

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 09
February 26, 2003

The Popstar Experience

A behind the scenes look at the Canadian TV hit, Popstars: The One

H. Mel Malton

An interview with the author

Romanow & Medicare

It's up to use to make it work

The Harried Student

FICTION SPECIAL

Part 2 of our Original Romantic Novel **Forgotten Promise**

Plus: Canadian FedWatch!, Dear Sandra, X-Press, and news, announcements and opportunities from your university and beyond.

Welcome To The New Format Voice PDF

The Voice now has an interactive table of contents. Click on a story title or author name and you will be taken to that article. Click on the bottom-right corner of any page to return to the contents page. Some ads and graphics are also links that will take you to the relevant website.

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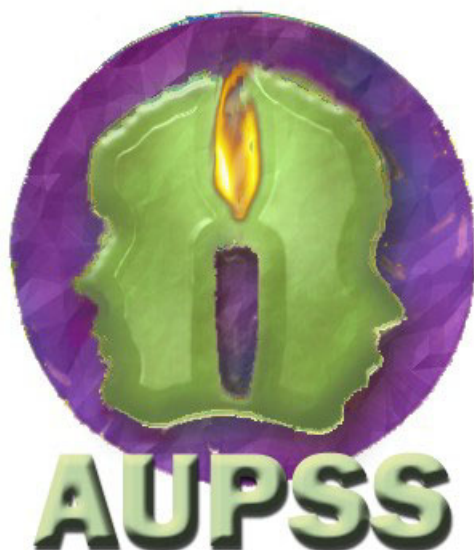
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ATTENTION PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS



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.

To Join the chat, go to the AUPSS website, accessible through: <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/index.php> [you must be logged in to AUSU] and select the discussion forum link, from there click on Psychology at the top written in blue and choose the General Psychology Chat. NOTE: You need to be registered in a psychology course to access the AU psych discussions.

Hope to see you there!

Sandra Moore

Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society

C A U S

Council of Alberta University Students

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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/>



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.

Quote of the Week:

“A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within.

-- Ariel Durant

The Voice would like to apologize for the frequent server troubles that have plagued the html edition of the paper over the past 2 weeks.

We think we have the problem solved now, and appreciate your patience while we worked on it.

THE VOICE

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BYE BYE BUG ...

Alas, the time has come to retire the bug. He's been with us for many years, but to me has come to symbolize Tammy Moore, as he graced so many of her articles and letters over her years as editor.

So, it has not felt right for me to use the bug for my editorials, and I have decided instead to retire the chipper little critter, and reserve his use for Tammy when she submits future articles [hint, hint, Tammy, are you still reading?]

Soon I'll introduce a new graphic and title for my editorials, but this week we must say goodbye to our antennaed green friend.

WRITING FOR THE VOICE AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE NO OTHER

This week I posted a notice for a Voice contest [see below] requesting feedback on the paper. Among the many responses I have received so far, was one from an AU student who indicated that she was a little intimidated about submitting her writing to a university newspaper.

I can understand where she is coming from. I was also intimidated the first time I submitted to the Voice. My fear was partly based on the many harsh rejection letters I had already received from editors of much larger publications.

For a long time I viewed editors as these infallible writing gods. It seemed that an editor was to a writer as a judge is to a lawyer – superior in knowledge and skill, and the final word on what is correct and proper.

Time and experience have taught me that this is not necessarily so. In particular, I recall a letter from several years ago penned by the editor of the revived legendary horror/fantasy pulp, *Weird Tales*. The editor's name was one I knew well – I had aspirations of working with him one day. You can imagine how I felt when I saw this familiar name on the top of my rejection letter. But, I'm not sure you can imagine how I felt when I saw the salutation: "Thank you for your submission *Tamara*,..."

The letter went on to criticize my writing in a few brief but callous sentences. In retrospect the story was poorly written [though the criticisms bore no relevance to the true failings of my story, and instead ridiculed my use of a phrase that the editor disliked], but I was new to writing and had a lot to learn. Somehow, noticing that this famous editor was not capable of getting my name right – my five letter name that was clearly printed in letter-perfect text on every page of my manuscript – accomplished the equivalent of painting glasses and a moustache on my mental portrait of the All Powerful Editor.

It has the same effect as the imagine-your-audience-naked technique of public speakers. It allowed me to accept editorial criticism without being crushed by it.

I'm glad of this, because finding the courage to submit your work is about 50% of becoming a successful writer. Another 30% is a willingness to learn from your critics, and evaluate your work without personal prejudice. The rest is simply hard work and talent, the proportions of which vary considerably from writer to writer – the lack of one requiring an abundance of the other.

Courage can be hard to find, but some publications are more approachable than others. I know of no better opportunity for beginning writers than the Voice, and I say that as someone who started with the Voice as a writer nearly two years ago.

As a publication of the students' union, The Voice is not only a service for students, but also a forum where new writers can start out and get some feedback. It is true that The Voice does not accept everything that is submitted - we have standards, and these standards will continue to rise as we receive more submissions - and at times we print stories from other university newspapers and writers who are not AU students. However, we will always prefer submissions from our students.

No one should feel intimidated about submitting to the Voice. In fact, this is true for any publication. The very worst that can happen is that your submission will not be accepted, and if this occurs you will be given an opportunity to revise your work. An important reason for submitting articles, is to obtain feedback on your writing. Any successful writer can tell you how valuable this is. Unfortunately, editorial feedback can be very hard to come by. I can tell you that very often when you submit manuscripts you do not receive any response indicating why an item was not accepted. I once received a reply reading, "Thank you for your submission, alas it is not working for us." Occasionally I have received a sentence or two of criticism from which I attempted to glean as much insight as possible. My recent submission for Bitch Magazine [a really good publication] was refused because it was not "quite right" for them. That's all they said. Does this mean my writing is not appropriate to their style? Or was it my subject matter? Should I bother to submit again?

Some writers spend a lot of money to obtain professional feedback on their writing. Even seasoned professionals can benefit from the scrutiny of another writer. I was humbled last week by an honest critique from an editor friend. It stung, but his observations were dead-on and I will not make the same mistakes again. The more I write, the more I value such observations.

When you submit to The Voice you will get feedback. If your item is not accepted, I will tell you why and give you suggestions for improvement. Editors of commercial publications are only responsible for finding content for their magazine. As the editor of the university newspaper, I am responsible for helping students who wish to write. If nothing else, article writing can teach you about writing and research, which may help you write better papers for your courses. Whether you like to write or not, you must write to be successful in university, regardless of your major. No one wants to receive low marks for a brilliant thesis because their writing obscured the brilliance of their ideas.

The Voice is the first place I published my writing, and this gave me the confidence to begin submitting to other publications again. Last year I, along with two other Voice writers and members of the students' union, submitted a paper to the ISEC conference, which was accepted for presentation. We were the only undergraduates on the list of speakers. I would not have had the confidence to submit this paper had I not published many articles with The Voice. Also, I recently had a creative essay accepted for an upcoming book project. Again, my experience with The Voice was instrumental in helping me hone the skills I needed to become published. I still receive rejection letters, but the most recent one praised my writing sample and gave me the contact information for

another magazine that might want to purchase my work. Experience pays off, and the only way to become a good writer, is to write!

Experience with the Voice pays in cash as well. Rates vary, but for most submissions you will receive \$30, which is far more than most university papers, which often do not pay at all.

If it is your goal to become a published writer, The Voice is the very best place to begin. If this is not your goal, and you simply want to express yourself to other AU students, then that is another wonderful reason to try. One of the most popular parts of The Voice is the AU Profiles column, which provide short bios and comments from other AU students. However, many of the students who've done profiles have told me that they feel they are boring and have nothing to contribute. I have had to strongly encourage them to submit, and the readers find these submissions very valuable. No one thinks that they themselves are interesting, and yet it is the regular students who are finding a way to succeed at distance education who are of the most interest to our readers – other regular students. Whatever experiences you would like to share are probably ones that other students can relate to and would like to know about. No one expects you to be extraordinary – they just want to know if you are like them. If you feel that you are boring, think about how much interest you have in the lives of other people like you.

Tamra Ross Low
Editor in Chief

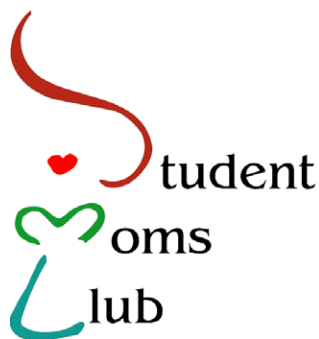
Voice Contest

The Voice is going through some changes. Soon the website will be updated and more new content will be introduced. In order to make the new Voice everything that you want it to be, we need your input.

As a thank you for taking the time to comment, we'll enter everyone who fills out our entry before the end of March into a draw for an AUSU T-shirt. Only AU students are eligible for this prize.

We look forward to hearing from you.

THE ENTRY FORM CAN BE FOUND HERE:
<http://www.ausu.org/voice/contest form.html>



AU STUDENT MOMS CLUB

The Student Mom's Club of Athabasca University is now online and ready for new members.

As the SMC front page welcome message attests, this club is:

LESS ACADEMIC ! MORE FANTASTIC !!

SMC is dedicated to bringing together student moms across Canada to share study and parenting tips, easy quick recipes, articles and essays about childrearing and education, and much more.

SMC has a forum on the AUSU server, where members can chat and share pictures.

The club website is located on the AUSU Groups and clubs web page, located at:

<http://www.ausu.org/clubs/index.php>

You must log in to access the list of groups and clubs, but any AU student with an account on the AUSU website can access and club page.

