

We wish all AU students, faculty and staff a happy and healthy new year.

AUSU



CLASSIFIEDS:

CLASSIFIED SPACE:

Students of AU may print classifieds in *The Voice* free of charge (maximum three per issue) as long as they are not representing a company or product.

Classified ads should be submitted to the editor at voice@ausu.org with 'CLASSIFIED AD' listed in the subject title.

The Editor reserves the right to refuse any classified advertisement at her discretion. Thank-you.

THE VOICE

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