

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 10  
March 05, 2003

### **The Popstar Experience**

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

### **Nature Notes**

Ecological Footprint Analysis

### **Buying Your First Home**

Look before you leap

### **Environmental Health**

### **FICTION SPECIAL**

Part 3 of our Original Romantic Novel **Forgotten Promise**

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

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Volume 11, Issue 10

## 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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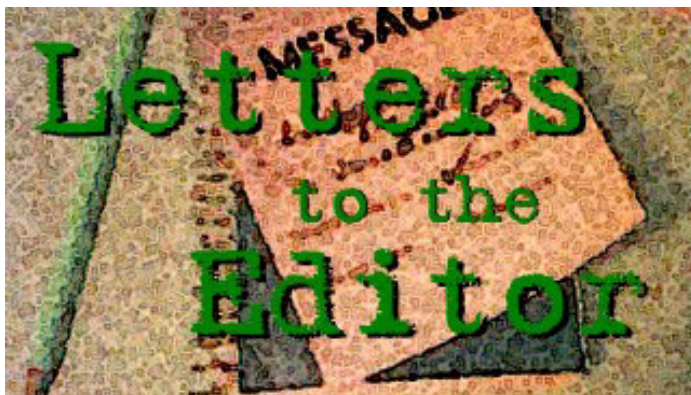
**TO SAVE SPECIES, YOU HAVE TO SAVE FORESTS.**

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go to [wwf.ca/marine](http://wwf.ca/marine)

Even the ones underwater. This giant kelp forest off the coast of B.C. is more diverse than a rainforest. Sadly, it's not protected from the harmful practices of industry. In fact, 99.99% of Canada's waters are unprotected. When will Canada start protecting our oceans? With your help, we'll get Ottawa to act now. Call **1.800.26.PANDA.**





**We love to hear from you!**

**Please continue providing your opinions, comments and ideas; any submissions can be sent to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org).**

**Please indicate if we may publish your letter.**

### **Quote of the Week:**

**Beware of the man who works hard to learn something, learns it, and finds himself no wiser than before," Bokonon tells us.**

**"He is full of murderous resentment of people who are ignorant without having come by their ignorance the hard way.**

**-- Kurt Vonnegut (1922 - )  
"Cat's Cradle"**

**March 8th is International  
Women's Day.**

## **THE VOICE**

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**Editor In Chief** Tamra Ross Low

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*The Voice* is funded by the  
Athabasca University Students'  
Union, for the students of Athabasca  
university

*The Voice* is published every  
wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at:  
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**This week:** 2 new columns

**Flicks & Folios:** Reviews Of Books And Films, by Laura Seymour

**Sounding Off:** Your take on the issues of today



# SOUNDING OFF

Everybody's got an opinion, and everybody wants to be heard.

Here's your chance. In our new column, **SOUNDING OFF**, we'll explore a different topic each week and print the best responses from the readers.

Next week, for our first **SOUNDING OFF** column we'll focus on the issue that's on everybody's mind – The War on Iraq.

How do *you* feel about the war, about Canada's involvement, and about the approach taken by the united states. Is Iraq truly a threat to the western world, and if so, is war the answer?

Take off the gloves and give us your best shot – we're ready...

Email your 250 words or less response to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org). Replies will be edited for grammar, spelling, and length if required.

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## DUBIOUS REALITY

Lately I've been mired in reality. Through four years of university, I've gone from reading two or three novels per week to reading nothing but textbooks, research papers, statistical analyses, professional journals, and course materials. I edit this publication, which is a fun and exciting job, but it also requires me to be objective, discerning, and a stickler for grammar, syntax, tense and spelling. Even my most rewarding hobby – the eternal project that is my first novel (I have many pages, but no chapters; dozens of plot points, but few links between them) – has been overshadowed lately by my work to improve my academic writing and become a saleable essayist. It's engaging work, but once again I have replaced something that was full of spontaneity and creativity with something that keeps my feet on the ground and my focus on reality.

Reality: the word is been bandied about quite a bit lately, usually in the most inappropriate contexts. So much so that I feel compelled to place the word in quotes whenever I write it. It may be the first word to become inherently ironic.

Television is the cause. So much of what we see on the tube these days is said to be based on reality. This annoys me, because on the rare occasions that I have time to watch TV, I'm looking for a break from the relentless reality of my life. Maybe it's not a problem, though, because what these shows offer is a very dubious reality. No one believes that anything they see on these programs is

real, do they? The evidence to the contrary is certainly abundant. Take *Survivor*, for instance. Any of its incarnations will do, but right now the Australian edition of the program comes to mind, and its picture-perfect finalists, Elizabeth and Colby: America's sweethearts. We are to believe that the cutesy twosome had been on this 'remote' island without any amenities – no shower, no toothpaste, no razors, soap, makeup, dentists, physicians, or even nutritious food – for over forty days.