For more information on the SMC, contact Momo @ smc@ausu.org or visit their website. Everyone is welcome.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE THE POPSTAR EXPERIENCE: PART FIVE

By Debbie Jabbour



Part 5 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]

By Day Three they were halfway through bootcamp, and in Amaya's call that evening she sounded really relaxed and happy as she excitedly shared the news that it was down to only 20 - with all of Edmonton, including herself, still in the running! It seemed like she was coming into her own and feeling really confident. She told me that they had been required to compose an original song to a rather bland background beat, but that she had really enjoyed the exercise since she felt it gave her a chance to showcase her talent in that area. Her lyrics are always extremely thoughtful, quite complex and profound, layered with hidden meaning. On watching the episode it was apparent that the judges appreciated that very quality about Amaya - her intensity and depth of emotion. Unfortunately not everyone did. When Amaya announced the title of her original piece, "We are God's Dream, Pray It Never Wakes," the camera panned to another contestant, Carla, showing her rolling her eyes with an expression

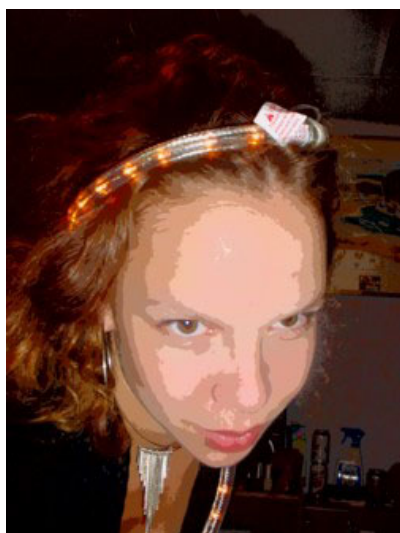
of disgust. I must confess I felt a twinge of pleasure when Carla got cut later that day, since I really have little use for performers who don't respect others.

I asked her if she was spending any time in the evenings with the other performers, and she commented that although they were all nice, most of them didn't seem to like her much. I reminded her once again that there was always a lot of jealousy and back-stabbing in these types of competitions, and suggested that she should try not to worry about it, but just continue to learn and enjoy the experience. She said it wasn't bothering her, since she knows that people sometimes find her a bit abrasive and "out-there." In any case, she felt that the judges all liked her, and she told me that Erica in particular always had really positive and nice things to say. Of course I knew from my own experience in judging competitions that who the judges liked did not always end up winning. I recall one singing competition I was involved in on the judging panel - with myself as the professional musician/singer, and two others - a booking agent and a radio personality. At the end of the show, people were very upset because the person who was the clear winner was not chosen. However, it was the judging system that was to blame - I had chosen her, as had the booking agent. The radio personality, however, had not voted for her at all. When votes were calculated overall, the person who was second choice ended up ahead!



**Early Training for
Popstars Bootcamp**

Amaya and I talked a bit more on the phone about the whole competition thing, and how people can be really vindictive towards someone who is more talented or more successful than they are, or someone who just didn't easily fit in (even famous and popular people have plenty of detractors). Knowing well her wild, independent and unpredictable nature, I again cautioned her to be careful not to do anything foolish, reminding her that whatever she did would be on cross-Canada TV. I didn't know at the time that they were doing the Survivor-vote-off-others thing, but I knew that if she stepped out of line, other competitors would not hesitate to inform the judges. I was a bit worried that she might be feeling somewhat lonely and isolated and might be tempted to go out with her friend again, something that I knew would be frowned upon now that bootcamp had begun. Although I knew she did not want to be a Popstar and would not really care if she got cut, I did want her to give it her best shot. I wanted her to come home feeling satisfied with her own performance and proud of herself.



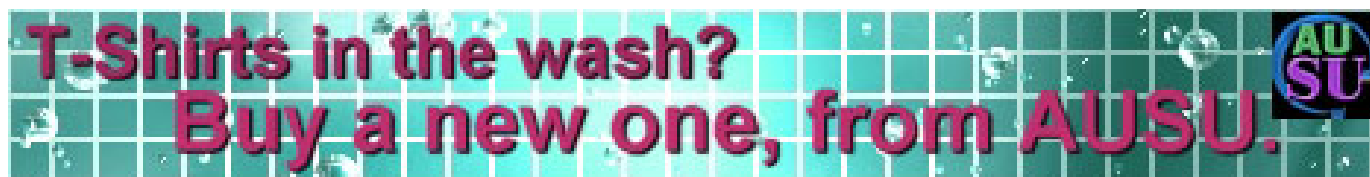
After watching last week's episode, I asked Amaya why she kept doing everything in that heavy metal, hard rock, edgy, over-the-top style. While she is a wonderful and dynamic heavy metal singer (not my favourite style though, I must confess), she has an incredible, versatile voice and can do so much more, from blues to Broadway to pop. I know she had sung differently in the first auditions, but somehow she was not showing it in the few TV clips we have seen of her. She admitted that she really wasn't singing well at bootcamp, and commented that by Day Three she was getting really tired of everyone else trying so hard to emulate the same "Mariah Carey" R & B vocal calisthenics. Because they were all sounding the same, she decided to go in a completely opposite direction and try to be as different as possible. Before long, she found others were imitating her! ...except that many began to cross the line into serious screaming (as was aptly demonstrated last Thursday by Lori, Meredith and Jocelyn).

Even though Amaya had sounded really happy when she called from Toronto that day in September, after we watched the Day Three episode last week, she told me that by that day she had been really starting to question who she was. Although she was getting back in touch with her music and her performing side, the attempts to mould her into the Popstar persona were starting to fracture her sense of self and she was finding it increasingly difficult to fit in.

Next week: Bootcamp Day Four

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

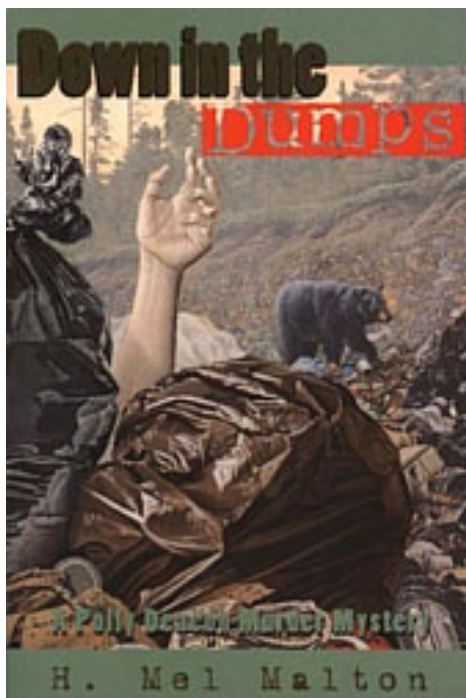
Debbie is a native Edmontonian, and a single parent with four daughters. She has worked as a professional musician for most of her life, and has enjoyed a rich variety of life experiences - with many more to come! Debbie is working towards an eventual doctorate in psychology, and currently serves as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



INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR: H. MEL MALTON

(A.k.a. 20 questions)

By Laura Seymour



... a continuation of last week's interview feature. See the February 19, 2003 issue (11-08) for part 1).

Q. What is your writing process? Do you sit with a paper and pen, hit a typewriter or use a word processor?

A. I use a combination of longhand and pc for most of my work. In the planning stages, I draw out complicated diagrams, like those flow-charts we used to do in high-school, with boxed items and lines running from box to box. When I'm into the actual writing process for a novel, I compose directly on-screen, but take lots of hard-copies, because I like to edit by hand. I write short fiction and poetry in longhand, always. Yellow legal pads and a nice black ballpoint pen.

Q. How often do you write? Do you ever slip up or go on vacation?

A. I try to write every morning except Sundays, from about 7 a.m. until noon. Not everything produced in that time is usable – much of it is garbage. I try to have a couple of projects on the go at once, in order to avoid getting stuck in BlockLand. After a novel is complete, I usually take a few weeks off to let the fizzing in my brain settle down a bit. I read all the time and I don't have a TV, I stare off into space a lot, and I'm fairly active outdoors, and I figure that even if I'm not writing, I'm working. A writer's mind never really shuts down.

Q. The process of writing can be tough. Do you fight to create good stories for Polly or is there a massive group of plots ready to go?

A. I keep an ideas notebook on the go at all times, but I don't have Polly-plots ready-made. Life is too fast for that – I prefer to throw ideas into the stew and let them bubble for a while. Chiefly, the plot for a book will emerge out of whatever I'm interested in at the time – some line of research, or a place I've visited, or something I've overheard in a restaurant. Life is material, so I've not yet been troubled by a lack of ideas. Too many of them at once, usually.

Q. How long did you write before you were published? What was your reaction to your first cheque?

A. I had been publishing short fiction and poetry since university-days, which gradually morphed into a desire to write full-time. I think my first thing in print was a poem. My first novel was rejected by 17 publishers before it found a home, which is not uncommon. Every time it was rejected, I tried to make it a bit better. The first time you're paid anything at all for doing the thing you're passionate about – it's magic.

Q. How long does it generally take to put a book together from start to finish?

A. It takes me about a year to write a novel. And it takes a publisher about nine months from receiving the final manuscript to its being an actual book. In between, there are re-writes, editing, proofing the galleys, then the publisher gets their marketing and distribution machines in gear – it's a long process. By the time a book comes out, the author is generally well into the next one, and can hardly remember what the last one is about.

Q. I hope you'll let me know if you come to Calgary or the general area on a book tour. Do you do book tours? What is the schedule like and how far have you gone?

A. I'd like to do more book tours – I enjoy them enormously. It's expensive, though, and not every small publisher can afford to send its authors across the country. I have toured a fair bit in Ontario, but not out of province – yet. When they send me to Calgary, I'll let you know – I'd love to come and visit.

Q. If you had one wish as a writer what would it be?

A. Here's a joke – A writer is working away at a book, and suddenly Satan appears in a flash of smoke. "I'll make you the most famous, celebrated, best-selling, popular writer on the planet," he says. "All you have to do is give me your spouse, your kids, your pets, your mother and father and your soul." The writer reaches for a pen to sign on the dotted line and then stops. "Wait," the writer says. "What's the catch?"

I would wish for all of those things, without the necessity of any pact with the devil.

Q. Have you read any other series books by authors of similar genre? I'm thinking of Lillian Jackson Braun and her The Cat Who ...series.

A. Oddly enough, I haven't, though I try to keep up with what other series writers are doing. Too many books – too little time. I hear they're great fun, though.

Q. Do you use any particular writing tools--software? I have just purchased Fiction Master and find it helpful so far.

A. I've read about these kinds of plot-helpers, and been intrigued by them, but that's as far as I've gone. I'd rather do it the hard way. I use MS Word, and write my books one word at a time. Still, I think such programs can probably be enormously useful as a way to get past writer's block, and to teach you about structure.

Mel, it's been a distinct pleasure interviewing you. I look forward to all your future books, to reading some of your poetry and (hopefully) meeting you some day.

Take care, Laura.

Thanks. This has been a blast.

**Cheers,
- Mel**

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).

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THE HARRIED STUDENT

THE DISEMBODIED STUDENT BODY

By Audrey Karperien



Smack. Smack. Smack. Thousands of hits on thousands of tables. Thousands of AU study guides flip open, computers whir to life, monitors emit, emails ping back and forth. And the spirits of thousands of distant-edders cheer in renewal of their commitment to the vow that they will one day finish TME2. We grit our teeth and show ourselves, the AU student body.

I'm good with that image. Except the student body part. How absurd. We're no student body. I mean, we are anything but corporeal. We seldom even see each other; classmates often exist only in our abstract hopes and beliefs. We are way too dispersed for that allusion. We're no body.

I'm not suggesting we lack cohesiveness. We have common goals. Like, we all wish AU would just grant us our degrees on speculation or for good behavior maybe. And we bond. Every evening we start up the distant ed machine knowing we aren't the only one. We have strengths and we can be grouped in a common category. But you can't draw a circle around us and say there we are. We have this necessary distance component that just won't reconcile with the notion of a *body*. I mean, we all exist, share commitments, and submit to the laws of distance ed, but we're not so physically and tangibly connected, you know.

Think of it this way. If you photographed the higher education scene in Alberta keeping your GPS-o-matic tuned to select the student ID cards of anyone over the age of 18, you'd get some fairly well-defined, blob-like, slowly moving masses at the Universities of Alberta or Calgary, or even at Red Deer College, right? There would be this visible manifestation over some demarcated square meterage, with skinny tendrils moving rapidly outward on the weekends then retracting slowly Sunday nights. You could clearly call any one of these amoeboid patches a student body—and if you were a bad guy with a nasty laser, you could easily track those bodies. But not so at AU. Oh, we would pervade your world, nasty bad guy. But you would never find us. At AU, you'd get virtually no signal at the home base, loose dotting throughout the province, then ever less concentrated signals as you vainly spread your target out over the roundness of the globe.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying our hearts don't all beat as one. You know they do. But we're not doing the Bunny Hop, here, right?. We're not hanging out in res, eating the same menu at Lister Hall, and cramming for exams together. We all have our own menus, time lines, identities.... The point is, we are so diverse that if we were a body, we would give multiple personality a whole new meaning.

We are, in fact, so not a body that we aren't even like the components of the Iron Giant after he blew himself up and saved the world from a misfired military missile. All his blown apart self-seeking robot parts set out from around the world to reunite with their centre, to recreate their body. Well, we are all homing in on essentially the same beacon, so that *if* we ever got together you might call us a body. But the fact is we remain disconnected on so many levels. And that is very, very good because if we did fall into the Iron Giant analogy of a body then we would have to be a dismembered body, which is no better off than being a lased or loony body.

So, if we aren't a student body, then what are we as we smack open our common study guides in isolation from each other, as we form, seek, and meet common goals without sharing even one little Bunny hop? How should we think of ourselves in this diffuse network of vaguely bonded people who squeeze some academia in on the side, and who, by happenstance, can claim to be virtually un-laseable? We aren't a student body, because we don't need that kind of vulnerability. No, instead we are the Athabasca University student soul.

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.

IT'S UP TO CANADIANS TO SAFEGUARD MEDICARE WORTH A SECOND LOOK

By Teresa Neuman



The other night, I had the opportunity to hear Roy Romanow of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada speak about health care reform, which included his assessment of the newly minted 2003 First Minister's Accord. He addressed a mixed crowd of concerned citizens, health care professionals and students like myself. The common bond throughout the audience seemed to be concern about the future of Canada's publicly funded health care system.

Speaking about the recent First Minister's conference, Romanow offered the opinion that the Ministers were on the right track. Romanow thought that the meetings offered the First Ministers the chance to "demonstrate collective leadership to move forward together to restore Canadian's confidence in their most cherished social program." Romanow reiterated that Canadians are tired of inter-governmental bickering and debate over the sustainability of the system and want to know that the health care system will be there when their children, parents or even themselves need it. "Canadians," he said, "want their elected leaders to stop fighting over Medicare and start working for Medicare."

Romanow discussed the issue of privatization in the health care system. I hoped that he would provide new insight or some kind of solution to the privatization question. Instead, he reminded the audience that the privatization issue is not likely to disappear. According to Romanow, his report, Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada, does not "preclude private sector involvement in our health care system in ancillary services," and does not include "outlawing:" the private delivery of health services. The Canada Health Act doesn't address privatization. This rang true with Romanow's statement, "just because Canadians don't like privatization, that doesn't make it illegal." On the positive side of the privatization debate, during the Commission on Health Care's dialogue with Canadians, Romanow asked those parties who favoured privatization to present evidence to show how a for-profit system would be superior to the publicly funded system that Canadians currently rely on. The Commission found that "no hard evidence was presented." Given

that the system contains privately delivered services, Romanow stated that if Canadians are to accept privatization in the health system, there must be minimum conditions on privately offered services including that privatization of health services saves the system money, improves the efficiency of the system and is compatible with the terms of the Canada Health Act.

With his remark, “health care is a moral venture, not a business venture,” Romanow reiterated the opinion of Canadians, who during the discussion phase of the Commission, told Romanow that publicly funded health care is a “right of citizenship” and is “not tied to status or wealth.” Romanow noted that the 2003 Health Accord re-affirmed the First Minister’s commitment to the principles of the Canada Health Act and to the values of Canadians. While the Accord falls short in many areas, Romanow credited the First Ministers for acting quickly to start “taking preliminary steps on the path toward reform and accountability,” as only 75 days had passed from when Romanow’s report was tabled in the House of Commons to the 2003 First Minister’s Accord. Romanow quoted from the Accord, “our health system is sustainable and affordable and will be here for Canadians and their children in the future.” It seems that some kind of commitment exists by the First Ministers that will ensure that publicly funded health care remains an integral part of the make up of Canada.

Romanow urged Canadians to remain vigilant “to ensure that their elected leaders implement not only the spirit and letter of the Accord, but that they go further wherever necessary to refit the system for the 21st century.” I found Romanow’s comments regarding further actions Canadians could take to be lacking. It seems to me that interest groups like the Friends of Medicare, the Canadian Health Coalition and the Council of Canadians have been active and vigilant for a number of years. Through repeated public protests, letter and card campaigns and lobbying, these groups have worked to persuade our elected leaders to keep Medicare public and accessible to all. I wanted to ask Romanow what more Canadians could do to keep Medicare out of the hands of those who would profit from illness. Canadians have been public in their opposition of for-profit health care. Canadians have voiced their concerns to their elected leaders. I was hoping for new suggestions, but none were offered.

Romanow spoke passionately about the importance Canadians place on Medicare and the values it represents. It is up to every Canadian to ensure that Medicare remains a public right, not private enterprise. Urge your Member of Parliament and Provincial Premier to keep Medicare public. Just because the Romanow report on the Future of Health Care in Canada was tabled in the House of Commons, it doesn’t mean that government will do the right thing and fully implement it.

More information on Medicare is available at:

The Canadian Health Coalition: www.healthcoalition.ca
The Friends of Medicare: www.friendsofmedicare.ab.ca
The Canadian Labour Congress: www.clc-ctc.ca
The Council of Canadians: www.canadians.org

Roy Romanow’s report, [Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/care/romanow/index.html), can be found on Health Canada’s website at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca. On the main page, under Quick Links, click on Romanow Report. In your browser, type <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/care/romanow/index.html>

The text of Romanow’s remarks at the University of Regina can be found at the Canadian Health Coalition website at: www.healthcoalition.ca/roy-feb13.pdf.

Romanow’s remarks will be broadcast on CPAC at a later date. Check <http://www.cpac.ca/> for scheduling details.

Teresa is enrolled in the Bachelor of Professional Arts Program, Communications Studies, at Athabasca University and is enjoying returning to school after 18 years. Teresa enjoys writing, union activism and gardening, and lives and works in Regina, Saskatchewan, with her partner Kevin and son Adam.

LIBRARY 101

Continuing the series of Things You Should Know About the Library, librarian Elaine Magusin shares additional Frequently Asked Questions:



Q: I have been looking at the library website and noticed something called the Digital Reference Centre. What is it?

A: The Digital Reference Centre (DRC) is a list of websites and subscription sources that AU librarians have evaluated and compiled to supplement our print collection. They have been collected with the distance learner in mind, and include language dictionaries and encyclopedias, atlases, statistical resources, e-journals, and e-books.

Q: Where can I find help on writing papers?

A: AU librarians have compiled a list of web writing resources and placed them in our Help Centre, which is accessible both from the library homepage and from the Digital Reference Centre. These sources include both documents created by AU Library and those created by other universities. For more information, contact the library (6254).



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



Dear Sandra,

I am hoping that you can give me some advice. My wife is a wonderful woman and I love her immensely, but she gets so mad when I go out once a week with the guys to sporting events. I don't drink, I don't smoke, and I don't cheat. Why does she get so mad? How can I get her to understand that I need some time with my buddies?

Confused in PEI

Dear Confused,

Well if the only bad thing she can say about you is that you go out with the guys once a week I'd say she's a pretty lucky woman to have you. BUT, I fear there's more to this story than you are telling or more that you are not seeing.

Do you make time once a week for her? When was the last time you took her out? If you are making time for your wife, then she probably won't resent your weekly night with the guys. BUT, if you do nothing to show her that you value spending quality time with her just as much as you enjoy spending it with the guys, then I say she has a right to be mad. I think if you can devote one night a week entirely to your buddies, you should do the same for your wife even if it's just going to see a movie together or going out for supper weekly.

Now what about what you are not seeing? Is there a reason why she gets so mad when you go out that you have neglected to see? Maybe she has no friends and resents the fact that you do. If this could be the case maybe you could introduce her to one of your sports buddies spouses/girlfriends. Maybe you have children and she never gets a night to herself like that. Offer to baby-sit the kids one night a week and let her go out with her friends or spend a night to herself.

But the most basic advice I can give you is to come out and ask her why she gets mad. Women have this bad habit of being mad and expecting others to be able to "sense" what is wrong. Get it out in the open now; the longer you let her resentment build the worse it will get.