Forty days without a proper wash, a mirror, a blow dryer, or a cosmetician, and yet in every episode these two blinded us with their over-bleached teeth [how is it that all of these financially challenged young contestants can afford movie-star quality dental bleachings? You can't get that obnoxious glacier-white from Crest White Strips...], their shimmering hair, and their gleaming, satiny skin. Perhaps they are simply genetic marvels? They would have to be, because I assure you that after 40 days without washing my hair I'd be sporting some skanky, oily dreadlocks. Wouldn't you? I'll tell you something else. After 40 days without a razor, you definitely would not want to see me in a string bikini. Nuff said.

I feel comfortable saying these things, because I'm pretty sure everybody can relate. If you have ever been camping for three days without a shower, you have a pretty good idea of how quickly glamour fades when there's no access to electricity or modern cosmetics.

So, it is obvious that there really is no reality behind Reality TV. One look at Elizabeth and Colby on day 40, and you can almost picture them in the makeup chair each morning, as a hive of busy estheticians ensures that they are shaved, coifed, and dentifriced to perfection. No shrubbery is allowed to grow in Liz's pristine armpits, no way! Bad for the ratings...

Still, you wonder if people can actually be blind to all of this. When, after the end of the first *Survivor* series, one of the contestants claimed the game was rigged, it was major news! Could it be that viewers believed the show's producers would leave the outcome up to chance in order to provide a fair experience to a group of nobodies, when millions and millions of advertising dollars were riding on the show's ratings?

As reality shows proliferate, the big question is: how much do viewers really believe? It is becoming a very relevant question. Lately about half of what's on television is "reality" programming, and with good reason. Economics drive television programming, and reality TV is damn good business.

Consider that the cast of *Friends* are making about a million dollars an episode each. That's \$6 million for every episode just for the cast! Add to that the cost of sets, costumes, script writers, producers, directors, and extra actors and the production budget continues to swell. Clearly, television shows bring in enough money to pay for all of this, or these high salaries would never be approved.

Now consider a show like *Survivor*, or *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*? The shows are massive ratings hits and ratings are what determine the income of a show – not production costs. In fact, it costs very little to make a "reality" show. The "actors" on *Survivor* don't get paid at all. At best, one of them will earn a measly \$1 million, and the show's producers will play it up like they're breaking the bank. Add to that the smaller prizes that the runners-up win, the promo items are given away – most of which are donated anyway – and you may reach a sum of \$2 million – one third of the actors' budget for a single episode of *Friends*. The sets are cheap, and there is only one location, so the shooting costs are also minimal. Can you imagine the profits? I can't, but they must be spectacular.

*Millioinaire* gives out the top prize only one or two times a season, and they complain that people are winning too often. But, add Jennifer Aniston as a co-host and they'd be dropping that much more for each and every episode.

The next time you wonder why the networks keep cramming all this reality television down our throats, remember that these programs are a license to print money. They have attained the capitalists dream – where they once sold a very expensive product and made a fortune, they have now figured out how to cut production costs to a tiny fraction, without diminishing their returns. As a result, the profit margins swell without any noticeable increase in market share. Understand this, because this is why the networks are not going to stop making “reality television”. However, audiences are getting bored with these shows, so in order to keep them the networks will have to keep pushing the envelope. How far will it go?

Literature, in hindsight, so often seems prophetic. Years ago, when Anthony Burgess wrote *A Clockwork Orange*, the thought of an adolescent boy raping, thieving and murdering for kicks seemed unthinkable. Today, that and worse have become commonplace.

Reality TV brings to mind some of the earlier writings of Stephen King. Actually they are the writings of Richard Bachman, King’s cynical (and much more sinister) alter ego. These books now seem prophetic too. In *Rage*, for example, a frustrated teen student vents his spleen upon his fellow students and his teacher, whom he holds hostage at gunpoint. The similarity to Columbine and other rage-related school tragedies is obvious. King, as Bachman, also wrote several stories about violent, futuristic game shows. The best known of these is *The Running Man*, made into a film with Arnold Schwarzenegger. The film is very different from the novel, but they share a common backdrop of a brutal game show where people risk their lives for the entertainment of the slaving, jaded masses. In another story, *The Long Walk*, young people sign up to walk relentlessly across country in a contest where anyone who stops or walks too slow will be shot and killed on the spot: last one alive wins.

The stories are fantastic - I doubt that we will ever go that far for entertainment, but then I am surprised lately by the kinds of risks that many shows are taking. I recall a recent episode of *Fear Factor* – a celebrity edition – that required contestants to sit inside a parked car and try to find the correct key to get it started before a monster truck could cross over a row of junk cars and then drive over their own vehicle. Two of the four contestants didn’t get their car started in time, and were driven over. The car was equipped with a reinforced roof, roll cage, and other safety devices, but this hardly seems adequate. There was nothing to protect the driver should a shard of metal or a piece of glass be thrust toward them, and there was no way to protect them if the monster truck had veered to the side and punched one of its massive tires through the windshield.