Sandra

**I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! TELL ME YOUR TROUBLES.
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This column is for entertainment only. Sandra is not a professional counsellor, but is an AU student who would like to give personal advice about school and life to her peers. Please forward your questions to Sandra care of smoore@ausu.org

THE 45TH ANNUAL GRAMMYS - A REVIEW

By Debbie Jabbour



Tonight's Grammys were unusual in one respect - there was no official host. This made the show seem a bit disjointed, moving from segment to segment rather quickly without a Jimmy Fallon or Rosie O'Donnell providing comic relief to tie it all together. But the Grammys were quite ordinary in every other way. Predictable and boring for the most part, with awards going to both deserving and not-so-deserving artists.

Among the deserving category: Eminem won for rap album - I'm no rap fan, but Marshall Mathers blew away all the others in the category, with the only possible contender being Nelly. Odd that a white man has become so proficient at what was originally a black man's domain. Women are challenging the rap genre too, and it's interesting to see the genre expand and grow as a result.

Among the predictable but boring: Springsteen with his 9-11 tribute, *The Rising*. Pretty much a sure thing - when the "boss" sings about the tragedy people assume it's great music. I've never quite figured out why on earth anyone dubbed him the "boss" in the first place. As musicians go, his songs are built on no more than two or three chords, and every melody sounds the same,

including this one. His performance received a standing ovation, of course.

Surprises? Well little Norah Jones, a virtual nobody I'd barely heard of before tonight, managed to walk off with a good chunk of awards, eight in all (new artist, record of the year, etc.). She beat out Canada's Nickelback and Avril Lavigne (who looked quite po'd when Norah was awarded best new artist award). Norah is pretty and capable, but rather bland. Of course having Ravi Shankar as your father may give you a few advantages. Another newcomer, John Mayer, took the award for best pop vocal male performance. I'd never heard of him before tonight either, and his performance was equally as bland.

Speaking of Avril Lavigne, her live performance at the Grammys was one of the worst I've ever seen for singing off-key. Reminded me of another flash-in-the-pan artist, Nelly Furtado, who swept the awards last year then promptly disappeared. I had considered Furtado the champion for complete lack of tonality when singing live, but Avril Lavigne had her beat last night. Although I have seen Lavigne singing live on SNL and managing to remain in tune, so perhaps she was just nervous.

Ashanti won a few awards too. Another pretty and capable bland clone. Diana Krall won best jazz vocalist, the only Canadian to receive a Grammy, despite twenty or so nominations. Of course Krall's boyfriend is Elvis Costello, and she dedicated the award to good friends Rosemary Clooney and Ray Brown, so it seems pretty clear she has the right connections to be successful.

Two moments really stood out for me. First was the Simon and Garfunkle reunion that started the show with an acoustic version of *Sounds of Silence*. While not exactly spine-tingling, the performance was deeply moving nonetheless, and had me glued to the screen. They stated that it was not meant as an anti-war anthem - but it sent that message nonetheless, since it was released at the height of the Vietnam War. The second was when the BeeGees were given the Grammy Legend award, and Robin and Barry Gibb dedicated it to late brother Maurice, who died unexpectedly of heart failure last month. They stated that the true measure of a man was his

family, and seeing Maurice's wife, son and daughter in the audience stand up for the honour as they wiped away tears was profoundly moving.

Many other wonderful artists passed away during the past year, and the Grammys paid tribute very briefly by flashing their names by. Of course the audience seemed to only recognize a few of these. Artists from a previous time, like Rosemary Clooney and John Entwistle, were met with silence, while rapper Jam Master Jay was acknowledged; your contribution to the world of music is quickly forgotten when you don't have a current record out!

The show also was rather odd in how it accorded its tributes to lifetime artists. Alicia Keys and Cindy Lauper presented an award by prefacing it with a brief mention that jazz/blues legend Etta James had received an award. But James only received a passing mention and they quickly moved on to discuss the popular artist of the day (who I can't even recall now...probably another award for Norah Jones). In addition to Etta James and Simon & Garfunkle, lifetime achievement honours also went to Johnny Mathis, Tito Puente and Glenn Miller, and in each case these were announced almost as an afterthought - certainly not with the type of respect you would expect for a lifetime achievement award.

I longed for the drama J-Lo brought to the Grammys a few years ago with her slit-to-the-waist dress held on by sticky tape; or the excitement of a performance by the ever-strange yet compelling Michael Jackson; or something like the unusual and riveting display that the Blue Man Group with Jill Scott and Moby treated us to at the 43rd Grammys. It was not to be. There were no outstanding or bizarre outfits, unless you count Aretha Franklin's wild white concoction which made her look like a gigantic bird of paradise (something only the Queen of Soul could pull off and remain credible). With the exception of Simon and Garfunkle, I yawned through every performance.

The 45th Annual Grammys: boring and predictable.

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.

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CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Budgeting For Graduates

The Annual Federal Budget has been released, and as always we find there is good news and bad news.

In the good news, we find that the federal government is actually paying some attention to the need for post-secondary education. Over 1.3 billion dollars more this year have been set out for research, scholarships, and student aid programs.

If you are a graduate student, this is really good news, as most of that money is going toward grants for research projects, one-time loans for graduate students, scholarships for graduate students and building research facilities for, you guessed it, graduate students.

If you are an undergraduate student however, the benefits are mostly restricted to an increase in the amount you can earn before the money starts being taken from your student loan. In other words, the government is generously allowing you to take on a higher work-load in addition to your courses if you happen not be getting enough to get by. In fact, out of that 1.3 billion dollars only 60 million dollars is pointed at the student loans program, and most of this amount was granted because the federal government is now allowing refugees to seek student aid.

Unfortunately, it seems Finance Minister Manley's earlier speeches about the importance of lowering tuition was mostly talk. Once again we see that supporting research is seen as one and the same as supporting post-secondary education. Yet the two are only related in that a lot of research happens to go on in post-secondary institutions. Funding research simply does not do anything to make education more affordable for the students who need it most.

Taking a look at other areas of the budget, we see that, as expected, health care was the big winner. New expenditures on health care take up over half of the total amount of money the government put forward on new spending. I understand the reasoning behind this, but it always makes me angry to think that if even a small portion of these funds were devoted to making higher education cheaper, the long-term benefits would be worth far more than the cost.

Money put into health care is not generally an investment that will pay back economically. Money put into education almost always is.



Alberta's Throne Speech

It has been a busy month for the Alberta Government, home of AU and responsible in many ways for what we all end up paying to get our education. This week, the Government made their Speech from the Throne.

[ed. for more information on Alberta's plans for learning, see *Minister Oberg Explores New Advances in Learning Technologies* in the News and Events section of this issue].

You might expect that, in keeping with previous weeks, post-secondary education received no mention whatsoever. Wonder of wonders, that expectation would turn out to be wrong.

Post-secondary education is in fact mentioned in the Throne Speech. It is mentioned in a single paragraph that is more ominous for Athabasca University students than any amount of silence could be:

The government will also take steps to strengthen the post-secondary education system to promote lifelong learning. Legislation will be introduced this session to enable the adult learning system to better anticipate and respond to future economic and workforce trends and needs.

On first read, this sounds like promising news. However, it does not take much examination of the Alberta Government's actions to realize that life-long learning is much more likely to mean apprenticeships and trade certifications than university or college education. In addition, legislation enabling adult learning to be more responsive to economic and workforce trends implies that the government may be considering moving funding more to a per-student basis.

The difficulty with a strict per-student basis for funding is that it perforce encourages post-secondary institutions to get rid of unpopular programs, so as to maximize their revenue while minimizing their output. This means that some very important programs of study such as aboriginal studies, woman's studies, pure maths, or even history could end up being downsized or outright eliminated. It means that those avenues of study would become increasingly difficult to follow, even if some major advance to our society lay unseen in that direction.

In short, it reduces universities and colleges to high-class trade schools as opposed to the institutions of higher learning that they are supposed to be.

A native Calgarian, Karl is perpetually nearing the completion of his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Information Studies.

He also works for the Computer Sciences Virtual Helpdesk for Athabasca University and plans to eventually go on to tutor and obtain his Master's Degree.

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THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE



The Voice is pleased to introduce a brand new fiction feature.

To kick off the column, we have a special treat – *Forgotten Promise*, an original short novel by Carla Johnson. For part one of this story, see the February 19th edition of The Voice [v11 i08].

After the last installment 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.

By Carla Johnson

Part two ...

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!"

Shock darkened his eyes and his cheeks reddened. "What are you saying, Laura?"

"I'm saying . . . we had a daughter . . . but they said she was dead . . . now I know the truth . . . when dad was dying . . . please, Adam, please help me find her!" She burst into tears, unable to continue.

Suddenly she was being held tightly against him, his arms tender around her as she wept, his hand

caressing her shoulder blades, keeping her close to the beating of his heart.

"Tell me", he whispered, "tell me everything, Laura. Please . . tell me everything. Let me help you."

So she told him about waking to hear that soft voice saying, "Miss Carey, I'm sorry . . I have bad news. Your child was born dead." She told him how she had screamed like a madwoman for hours until they injected her with something to make her sleep. She told him how her parents had taken her home and lovingly tried to convince her that everything was for the best. And as days turned into weeks, it seemed that perhaps it was true. Maybe the past needed to be wiped out in order to forget. After a while, her emotions forever numbed, Laura went back to school and got her degree. Then she started work at the same hospital; studiously avoiding any contact with the maternity ward. Her work with children suffering various degrees of psychosis totally

occupied her every waking hour. Her attempts to heal their young psyches somehow managed to heal hers - or so it seemed. Adam and her daughter were pushed back into a dark recess of her mind. They no longer existed.

Her work became her panacea; her life, her obsession. She avoided all but the most casual of relationships with her workmates. A few of the doctors made tentative attempts to develop a closer friendship, but after her constant rejections, they gave up. While they respected her in the workplace, she developed the reputation of being aloof and cold, and except for hospital matters, everyone pretty much left her alone.

Then two months ago the life she had so carefully constructed for herself fell apart. Her parents were driving home from shopping when a truck crossed the median and hit them head on. Her mother was killed instantly, her father fatally injured. Laura was on duty when they brought her father in and stayed all night with him in emergency, praying that he would regain consciousness. Near dawn his eyes had opened.

"Laura, honey?" his voice was weak and shaky. "I'm here, dad" she replied, hope springing in her heart.

"Must tell you . . . Laura . . . before I go. Please forgive me. We thought it was best . . ." his voice drifted off.

"It's O.K. dad, I forgive you, please don't worry. Please save your strength so you can get well for me." Her voice caught on a sob. "Don't leave me, dad!"

"Must tell you Laura . . . your mother and I . . . thought it best. Didn't want you to hurt anymore. And she . . . she promised the baby would have a good life. A better life . . . than you or we could give her." His voice drifted off again, but this time Laura was in shock.

"What are you saying, dad?" she almost screamed the words as her heart plummeted. "What are you talking about? My baby? What happened to my baby? What have you done?"

But his voice was faint, and fading fast. "Such a pretty little thing . . . my little Laura . . . wanted to keep her . . . but it was for the best . . . be happy . . ." his voice had trickled to a whisper, and Laura wasn't even sure of the last few words.

"Please don't go dad!" she screamed. But even as she spoke the words, his hand went limp and the machines began beeping their steady warning. "Nurse!" Laura yelled, "Someone! Help him!"

Within minutes it was all over. Laura was now alone in the world. But her father's words had changed her forever. Her daughter had not died. But what had happened to her?

In the days that followed, Laura struggled to comprehend what had transpired. In the blur of arranging her parent's funeral and disposing of their property, she tried to think why and how things had come to this point. She searched in vain among their papers, but her parents had foolishly believed death would never rear its ugly head and had left no clues, no words to guide her.

Finally, hidden away in the dresser in their room, beneath piles of clothing, she discovered the only piece of evidence she had. An envelope postmarked October 1987, Edmonton. Inside the envelope was a small picture of a curly haired, smiling baby in a ruffled dress, looking to be about six months old. When Laura calculated back in her mind, she knew with a certainty that this must be her daughter. But who had sent the picture? Where was her baby? Back in Edmonton? Who was the "she" her father had referred to? Or perhaps he was just rambling, and the "she" was some nameless social worker. No, that could not be, for someone had sent a picture.

Laura began to spend all her free waking hours investigating all possibilities. Days turned into weeks. She went to Social Services, but of course they refused to give her any information. She went to several private adoption agencies, and they referred her to the adoption registry. When she explained her story yet again, she found them sympathetic and helpful. But as they explained, their ability to help was limited, since the adoption records were still sealed. She could register her name and her desire to meet her daughter, and then when her daughter turned 18, she might possibly register as well, at which time the registry could put them in contact with each other.

The icy fingers of depression encircled Laura as she exhausted one avenue after another. She went to the

hospital administration requesting information about maternity cases on April 7, 1987, but met a blank wall. Finally in desperation she used her privilege of access as a staff member and tried to look into the records herself. Her search might have been successful, but an eager night watchman had surprised her in the records room. Her tearful explanations were met with cold bureaucracy. The hospital administrator was a harsh dictator type of a woman, who believed in running things strictly according to the rules. Laura had broken the rules. Her excellent work record was of no consequence to this hard, bitter woman. Laura was fired unceremoniously on the spot.

Thus Laura found herself not just alone, but desperate. Finding her daughter had become an obsession that she would never give up. Now she was unemployed, and soon to be out of money. It seemed that no one could, or would, give her any answers. In her deepest discouragement, the thought of Adam entered her mind. She had no doubt that his ambition and his marriage would have firmly ensconced him on the ladder of success. Adam could help her. Money could buy anything. Surely it could buy information.

Drained suddenly, Laura leaned back and relaxed momentarily against Adam's warm strength. How right it felt, that support which had been denied her all these years. Yet how foolish she had been to believe that her love for Adam could conquer all. Over the years she had come to realize how naive she had been to think he would ever carry through with his promises of marriage. Even without the lure of Vicki's money and contacts, Laura never really stood a chance. Their backgrounds were totally alien. Adam grew up in an upper middle-class environment; his family only mixed in the "best" social circles. Laura always was the "girl from the other side of the tracks" - the subsidized condos across the street filled with working poor and those unfortunates whose circumstances had left them dependant on government social assistance. Adam's parents were nice enough to her when she was a young girl; but as she matured, and Adam's interest became apparent, their hostility began to show. Adam's mother in particular, made it clear that she

had no intention of allowing her son to throw away his life on a girl like Laura. No, Adam had never belonged to her and never would. All that mattered now was finding her daughter.

Yet how comforting his arms. How sweet his breath close to her hair. How she wanted to lean back into his embrace and let his strength wash over her. To become one once again with him. But no, never to be!

"Noo. . ." her moan of distress shattered the silence that had enveloped them in the aftermath of her tale. She pulled herself up and away from his arms and spoke quietly and slowly, "Can you, I mean, will you . . . help me?"

"Why didn't you ever tell me?" his voice was harsh and demanding.

Suddenly frightened, she glanced up into his eyes. Anger and pain made them dark and fearsome, yet was there a trace of dampness in the corner of his eye?

"Adam, how could I? You were already committed to Vicki. Your marriage was unavoidable. You had made it clear where I stood and what you wanted from me. You had no problem sacrificing your supposed love for me in exchange for money and a career. I couldn't see that an unplanned, unwanted child would be any different." With those last words she reminded him of what he had done to her, and she was rewarded when he turned away, refusing to meet her steady gaze. "Besides", she went on, "I had my choices taken from me. You didn't want me. My parents gave everything they had to take me from here. Your parents..." at this she broke off, unwilling to voice her thoughts, yet needing to continue. "I was even afraid....that....you and Vicki...or your parents... might try to.....take the baby away from me....."

"My baby was all I had left. She kept me alive for nine months. When I lost her. ." Again she faltered, and corrected herself, "when she was taken from me . . . I thought I had nothing left. Then to find out that mom and dad were the ones. ." here she stopped herself, unable to put the ambivalence of what she felt for her parents into words.

"No, I can't blame them. They were frightened for me. After having worked with disturbed children, I

can see how they must have viewed me. They truly believed that it would be damaging to me to keep my baby. And yet, . . . it was their grandchild . . . how could they have done that to me?" Sudden anger surged through her. "How could YOU have done that to me?"

They were all to blame. Adam, her parents, Vicki. They had all conspired to destroy Laura.

"I'm sorry. I . . . I'm sorry for saying I'm sorry. I know it isn't enough. It won't ever be enough to make up for what I've done to you." Adam's voice broke slightly, but he maintained control. "I'll help you. I'll do anything to try and make it up to you. I want to find our daughter just as much as you do. Laura...I....what can I do? I've put you through hell. I will never forgive myself...but maybe....someday... could you somehow, someway, see it in your heart to forgive me?"

The naked pain in his voice sliced through to her heart, and her first impulse was to reach out and reassure him of her forgiveness and undying love. But fortunately she grabbed hold of herself in time and could calmly answer his plea, her voice even,

"Thank you, Adam, I knew you wouldn't let me down." She paused, intending to leave it at that, but on seeing his torn expression, added, "I must learn to forgive my parents as well. And myself. Perhaps....time can heal. I need time. But more than that. I need to find my baby."

"Alright", he spoke abruptly. He took a deep breath and stood up dismissively. "Tomorrow I'll contact my lawyers and start a search. You can count on my support in approaching any agencies in Edmonton. Let me know where I can get in touch with you if...when...I have any information." His business-like tone almost put Laura off, but then she realized that he was deliberately distancing himself. It was best they maintain a strict working relationship.

"I'm staying at a furnished suite in the Patricia Motel. Tomorrow I'm going to apply for a job at the University Hospital. I hope to be able to stay here for as long as necessary. I've burned all my bridges in Vancouver", she added, as she got up from the couch. "I don't plan on sitting around waiting for you to do everything, either. I will be continuing my own

inquiries. I'd like to suggest that we compare notes as often as possible. I believe that will help us find the truth sooner. I will, of course, endeavor to see that Vicki knows nothing of this", she felt compelled to add.

He softened once again, as if to reach out to her. "Laura, please don't worry about Vicki. She no longer matters. She should never have mattered."

Laura's hand reached out to touch his cheek. "Oh Adam, you are wrong. She will always matter." Suddenly she found herself taking the first step to forgiveness. "I no longer care about Vicki. I now know you've paid a heavy price. But for me, I just want my baby back. I believe you when you say you will stand by me in this. I just don't want anyone else hurt."

The longing in his eyes almost undid her, but she somehow found the strength to turn away and walk mechanically, one foot in front of the other, to the door. There she turned back to see him still standing where she had left him, his hand on his cheek as if to guard her caress.

"Until tomorrow, Adam," she murmured as she let herself out.

Over the next few days, life blurred. She remembered going for an interview, being hired, and being given a time to present herself for work. She also somehow went shopping for immediate necessities, and arranged for a lease of several months on her motel suite. Contrary to her expectations, she had not yet heard from Adam. Many times, late at night, in the crushing loneliness of her hotel room, she was tempted to call him.

"No!" she admonished herself. "Don't be a fool. He will call when he knows something. Otherwise, there is no reason to call."

She was due to start work the next morning, but Friday evening Laura was restless. She went for a drive, and somehow, of its own volition, her car drifted towards the empty lot where they had so often lain in the grass and planned Adam's house.

It was empty no longer. Regret tore her insides as she took in the spectacular beauty of the white columns rising against the hills overlooking the river bank. It

was exactly as she had so often envisioned it. In spite of the threats of occasional floods, he had always wanted to live in the river valley, for he said; "I love my city, and I become one with it when I sit on the river bank and watch the skyline reflected in the water".

He had realized his dream, and his home was everything she imagined it would be - as much a part of his city as he was. Shimmering glass and balconies appeared to be climbing the hillside with second and third levels offering a spectacular view of the river below. Trees and bushes surrounded the house from behind, a mini-forest creating a sense of privacy within the city - something that had always been so important to both of them. From outside it was Adam's dream come true. Inside, apparently his dreams were ashes.

Once again Laura felt a pang of something - was it sympathy? No. Adam made his choice. He didn't deserve sympathy. But....he didn't deserve to be surrounded by such beauty and live in such unhappiness either.

Reluctantly she tore her eyes away from Adam's house and put her car in gear and drove on. But the warm summer breeze beckoned, and she decided to park her car and walk along the river valley path to enjoy the solitude.