This is not the only episode of *Fear Factor* that has taken foolish risks. On another, contestants were required to shove their hands into the mouths of massive fish to retrieve a disk that would tell them what disgusting fish part they had to eat (this part of the program should be called “Gross Factor” or “Demeaning for Dollars”). Although the fish parts the contestants had to eat appeared fresh, the fish containing the disks were clearly rotten – (the eyes were actually oozing and deflated – a sign of advanced decomposition). The ‘challenge’ was to retrieve the disk without vomiting from the stench. Predictably, when one of the girls slipped her hand into the fish, she cut herself quite badly on the jagged teeth and she was bleeding quite a bit as she removed her hand. While this might have seemed a benign injury, it struck me right away that her wound would be filled with bacteria from that rotten fish. Sure enough, as I watched the girl stand off to the side of the screen waiting her turn to gobble up raw fish entrails, she winced and squirmed and rubbed her wound worriedly. A short time later she was removed from the show. The announcer explained that she had had to be taken to the hospital due to a rare allergic reaction to the fish. They apparently even managed to convince her of this cover story, because moments later they aired a more recent videotape of the recovered girl who said incredulously “I had no idea I was allergic to fish!” As though you have to be allergic to fish to suffer septicaemia from a filthy cut.

These are just two examples, but I very rarely watch TV. How far will they go, and how many lives will they risk to get ratings? We think that if someone were to die on one of these show it would be all over for that network, but would it? Or would more people tune in just see what would happen? When the first of the reality dating shows, *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire*, ended in scandal, it was said that they would never be able to make another show like that again. On the contrary, there are now at least half a dozen reality dating shows on television, many of them ending in 'marriage' (you see how this subject prompts the use of quotations marks around so many concrete terms?).

The dating shows are even more obviously fake than the *Survivor* type. So far, every one has ended with the happy couple going their separate ways, but people still tune in to see who will get married. Maybe no one really believes in the marriage anyway, and they only watch to see who will get picked. If so, then maybe we don't care if our reality TV is real or not, we just want it to be exciting. Unfortunately, it seems that the only things that excite us are watching people demean themselves, or risk their lives.

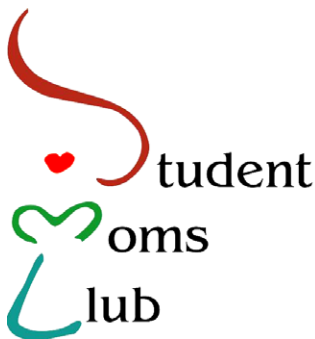
Are safety, morality and good sense even factors when profits from a single season can reach hundreds of millions of dollars?

The television networks used to hope to produce the next *Cheers*, *Seinfeld*, *M.A.S.H.*, or *Hill Street Blues*. These shows were once the cash cows, but once the networks figured out how much more money they could make by drawing the same ratings and the same advertising dollars, without the massive drain of high paid stars, expensive sets, and hit-making writers; the gloves came off. To discontinue these reality shows and go back to a full roster of traditional sitcoms, dramas, and actions series would dramatically reduce the current profit-ratio that the networks enjoy, and in business it doesn't matter that you're making enough money to stay in the black, it only matters that you make more money than you did last year. There is no going back. The networks are desperate, they must keep us watching reality TV, no matter what it takes.

That's the reality.

**Tamra Ross Low**  
Editor in Chief

## **ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION GROUPS AND CLUBS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT**



### ***Welcome to the Student Moms Club!***

The Athabasca University Students' Union would like to announce the addition of the second AU student club. The Student Mom's Club web site is now up and running (<http://www.ausu.org/clubs/smc/index.php>). All student moms or moms-to-be are welcome to come and check out the site which boasts a private discussion forum, recipes, tips, and feature articles.

A huge thank you goes out to founder Joy Kryz for all her dedication in getting this club off the ground because of a strong desire to unite with other mothers trying to obtain an education while raising a family. If you'd like to find out more about the SMC or have any questions email [smc@ausu.org](mailto:smc@ausu.org).



Also, the Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society would like to announce that they will be chatting live on their site every Monday from 9:30AM – 10:30 AM MST and every Wednesday from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM MST. The AUPSS is looking into starting up a peer-counselling program. This would help students connect with peers to help solve their academic or personal problems as well as assisting students in rural areas to obtain some work experience before finishing their degrees in psychology, sociology, etc... If you are interested in becoming involved or have any questions about the AUPSS email Sandra at [smoore@ausu.org](mailto:smoore@ausu.org)

And finally, we have students who are interested in forming an English Club and a Technology Club. If you'd like to participate in either or if you have an idea for a club you'd like to start at AU whether it is personal or academic, email Sandra at [smoore@ausu.org](mailto:smoore@ausu.org) The Groups and Clubs committee offers free web space and web page maintenance to any AUSU clubs.