Behind a cover of trees, she came upon a park, a children's playground, set close to the river. In the gathering dusk, she became aware of a lone figure on the swings. As she approached, she realized that it was the figure of a small girl, swinging slowly back and forth. For a moment Laura stood back in the shadow of the surrounding trees, unwilling to break the child's reverie. But somehow the little girl seemed so alone, so lonely, that she tugged at Laura's heart. "My baby would be about that big" she thought, then chastened herself for always comparing everything to her lost daughter. Cautious of frightening the child, she approached slowly, making lots of noise humming to herself. As she drew close, she noticed that the girl had long black hair, tied back in a clumsy pony tail hanging below the seat of the swing. Then as her face came into focus, she noticed

large, wide set green eyes and a serious mouth. "Hi", Laura said, "Mind if I share a swing?"

The child didn't answer, just gravely acknowledged Laura's presence with a stare. Laura took that for acceptance, and began to swing. "You know", she said, "I always wanted to swing as high as the stars - but somehow no matter how I tried, when I reached the top and put out my hand - the stars ran away from me!" At that the child giggled. Laura became bold. "Hey, how about a contest? Let's see who can go the highest!"

They began to swing, adult and child, pushing their swings higher, higher - trying to reach those elusive stars. Laura yelled, "Look! Reach out and grab one! You can catch it!" and at the same moment they both reached out a hand to the sky. The swings lost momentum and eventually they were still. They sat for a moment in silence.

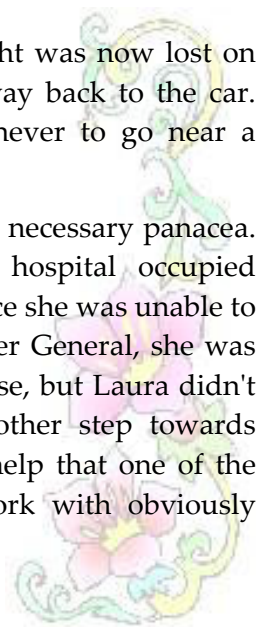
Laura turned to the little girl and smiled, "Hi, I'm Laura"

The little girl shyly turned to Laura and responded, "My name is Melanie." Then suddenly, abruptly, as if she remembered counsel to not talk to strangers, she jumped off the swing. "I've gotta go," she said as she ran off, her pony tail swinging. "Bye . . .Laura" she added, her voice drifting in the twilight.

Laura almost doubled over with sudden pain as her heart felt the familiar yearning. "Stop it, Laura", she reproached herself. "You can't keep seeing your child in every little girl you meet."

The beauty of the summer twilight was now lost on her as she morosely made her way back to the car. Laura resolved then and there never to go near a playground again.

Work the next day proved to be a necessary panacea. Learning the ropes in a new hospital occupied Laura's mind until day's end. Since she was unable to use her references from Vancouver General, she was forced to start as a beginning nurse, but Laura didn't care. It was a job, a start, another step towards finding her daughter. It didn't help that one of the doctors she was assigned to work with obviously found her very attractive.



"Hello", he had said, "I love getting new assistants". Her first assignment was emergency, and although it was a busy afternoon, it wasn't busy enough to prevent unwelcome contact with Dr. Grant. "Call me Aaron", he had demanded at their introduction, holding her hand just a little too long. He was very good looking, and obviously single, but Laura was apprehensive. The last thing she needed right now was a man's romantic interest. Unless she could use him as a source of information...

And so it went over the next few days, Laura ignoring Aaron Grant, him trying to impress her and somehow break through her barriers. Finally on the fourth day he asked her, "Excuse me, Nurse Carey, is it just me, or do you find all members of the male sex obnoxious and unacceptable?"

At this, Laura was forced to laugh. In her embarrassment, she was unsure of how to reply, but then he added, "Can I take you out to dinner as a token of my innocence and my desire to simply get to know you better?"

Not knowing how to avoid the invitation without alienating a possible useful contact, Laura agreed to dinner the next night. Inside, however, she prayed, "Please, Adam, Please call. You must have some information by now." But information or not, her treacherous heart was wishing, "please Adam, please call me."

But no call came the next day. As Laura readied herself for her date with Dr. Grant, she thought about her options. She trusted Adam was trying to find out everything he could. Maybe money couldn't buy everything after all. Perhaps Dr. Grant would be a better source of information. It was worth a try.

All through the dinner Laura maintained her guard. In spite of her initial misgivings, Dr. Grant proved to be a likeable companion who truly seemed to care about what she was thinking. It became increasingly hard to hold back. When they left the restaurant Aaron Grant had acquired an alarming amount of information on Laura's past life and experiences. Nothing that mattered, of course, but enough to make her uneasy, resolving not to allow him to get any closer.

The next morning the phone jerked her shrilly from pleasant slumber. Upon hearing Adam's voice she was abruptly fully awake.

"Hello, Laura. How are you?" He seemed to sincerely want to know, but she ignored his question.

"Have you found out anything?" she demanded.

He seemed disappointed by her reaction. "No, not really. I just wanted to let you know I'm working on it. I have a lawyer friend in Vancouver doing some digging, and other friends here in the city are making inquiries. I haven't let out personal details, just enough to enable them to help us find answers. I feel confident that we will hear something very soon."

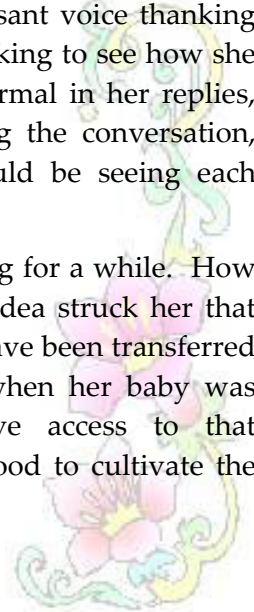
"Oh." She had been hoping for more. Patience. "Well, thanks for calling", she added.

"Actually, I was wondering . . if you would join me for dinner tonight. I'd like to discuss the situation with you and perhaps together we can come up with more ideas."

Warning bells rang in Laura's head. "No!" screamed her brain. "Yes, alright" she heard her voice say. "Fool, fool" her brain chanted.

Fortunately it was her day off, for she spent the rest of the morning in a daze, mooning around the room like a lovesick teenager. Such behaviour would have been inappropriate and unacceptable in the hospital, especially under the watchful eye of Dr. Grant. Shortly after lunch the telephone rang again, sending Laura into a panic that Adam was calling to cancel. But it was Aaron Grant, his pleasant voice thanking her for a lovely evening and checking to see how she was. She struggled to sound normal in her replies, and thankfully he didn't prolong the conversation, simply suggested that they would be seeing each other at work.

After his call, Laura sat meditating for a while. How could Dr. Grant help her? The idea struck her that perhaps hospital records might have been transferred from Vancouver to Edmonton when her baby was taken. Dr. Grant might have access to that information. Yes, it would be good to cultivate the friendship.



Meanwhile, Laura was feeling frustrated. Days were passing and her goal seemed no closer. She replayed the last seven years over and over in her head, searching for clues in every remembered conversation with her parents. She cursed herself for having been so distracted and not really paying attention during times when she might have discovered the truth. Again her heart ached as she wondered at her parents' motivations. Had her emotional distress really been so intense that it led them to think her better off without her child? Had she said or done something to make them believe that was what she wanted? Or was it something else? What could have prompted them to take such a painful course of action?

A sudden thought occurred to Laura. Money. It had caused her to lose Adam. Was it money worries that motivated her parents? And yet, they seemed to have no shortage of money in Vancouver - there was plenty to buy a small home, put her through University, and enable her father to retire once they settled there. All at once a light illuminated her jumbled thoughts. Here was a clue she had missed!

Laura's parents had no money. In all her years of growing up, of this one fact Laura was sure. Every extra penny went towards Laura's future education, in hopes that she would find a good-paying job and never have to worry about her next dollar. Had Laura not worked hard in high school and earned a scholarship, her parents could not have sent her to first year university. But suddenly, in Vancouver, money was no longer a problem. Her dad had no job, yet they owned a house in spite of Vancouver's inflated prices; and paid Laura's tuition. Where had the money come from? Why had this never occurred to her before? Of course she knew the answer. She

had been so intent on destroying her past, she hadn't noticed what was happening in the present.

Laura thought back to that black day when she had told her parents she was pregnant. As her dad held her and stroked her back to quiet her sobs, he had promised; "I will do anything it takes. Anything to protect you and make sure you are never hurt again." Then he had left the house, and although Laura had lain awake far into the night, she did not hear his return. The next day the decision to move to Vancouver had been made, and in the whirlwind of packing, Laura had never thought to question the how and the why.

Thinking back now, it had seemed so easy. Immediately after arriving in Vancouver they had a house to live in. It was only after her parent's death that Laura had discovered the house had a clear title in her parent's name. Among their financial records, Laura had found bank statements that showed a regular automatic monthly deposit of \$2000.00. Laura had assumed that it was a pension of some sort, and in her rush to search for her daughter, had not investigated further. Now she wondered. Where was the money coming from? Where had they found the money to purchase a house? To make the move to Vancouver? Where had her father been that whole night before they left? Again she cursed her many years of lack of attention to important details.

Turning these things around and around in her brain didn't appear to be leading to any useful conclusions, so finally Laura gave up. She resolved that first thing Monday she would contact her parent's bank in Vancouver and try to trace that mysterious deposit. But now it was late, and time to get ready for her "date"...

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

Carla Johnson grew up in Western Canada. She loves to read and tell stories to her cousins and younger sisters; and especially loves creating mystery romance stories because love is like that. If she could change the world she would do it through peace, love and song. Her favourite pastime is baking goodies for her family and friends, riding her bike, traveling to new places, and staying up waaaaay past everyone else's bedtime. She is not related to Johnson & Johnson product providers although she avidly uses most of them.

CANADIAN LABOUR A SHORT HISTORY [PART 10]

Worker Gains and Changes in the Working Class and Labour Movement 1940-1975 – Anti-Labour State Ideology and Tactics

By Wayne E. Benedict



The legitimization of labour within Canada's industrial relations system was far from the end of working-class oppression across the federation. Alberta, with a long history of labour repression, lived up to its legacy and used its legislative power to ensnare the province's labour movement in a net of legality. After the United Packinghouse Workers of America struck in 1947, Alberta's premier Aberhart—a despotic figure who viewed labour's concerns for stronger labour legislation as meddling into governmental affairs—enacted legislation that consolidated the provinces existing labour laws. The 1947 legislation placed restrictions against workers' right to strike, placed a prohibition on company controlled unions (although they proliferated despite the law and the government turned a blind eye), superficially made union organizing easier, and restricted hours of work to 8 hours per day/48 hours per week (although the Board of Industrial

Relations (BIR) could, and did, grant exceptions to employers).