We think it is great that students are starting to express to an interest in communicating with their fellow students. AU is a distance learning University but that does not mean that AU students cannot form the same friendships with their peers as normal university students. We don't have cafeterias or hallways to hang out in, but we do have chat rooms and emails and it is possible for us to connect. Connecting with fellow students can help ease orientation for new students, as well as help students with their career and academic goals. We strongly encourage you to get involved with your fellow students, whether it is through joining or starting a club or just stopping by AUSU's discussion board and chat rooms (chat times are posted on the AUSU home page).

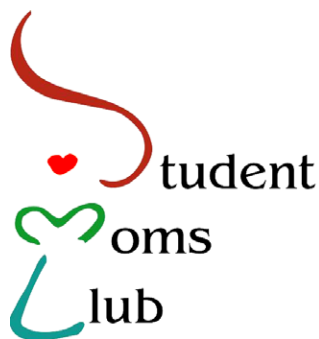
# Voice Contest

**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](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](mailto:smc@ausu.org) or visit their website. Everyone is welcome.***

## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE THE POPSTAR EXPERIENCE: PART SIX

*By Debbie Jabbour*



*Part 6 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]*

On Thursday when Amaya called from bootcamp to advise that she had been cut I was shocked. Everything had sounded so positive the day before: she was excited, said the judges liked her, and it seemed she was poised to go all the way to the final 12. Something seemed very odd about this abrupt change, and she was abnormally subdued on the phone. I asked what the judges had said, and she told me that they just said she should focus on her heavy metal music, since that was really her thing. She told me that Chocclair had been given the task of giving her the bad news, and that his voice was all shaky as if he was going to cry. She felt he really didn't want to cut her.

After watching the show we discovered that it was her peers that voted her off, but at the time we had no way of knowing this. She told me that after she was cut it was like she became a non-person to everyone. It didn't

help that the Popstars people immediately moved her into a separate hotel room for the night so that she would have no further contact with the other contestants. They were sending her home on a flight on Friday at noon. Amaya commented how Jocelyn, her formerly-friendly roommate who had seemed so nice initially, had become quite rude after they announced the cut. Not only did she refuse to even speak to Amaya or answer her questions while she was packing her things, Amaya had the distinct impression that something else was going on. She tried to verbalize it to me, but the best she could come up with was that Jocelyn appeared to be talking about her behind her back. Amaya sounded hurt when telling me this, as if she never expected that her roommate would turn out to be like that.

Later I did discover that there was more going on, and that in fact her roommate had likely been spreading information about Amaya, information that led to the peer vote that removed her. I was not surprised, since I had warned Amaya about this possibility. However, Amaya played a part in it too. Just as I feared, she had made a very poor decision Wednesday night, and gone out with her friend in Toronto (something I only found out about on the Friday). They had been given fairly strict instructions that they were to have no external contact during bootcamp, other than calls home to family. Even so, the producers might have overlooked this lapse, although frowned upon; except that Amaya did not return until the wee hours of the morning. That whole day Thursday she was too tired to even function, let alone give it her best performance-wise. She told me that every chance she had she would go into a corner and lie down and sleep - something that hardly impressed anyone, least of all the judges. To her peers, of course, this was the ultimate sin. Here they were all working so hard to be Popstars while Amaya seemed to not care, and instead was staying out all night and sleeping during rehearsal.

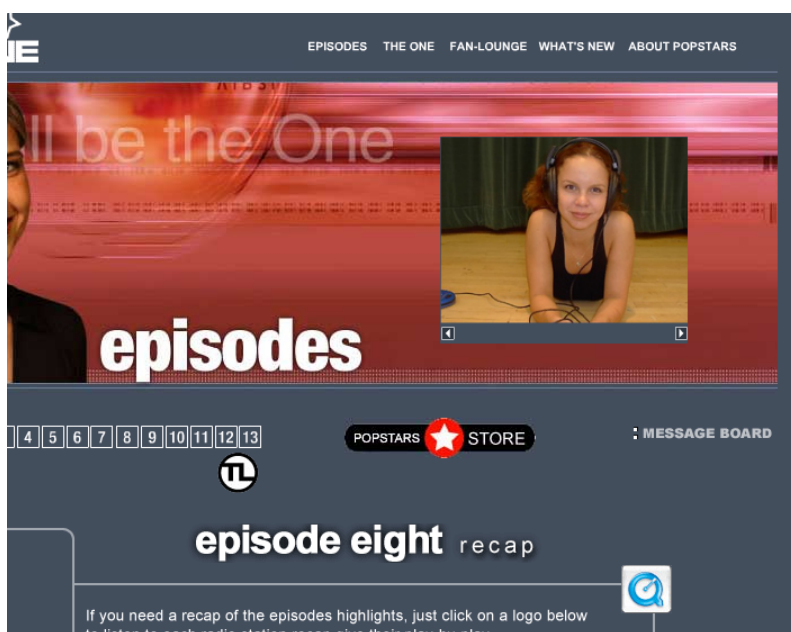
Yet watching the show I was quite surprised that she still managed to give such a credible performance. She danced energetically, impressing the judges with her dance ability and skill at one-handed push-ups. Even her singing was unaffected by her lack of sleep. She told me about having a really cool conversation with Glen Lewis outside of the rehearsal hall. For some reason the name of a book that had affected her profoundly came up, "Conversations With God." This is not a book many people have read, yet to her surprise, Glen Lewis was one of those who had! She said they found a common bond through this shared experience, since he was also deeply affected upon reading the book.

Although on the one hand I was disappointed that she had been cut, I was also relieved. I knew how torn she was about the whole thing, and I was constantly worried about the effect of the whole experience on her self-esteem. In reading the Popstars' forum posts, it's clear that Amaya had not attracted a lot of fans (at least not among those posting on the forum). While I doubt that these comments are indicative of how people in general viewed her, since the forum posters seem to be mostly friends and family of contestants, I worried at the hurtful tone of some of them. One person labelled her "the Grinch" and criticized her hair. Others called her singing "horrible screaming," and made fun of her intensity and facial expressions. A few liked her and said really positive things, but they were in the minority.

As we read these comments, I asked Amaya if it bothered her that people would say these things about her. She said, "Mom, I'd rather have people hate me. Hate is a stronger emotion than love, and it takes up more space in people's thoughts. If they hate me, they will remember me." We talked about how she seems to be one of those kinds of people who engenders strong emotional responses in others, and how no one becomes successful or famous without detractors - in fact it seems the more successful you are the more they hate you!

We also discussed the issue of her peers voting her out. She seemed a bit puzzled at this, since she had not had anything negative to say about any of them throughout, in fact she kept telling us how nice everyone was. It seemed rather ironic since she was so uncomfortable with this aspect of bootcamp. I knew part of the problem was that they didn't think she really wanted to be there, but I also suspected that Amaya's attempts to be different had likely rubbed some people the wrong way. We are a conformist society, and the Popstars competition is all about creating a manufactured star that pleases the masses. Amaya's uniqueness takes some getting used to, as does her sometimes-abrasive personality. The years she was separated from her family and trapped in an abusive relationship have given Amaya a hard, defensive, protective shell that takes people a while to see beyond, and I knew she would not have been comfortable among such a large group of her peers. This was confirmed when I saw the pictures on last week's episode summary on the Popstars website. This was the first time her picture had appeared on the site, and it's a lovely one of her wearing her headphones and listening to music. She told me that she wore her headphones most of the time, keeping rather detached from everyone else - something that no doubt contributed to the negative attitudes of the other contestants towards her.

Even though I was disappointed for Amaya that she had been cut, I knew from what she had been saying (not to mention her initial reluctance), that this was not the right place or time for her. While she was enjoying the experience and learning a lot, she was not singing or performing as she wanted to be. Her scorn for the whole manufactured popstar notion



<http://3.popstars.ca/default.aspx>

was weighing on her heavily, and she was undergoing an inner struggle - wanting to do her best, yet knowing she couldn't conform to what they wanted of her. She was trying so hard to be different, to resist the manufactured popstar persona, that she pushed things completely opposite and ended up not singing or performing as well as she could have. Had she chosen to, she could have played the game, but she would have lost self-respect and not remained true to herself. She was relieved to be coming home, and I was too.

I told her I loved her and was proud of her and could hardly wait to see her at the airport the next day.

But the adventure was not over yet...

Next week: Coming home.

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*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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## MOVIE REVIEW: UNBREAKABLE

*By Laura Seymour*

First, I should explain my column title. This is a new weekly column and I'll be reviewing either films or books. I won't be handling the "current" stuff – simply because twenty bucks and some for Larry and I to see a movie is ridiculous for us. I'll also be reviewing books that aren't on the bestsellers list – I'm a library cardholder and – despite the dumb two-dollar charge for holds not picked up in the Calgary library system – I support libraries. I also hate the price of current books. How many students are feeling the penny pinches?

Now, on to my review...

Bruce Willis stars as David Dunn, an incredibly average Joe, in this 2000 production by M. Night Shyamalan. You may recognize this director from one of his more recent films, *Signs*, with Mel Gibson (for those of you who are movie trivia buffs, you can see the director in *Unbreakable* as the "drug dealer at the stadium"). This project doesn't have the scary stuff that *Signs* did.

David is a security guard at a university. We begin this well-produced flick with the character on a train returning home. He strikes us as a cad when he removes his wedding band to talk with a pretty lady. But later

as the film progresses we see there are other reasons behind this move and maybe he's not that much of a cad. His marriage to Robin Wright Penn's character, Audrey, isn't doing too well.

Oddly, he is soon to be the only survivor on the train after it crashes. He not only survives, but also walks away with no broken bones or scratches. Doctors, family and the press are momentarily astounded (later, we find out this isn't his only near fatal accident in David's life). Nevertheless, he goes back to his dull life.

The film starts to knock him out of that doldrum when he finds an unsigned card on his car windshield. The card is from an art gallery and has an unusual question, "How many days in your life have you been sick?"