Prompted by the coal miners' strike of 1948, Aberhart revised the 1947 legislation to make clear the corporate and individual responsibilities of unions; make union leaders legally responsible for the actions of their members; steeply raise penalties for violations of the Act; and make union organizing more difficult. In addition, existing collective agreements could be made null and void if a judge ruled that an illegal strike had occurred under the authorization of the union. Also, meat packers and colliers could be removed from the provincial act at any time by the government and placed under the even less favorable federal Industrial Disputes Investigations Act (IDIA).

In 1960, further amendments to the provincial legislation were made that prohibited informational picketing outside an employer's premises for the purpose of organizing employees and the denial of certification to unions that had signed up members as a result of such picketing. Further: the unionization of members of medical, dental, architectural, engineering, and legal fields was prohibited; the BIR could exclude from unionization anyone that it believed performed supervisory functions or engaged in confidential relationships with management; the Minister of Labour was given the right to declare an emergency end to any strike where it was deemed that life or property would otherwise be in jeopardy; and unionized workers could not take job action to protest the hiring of non-union employees or engage in secondary picketing. Thus, "the union movement in the province might have organized more people and negotiated...better contracts had labour legislation modeled at least in part on PC 1003 not restricted labour's rights" (Finkel, 1992).

Quebec was also a province that displayed notoriously anti-labour state ideology and tactics. Duplessis—premier of Quebec between 1936-39 & 1944-59—viewed unions with antipathy and held a paternalistic attitude toward labour/management relations. He "felt that workers should be placed in a state of filial subordination" (Rouillard, 1992). The Catholic Church, through the Confederation des travailleurs catholiques Du Canada

(CTCC), controlled much of the labour movement in Quebec. The CTCC went through a period of self-transformation in the postwar period in order to more effectively organize, negotiate, and advocate for the Quebec labour movement. The organization distanced itself from the church and its conservative ideologies of accommodation and denominationalism, and became a radical, non-denominational labour organization more reminiscent of the wider mainstream labour movement. Although overtures were made between the CTCC and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) for these movements to become closer to one another, affiliation did not take place due to the CLC's lack of power over its affiliated unions and unreasonable conditions for affiliation set forth by the CTCC. Although the Canadian labour movement was facing similar state/employer attacks and difficulties adjusting to nascent legislated rights as well as constraints; historical problems of unilingualism, sectionalism, racism, gendered discrimination, and political divergence hampered class self-realization and concerted direct and political actions.

Next Week: The War of Women in the post world war Canadian Labour force.

References:

Finkel, A. (1992). The Cold War, Alberta Labour and the Social Credit Regime. In L. S. MacDowell & I. Radforth (eds.), Canadian working class history: selected readings (623-650) Toronto Ontario: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Rouillard, J. (1992). Major Changes in the Confederation des travailleurs catholiques du Canada, 1940-1960. In L. S. MacDowell & I. Radforth (eds.), Canadian working class history: selected readings (651-672) Toronto Ontario: Canadian Scholars' Press.

Wayne E. Benedict is a Locomotive Engineer at BC Rail and President of the National, Automobile, Aerospace, Transportation and General Workers Union of Canada (CAW) Local 110. He is working toward his Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations at Athabasca University.



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.



UVIC FIRST IN BC TO OFFER BACHELOR OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

UVIC Press Release

February 20, 2003 - Software is ubiquitous and central to everyday life. It drives computer games, online services, office services and control systems in cars. Beginning this fall, the UVic faculty of engineering will be offering a full undergraduate degree program in software engineering. Graduates of this new program will design software that is reliable, efficient and effective in critical safety systems as well as desktop computers.

Software engineering involves the design, implementation, testing and maintenance of software applications and software dependent systems. Software engineering covers not only the technical aspects of building software systems, but also addresses management issues. As a discipline, it is a cornerstone of the information technology sector and a significant factor in our economy.

"UVic has offered software engineering courses since 1980 and degree options since 1998," says Dr. Michael Miller, dean of engineering. "As of September, we will be expanding our offerings to a full degree program so that UVic students will be able to even better prepare themselves for careers as software engineers."

The UVic bachelor of software engineering (BSENG) program includes eight academic terms and 16 months of co-operative education (co-op) that combines practical on-the-job experience with university studies. Not only does co-op complement the academic component of the program, it also helps students determine their long term career plans and helps finance their education.

...

Students can enter the BSENG program directly from high school or transfer from a university college. Entrance scholarships are available. For more information visit www.bseng.uvic.ca.

FIRST GERONTOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE IN SASKATCHEWAN LAUNCHED

University of Regina News Release

The province's first gerontology research centre was launched today at the University of Regina. The Centre on Aging and Health (CAH) will be a focal point for research and expertise that addresses the health issues of the aging population in Saskatchewan and Canada.

"The Centre on Aging and Health is further evidence of the dynamic and innovative work being done at the University of Regina. We are developing a strong research culture and health research is one of the areas identified for special emphasis. The work at the Centre on Aging and Health will increase our knowledge in gerontology, an area that is critical to future health care provincially and nationally," says Dr. Allan Cahoon, Vice-President (Research and International) at the University of Regina.

The North American population is aging, and 20 per cent of the Canadian population will be over the age of 65 by 2021, compared to the current 12.7 per cent. In Saskatchewan, the percentage of seniors is 14.6 per cent, higher than any other province.

...

The CAH has also established the Committee for Aboriginal Health and Aging Research to encourage more research into Aboriginal health needs and aging. This is an area where very little research has been done but where there is a great need for more knowledge.

To visit the Web site of the Centre for Aging and Health go to:

http://uregina.ca/hadjistt/centre_index.htm

YORK U. LAUNCHES GLOBAL RESOURCE CENTRE ON CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

TORONTO, January 15, 2003 -- With Canadian scholars in the forefront of international research on the changing nature of citizenship world wide, York University today established the *Citizenship Studies Media Lab* (CSML) as a Canadian headquarters and global clearing house for research. It is directed by Engin Isin, York professor of social science and holder of the Canada Research Chair in Citizenship Studies.

The CSML Web site will begin delivering some of its services and information by spring 2003. You can visit the site at <http://csml.calumet.yorku.ca>.

FREE MICROSOFT .NET STUDENT EVENT

Join us in a city near you to hear the latest information on creating next-generation applications. Learn all about developing and accessing XML Web Services on the Windows .NET Framework and Shared Source CLI (Rotor). Be one of the first to check out new mobile device programming techniques and preview the upcoming Visual Studio .NET 2003.

Dinner will be provided. All attendees will receive a free copy of Visual Studio .NET Academic (\$109 value), and variety of academic resources including tutorials, and code samples. Please be aware that you must be a student with a valid student ID to attend these events.

FREE SOFTWARE FOR STUDENTS WHO ATTEND!

EVENT AGENDA

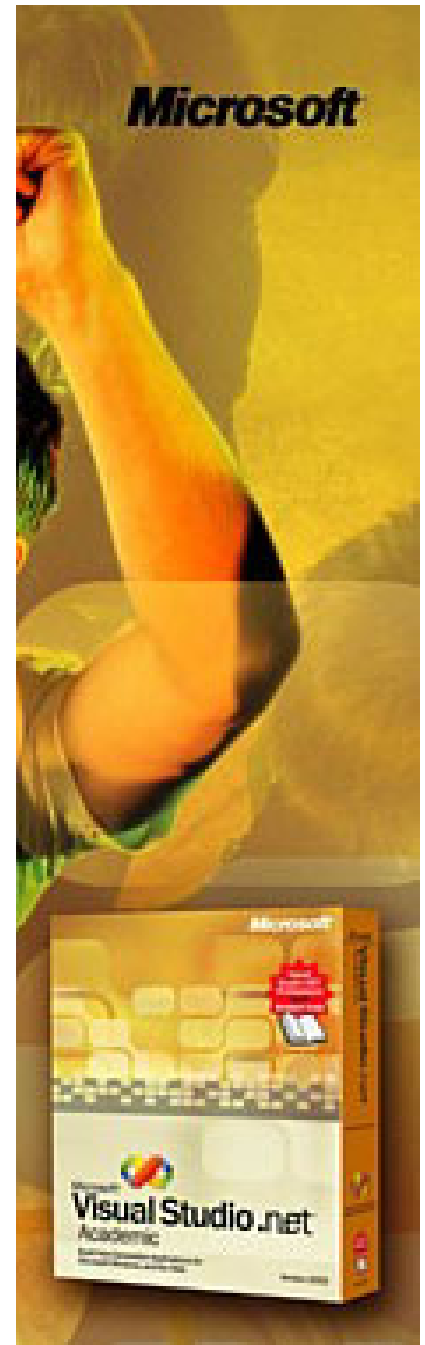
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Registration
4:30 pm – 5:15 pm	.NET Overview
5:15 pm – 6:00 pm	.NET Languages
6:00 pm – 6:45 pm	Dinner
6:45 pm – 7:45 pm	Shared Source CLI (Rotor)
7:45 pm – 8:30 pm	XML Web Services demo
8:30 pm – 8:45 pm	Tablet PC Demo and Academic Programs

REGISTRATION

For more information and to register for an event in a city near you, please visit: <http://www.msdnua.net/canada/studenttour>. Below is the tour itinerary:

Halifax	Monday, March 10th, 2003
Montreal	Wednesday, March 12th, 2003
Toronto	Thursday, March 13th, 2003
Regina	Monday, March 17th, 2003
Calgary	Wednesday, March 19th, 2003
Vancouver	Thursday, March 20th, 2003

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting event!



Does the pressure of having to study alone keep you up at night? **AUSU STUDY BUDDY**

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

NEW VOICE LOOK - NEW VOICE NAME

This week The Voice introduces a new cover design and logo. For now, the new design will be limited to the pdf version of the paper, but soon updates to the website will incorporate our new look

The Voice will also henceforth be known as *The Voice Magazine*, to reflect the unique nature of our university publication, and our emphasis on quality research articles, lifestyles, opinion, reviews, features and fiction.