From there on we watch David try to explain his inordinately healthy life to his wife, child and Elijah Prince (played by Samuel L. Jackson) the frail man who runs the art gallery and who left the mysterious card.

Spencer Treat Clark, playing David's son Joseph, adds a brilliant dimension to this film. The child's confusion and irrational behavior over his father's possible identity makes for a spine tingling scene in the kitchen. I won't ruin it and tell you what it is. Simply saying that it works and puts such a spin on the film is enough.

Elijah is a character who humanizes the anti-hero. We see him right from birth. Born with broken bones he goes through teasing, name-calling (Mr. Glass) and endless trips to the hospital. This character clues us in, step by step, to David's greatness. But, when David reveals that he almost drowned as a child it looks as if Elijah's theory is out the window, until Elijah draws the comparison between Superman's kryptonite and David's drowning and we GET IT! "I never said you couldn't be killed," he says one day. Every hero has a flaw somewhere, but every anti-hero has a larger one.

Lovely touches of classic-style comic book art are added to the film in the art gallery. Elijah and his mother add the philosophies that go with the art. She began the philosophies as a way to make Elijah willing to go out into the world when the kids at school were too cruel. They became his lifeline later and set his twisted beliefs in motion.

Most importantly to me, this film has humanized the superhero. We no longer have to watch someone in blue tights or a latex mask to feel that there are true heroes in the world. This made me think. I have an email buddy, a best-selling Canadian author who would probably REALLY identify with the character since she never gets sick either. I asked her why she never gets sick once and she simply said, "because I never think about it." Well...that made me curious. Maybe there are people who are "super human" folks in our world. How come my buddy never gets sick? She's a nice lady with white hair, but she doesn't complain about getting stiff or breaking bones or say, "owww my spleen!"

My question to all of us, "how are YOU super-human?" Surely you are above average in something. What is it?

The *Movie Central* (cable TV) blurb describes this film as "a suspense thriller with "supernatural overtones that revolves around a man who learns something extraordinary about himself after a devastating accident." Talk about a low-key write up! Sheesh! I won't give away the wonderful ending simply because I enjoyed the film so much.

Park yourself for an hour and forty-five minutes and enjoy this well-done PG rated film.

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

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# NATURE NOTES: FROM THE BACKYARD TO THE BIOSPHERE

## WHEN LESS IS MORE: FUN WITH ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT ANALYSIS

BY ZOE DALTON



All the talk in the last few years regarding sustainable development has been great. We as a society have gained some wonderful new principles about ways in which our activities can develop so as not to jeopardize the future of our planet. The WCED's 1987 definition of sustainable development, the one to which most people refer when talking about sustainability, outlines sustainable development as that which "...meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sounds great; who could disagree with the need to leave this planet in good shape for the sake of our kids?

But, as with any principle, the proof of its value is in the pudding. The usefulness of the sustainable development concept is put to the test when we try to create practicable applications from its directives. While concepts alone can be important in influencing our way of thinking, the environmental crisis is such that it has become essential to take real action toward the goal of sustainability.

A key question in environmental circles is this: how can we know when our actions, policy decisions and development activities are "sustainable"? How can one course of action be judged against another with respect to its potential impact on sustainability? Sustainable development is such a broad concept that it may seem impossible for any one set of criteria to be comprehensive enough to effectively guide us toward sustainability.

However, a number of thinkers have developed an amazing tool for doing just that. Known as "Ecological Footprint Analysis," this analytical tool is an effective, user-friendly mechanism that allows one to measure the sustainability of various activities and lifestyle choices. The ecological footprint represents the land area needed to support a given human activity. The analysis takes into account the land area required for meeting our material demands, and for absorption of the waste materials we produce. Ecological footprint analysis represents a unique tool that allows for an evaluation of the relative impact of one choice as compared to another.

Providing a picture of where we stand at present is one of the strengths of ecological footprint analysis. Embarrassingly, Canadians rank second highest in the world in terms of our average footprint, topped only by our American neighbours. A typical Canadian's lifestyle requires 4.3 hectares of land to support his or her daily activities. Roughly the land area of three city blocks, this may not seem that bad. However, given the fact that there are only 1.5 hectares of productive land per person on the earth right now, only 0.25 of which are arable, our ecological overshoot becomes clear. There's an interesting mathematical twist to all of this: in order to support all six billion people at the same level of consumption and waste disposal as Canadians, we would need three planets. Any extra Earths on the market?

OK, I know the ecological footprint idea may be getting some of you down. This is just another means of making us all feel guilty, right? Well, the great thing about ecological footprint analysis is that it isn't just a camera illuminating the present situation. It is also a powerful tool for directing us along a path toward

sustainability. Therefore, it is unique as an environmental concept in that it inspires rather than drains; it gives concrete ideas for improvement rather than just leaving us all feeling guilt-ridden.

Everyone should calculate his or her own ecological footprint, for fun and as an informative exercise. Don't worry – there's no math involved. You just input the variables on the website listed below and *voila*: your ecological footprint value appears! Be prepared for a surprise: I thought I was *so* environmentally conscious, and was shocked when my footprint turned out to be so high. But sometimes embarrassment is a good spur to action. And the best part is, you can plug in alternative values to see what actions will lower your footprint the most. Hmmm, hang my laundry once in a while rather than put it in the dryer...? Walk or ride my bike to work or to a friend's house – at least once a week...? The exercise of testing out alternatives is fun and gives you the feeling that yes, simple choices can strongly influence the level of impact we have on the environment. Ecological footprint analysis is a simple tool that highlights where we are at in terms of our impact on the planet, and what measures we can take to ensure that we will have a great legacy to hand on to our kids, their kids, their kids, and theirs...

For more information on ecological footprint analysis, check out the following website: [www.rprogress.org](http://www.rprogress.org) (the site was created by a great organization called *Redefining Progress*). Navigate through to the online footprint quiz for some analytical fun. For those of you who'd like to delve in a little further, try getting your hands on *Our Ecological Footprint* by M. Wackernagel and W. Rees (1996). It's a great read.

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*Zoe Dalton is a graduate of York University's environmental science program, and is currently enjoying working towards a Master of Arts in Integrated Studies with Athabasca U. She can be reached for comments or questions at [zoed@eudoramail.com](mailto:zoed@eudoramail.com).*

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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**

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CORNER

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**BY ZIL-E-HUMA LODHI**



Environmental health is an issue of considerable concern to everyone these days. The nightly news is filled with stories of environmental disasters and warnings from scientists about the risks of pollution to our air, land and water. In political elections, the environment has become a significant topic on which each candidate is expected to comment. Nevertheless, many people still don't know as much about the issue as they need to, and many of the terms used in environmental discussions may not be clearly understood. Below is an exploration of many of these terms, and some of the effects that environmental pollution can have on human health.

### POLLUTION: WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

Our atmosphere is made up of 78% nitrogen, 20% oxygen and a mixture of gases which includes carbon-dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone. These gases are present in the atmosphere naturally and produce what is called the greenhouse effect, which helps to keep the earth's temperature optimal for the existence of life. Due to recent increases human activity, however, levels of these gases have increased considerably, causing more of the sun's energy to reflect back to earth and hence resulting in Global Warming.

There is difference between global warming and climate change. Climate is the average weather of a particular location whereas global warming is a change in the overall climate of the earth. Global warming can raise global temperatures but effects may vary from region to region and in different parts of world. It can cause lower water levels in lakes creating drought conditions, but it can also cause extreme flooding for the 50% of the world's population who live along ocean coastlines, in areas like Bangladesh [[Environment Canada](#)].

### POLLUTION IS MAINLY CAUSED BY THE FOLLOWING:

- Toxic contaminants;
- Green house gases;
- Persistent organic pollutants;
- Mercury;
- Ozone.

### AIR POLLUTION:

We need clean air to live healthy lives. When air becomes polluted, people become sick and health care costs rise. In fact, the Ontario Medical Association says that toxic pollutants in the air cost Ontario \$1 billion alone each year for "hospital admissions, emergency room visits and absenteeism."

According to the [Toronto Public Health department](#) "Air pollution causes hundreds of premature deaths a year and numerous health related problems."

## EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION:

**Smog:** Smog is a combination of air pollutants. It is mainly composed of ground level ozone and fine air-borne particles. It looks like a haze in the air and can make people susceptible to heart and lung diseases.

**Acid Rain:** Acid rain forms when carbon-dioxide and chlorine gas react with the moisture in the atmosphere. It is called acid rain due to its pH level of below 5. During the burning process of fossil fuels, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides release as air pollutants. These pollutants also contribute to the formation of acid rain. Acid rain effects soil, water, plants, forests, and human beings. “The more acidic a lake becomes, the fewer species it can support” [[Environment Canada](#)]. Sulphate particles in acid rain are also bad for human lungs.

**Ground-level Ozone:** This is a colourless, irritating gas which forms when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react together. About 95% of nitrogen oxides are produced by the following human activities [[Environment Canada: Clean Air](#)]:

- Burning of coal
- Gas and oil use in motor vehicles
- Gasoline combustion
- Evaporation of solvents

Ozone not only affects human health, it can damage vegetation and decrease the productivity of some crops.

## WATER POLLUTION

We are surrounded by water in oceans, lakes, seas and other forms, which covers 75% of the earth's surface. We use water in our daily life activities ranging from drinking and irrigating crops to filling pools and washing our cars. Today our water reserves (drinking water, ground and surface water and wetlands) face several threats in the form of ocean dumping, marine discharge, and vessel discharges.

### Drinking Water - How Do We Measure Water Quality?

Drinking Water Quality is defined by taste, clarity, odour and other properties such as the absence of harmful and hazardous materials. To identify the substances in water there are different instruments used such as a plasma emission spectrometer (to detect metals) and gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer (to analyze the presence of pesticides and other organic compounds).