Athabasca University is a school like no other, AUSU is a students' union like no other, and now The Voice is a university publication like no other.

EDMONTON SKYDIVE CENTER GROUP RATES FOR STUDENTS



Until May 31st the Edmonton Skydive Centre has student specials for groups of 10. The organizer gets his/her jump for free.

Info to help you organize can be found at:
<http://www.edmontonskydive.com>.

A printable sign up sheet can be found at:
<http://www.edmontonskydive.com/iadsignupsheet.doc>

And a colour brochure is at:
<http://www.edmontonskydive.com/2003 ESC Brochure.pdf>

Student groups are welcome and encouraged to make a weekend of it. We camp out every weekend and we have a fire pit, free camping, bunk houses, showers, satellite TV, basketball, and volleyball.

Email info@edmontonskydive.com if you need more information, would like to setup the training in the city at your location prior to coming out for larger groups, or if you would like brochures or info mailed to you.

Bernie Cyr Info@EdmontonSkydive.com
www.EdmontonSkydive.Com 780.444.JUMP (5867) 1.866.566.JUMP (5867)

Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor

I'm alive today
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Sudden weakness, numbness
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Sudden temporary
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VISION PROBLEMS

Sudden loss of vision,
particularly in one eye, or
double vision

HEADACHE

Sudden severe
and unusual headache

DIZZINESS

Sudden loss of balance,
especially with any of the
above signs

Call 911
or your medical
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immediately.

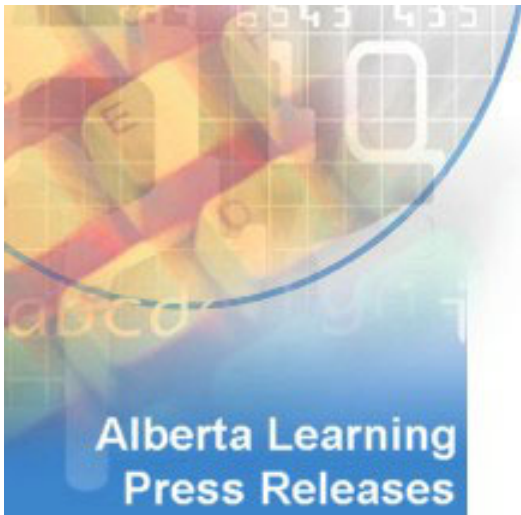


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www.heartandstroke.ca

NEWS FROM ALBERTA LEARNING

AWARDS HIGHLIGHT ALBERTA'S FIRST-CLASS APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM

February 20, 2003



Edmonton... It's no trade secret. Alberta apprentices, instructors and employers contribute to keeping Alberta strong. To recognize this, the annual Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Awards will be handed out on February 20th to 49 apprentices, two instructors and two employers at a ceremony in Calgary.

"Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system is one of the best in Canada and is very well respected on an international level," said Minister of Learning, Dr. Lyle Oberg, noting Alberta has 10 per cent of Canada's population, yet trains 20 per cent of the country's

apprentices. "We can attribute much of this success to the dedication of our employers and instructors, and in the high-quality apprentices they train.

The **Top Apprentice Award** recognizes those achieving the highest combined mark during their final period of apprenticeship training, coupled with a strong employer recommendation. This year, 49 apprentices in Alberta will receive a Top Apprentice Award.

The **Employer of the Year Award of Excellence** recognizes employers for their unique commitment to training and their investment in the apprenticeship and industry training system. This year's winners are L. Robert Enterprises in Fort McMurray, and Kirchner Machine Ltd., in Lethbridge.

The **Top Instructor Award** recognizes instructors for their excellence in delivering technical training to apprentices and their commitment and support of apprenticeship. This year's winners are Rob Prediger, an instructor in the Automotive Service Technician program from Fairview College, and Rick Blakeley, an instructor in the Parts Technician program from Lethbridge Community College.

"This awards ceremony gives us the opportunity to recognize the excellent work of not only the apprentices, but of the employers and instructors who also play a vital role in maintaining our excellent apprenticeship system," said Board Chair Cliff Williams. "Congratulations to all the recipients for their dedication and commitment to excellence."

Alberta's apprenticeship system combines on-the-job and technical training in more than 50 trades and occupations. There are currently more than 40,000 registered apprentices in Alberta, an increase of 50 per cent in the past six years. The award ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Symposium Room at SAIT.

MINISTER OBERG EXPLORES NEW ADVANCES IN LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

Edmonton... Alberta Learning Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg will explore further possibilities for supporting the learning system through the use of technology while meeting with high tech industry leaders in San Francisco and San Jose California, February 24-25.

"Alberta continues to receive a lot of attention from around the world for the innovation in our learning system. To stay ahead, we need to continue to look at how new technology can further enhance student learning. This will be an opportunity to explore and discuss future trends in technology," said Dr. Oberg.

Minister Oberg will discuss a potential pilot project with Sun Microsystems, Inc. using its Sun Ray™ desktop system. The pilot project would connect the desktop systems to a central server and will investigate the effectiveness of this new technology over the Alberta SuperNet.

The pilot is the latest in a string of on-going collaborations between Sun Microsystems and the Government of Alberta. Sun Microsystems has invested in Alberta to designate the University of Calgary a Sun Centre of Excellence for Visual Genomics, select the University of Alberta a Sun Centre of Excellence for E-Learning, and support the Life Sciences Proteome Analytical Project at the University of Alberta. Most recently, Sun Microsystems, Alberta Innovation and Science, and the University of Alberta agreed to establish a Centre for Excellence in Integrated Nano Tools. Initial discussions on the Sun Ray technology began a year-and-a-half ago on a technology mission by Alberta Innovation and Science Minister Victor Doerksen.

Minister Oberg will also meet with representatives from Cisco Systems, Inc. in San Jose. Alberta is looking at expanding its partnerships with Cisco Systems, which already works within our education system. Cisco Systems has already committed a million dollars toward the masters degree program in Internet technology at the University of Alberta and through their Networking Academies and Labs, Cisco Systems Canada provides educational discounts to high schools and post-secondary institutions.

The Minister will also attend the 2003 Worldwide Education and Research Conference in San Francisco. This conference will include education leaders and experts in primary and secondary education technology.

The Minister will be joined by his executive assistant. Estimated cost for their travel is \$3,100.



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

HAL ROGERS ENDOWMENT FUND

Value: \$1000

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 01, 2003

Administrator: Hal Rogers Endowment Fund

Notes:

Must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, plan to register as a full-time student in September at a post-secondary institution, and demonstrate high ideals and qualities of citizenship. Applicants must be entering or in their first year of study. Contact for more information.

Contact Information:

Hal Rogers Endowment Fund
1920 Hal Rogers Drive, Box KIN
Cambridge, ON N3H 5C6

Fax: 519-650-1091

Toll Free: 1-800-742- 5546



CANADA-TAIWAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Value: not stated

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2003

Administrator: Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)

Notes:

Scholarships are available for students to undergo Mandarin language training and degree studies in Taiwan. Must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are currently enrolled as full-time students at Canadian universities or enrolled within the past three years. The value of each scholarship includes the return airfare to Taiwan, tuition and monthly allowance.

Contact Information:

Canadian Awards Program
Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada
350 Albert Street, Suite 600
Ottawa, ON
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CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **CASE District VIII** - March 8-11, 2003 - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - "Connect in Coeur d'Alene." Details: <http://www.connectincda.com>
- **CU Expo** - Community-University Institute for Social Research - "Partnerships, Policy & Progress" - May 8-10, 2003, Saskatoon, SK. Details: <http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/cuexpo>
- **Distance Education Technology Symposium (DETS-03)** - sponsored by the Centre for Distance Education - May 15 - 17, 2003 - Edmonton, Crowne Plaza Hotel. Details: <http://cde.athabascau.ca/DET/2003/> or contact Pat Fahy.
- **AMTEC (Association of Media & Technology in Education in Canada)** - "E-convergence: Education, Media & Technology" - May 25-28, 2003, Montreal, PQ. Details: <http://www.amtec.ca>
- **ICDE World Conference** - 21st annual - June 1-5, 2003 - Hong Kong. Details: <http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/HK2003>
- **CADE** - June 7-11, 2003 - St. John's, NF. Details: <http://www.cade-aced2003.ca/>
- **"Women and Leadership in Higher Education: How Thick is the Glass Ceiling?"** - International Conference - June 12 - 14, 2003 - Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico. Details: http://www.swaac.ca/Prof_Dev.htm or <http://www.swaac.ca/Regional.htm>

GREAT CANADIAN LITERARY HUNT Call For Submissions

"THIS Magazine is now accepting poetry and short fiction entries for its 7th annual Great Canadian Literary Hunt. First prize in poetry is \$1000 and national publication, first prize in fiction is \$1000 and national publication. For entry guidelines and details visit www.thismagazine.ca"



BRIEFS FROM *THE INSIDER*

TWO NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION STUDENTS

Terry Anderson, Canada Research Chair in Distance Education, reports that two new books are now available.

Anderson, T. & Kanuka, H. (2002). *E-Research: Issues, Strategies and Methods*. Allyn Bacon. Details at <http://www.e-research.ca/>. This book addresses the way the Net changes the research process from problem setting, to ethics review, to qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis to dissemination. Co-author Heather Kanuka was AU's first Postdoc and she and Terry collaborated during that time.

Garrison, D. R. & Anderson, T. (2003). *E-Learning in the 21st Century: A framework for research and practice*. London: Routledge) builds on their work in transcript analysis of CMC courses and discusses theory and practice of e-learning.

Terry reminds readers that "they are both available through Amazon.ca!!" or may soon be viewed from AU's Library.

NEW CIVIL LIBERTIES AWARD

The Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre has a new annual Civil Liberties Award. The 2002 award was presented posthumously to Anna Pellat and accepted by her brother Dr. Morton Pellatt. Anna had been a faculty member in the Centre for State and Legal Studies before her passing last August. For information:

<http://www.aclrc.com/whatsnew.html#Civil Liberties Award>



Fireweed Institute Spring 2003 Workshop
Information & Registration: 492-3116 / 492-7237
e-mail: info@fireweedinstitute.org
www.fireweedinstitute.org

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



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

c/o Athabasca University Students' Union
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800.788.9041 ext. 3413

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

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