### Surface And Groundwater Quality

“The eventual quality of the ground water depends on temperature and pressure conditions [and] on the kinds of rock and soil formations through which the water flows” ([Environment Canada: Groundwater](#)). Hardness, salinity and pH (a measure of acidity or alkalinity) are the factors that determine the possible future uses of water. Ground water is naturally filtered. This filtering happens when it flows through an aquifer, and it ensures that this water is free from disease causing micro-organisms. Ground water usually contains less suspended and undissolved solids compared to surface water.

## WATER POLLUTION THREATS:

**Oil spills:** Oil spills kill not only marine life but can also destroy water desalination plants. There are laws which require that any discharge of a pollutant from a municipal or industrial facility must be covered by a permit of pollutant discharge elimination systems. Vessel discharges from recreational, military and commercial fleets destroy coastal and ocean ecosystems.

**Poor management of existing water resources :** Overuse of water resources can shrink the water supply as is already happening in the Aral and North seas. We can stop this shrinkage by protecting and enhancing the quality of the water resources and promoting the wise and efficient management and use of water

**Toxic substances in the food chain:** Toxic substances from industries, agriculture and domestic use are the major contributors of water pollutants. Major pollutants are PCBs, mercury, petroleum and pesticides. Excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous come from sewage and farm run-offs , and sedimentation of some of these elements can also cause a breakdown in the food chain by killing fish.

**Sedimentation :** Human activities like forestry, farming and construction lead to the excess depositing of solid particles in water, which kills aquatic life forms.

## HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE OVERALL HEALTH OF OUR ENVIROMENT:

**Prevention:** It took years to contaminate our world, now it will take time and effort to clean up the mess. Prevention will not occur in a day but we surely can contribute something every day to accelerate this process. We can start working toward prevention by looking at factors causing pollution and then find ways to minimize the use of those factors by substituting less toxic items or by completely eliminating them.

### GOVERNMENT EFFORTS:

**Kyoto Protocol:** According to David Suzuki, “*The Kyoto Protocol is the only international agreement that sets targets to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change.*”

In December 2002, the Government of Canada ratified the Kyoto Protocol on Global Warming, which is another step toward a cleaner and safer environment. There are other laws which enforce environmental controls, such as:

**The Canadian Environmental Protection Act Part 10 Enforcement (Sections 216-312)**, which “authorises enforcement officers to issue environmental protection compliance orders on the spot to stop illegal activity and to correct violations.”

And there are also initiatives which encourage voluntary pollution reduction, such as Environment Canada’s Pollution Prevention (P2) program. Below are some examples of how the Material and Feedstock Substitution program can be put into effect to reduce environmental harm:

Pollutant	Industry	Prevention
Toxic chemical (such as methylene chloride)	Automotive	Use a non-toxic substitute
Mercury	Manufacturing	Reformulation (mercury removed from thermostats)
Spills and leaks	Shipping industry	Using leak detection equipment.
Paper consumption and energy used in manufacturing paper	Paper and Energy industry	Recycling of paper.
Wasted raw-material	All industries	By using inventory management we can reduce waste.
Gas emissions from old cars	Automotive	By keeping good maintenance or by using hybrid cars we can reduce gas emissions.
Noise pollution	Automotive	Bylaws are in effect which prohibit the use of unnecessary horns.



**Benefits of Pollution Prevention:** Pollution prevention is not only a government responsibility. We should all work together toward our safe and healthy futures. Here are the some benefits we can achieve collectively - not only for us but for our future generations:

- By avoiding or minimizing the use of pollutants will contribute toward a safe and healthy environment.
- Our collective efforts directed towards the elimination of pollutants will stop transferring them from one place to another.
- Promotion of pollution prevention technologies at every stage of life ensures the acceleration of not only clean-ups but also minimizing their use also.
- Energy, raw materials and natural resources must be used with high efficiency, which means that future costly clean-ups of oil spills and hazardous gases leakage will be less.

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**Information on environmental health adapted from:**

**Environment Canada: Great Art for Great Lakes**

<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/community/classroom/c4-global-warming-e.html>

**Environment Canada: Clean Air**

[http://www.ec.gc.ca/air/smog\\_e.html#ozone](http://www.ec.gc.ca/air/smog_e.html#ozone)

**Environment Canada: Water quality**

[http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/manage/qual/e\\_qual.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/manage/qual/e_qual.htm)

**Toronto Public Health Department - cited on Environment Canada:**

[http://www.ec.gc.ca/air/introduction\\_e.html](http://www.ec.gc.ca/air/introduction_e.html)

**David Suzuki Organization: Climate Change**

[http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate\\_Change/Kyoto/](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/Kyoto/)

**The Canadian Environmental Protection Act Part 10 Enforcement (Sections 216-312)**

<http://www3.ec.gc.ca/EnviroRegs/Eng/SearchDetail.cfm?intAct=1001>

**P2 Material and feedstock substitution:**

[http://www.ec.gc.ca/NOPP/P2TUT/en/opportunities/index\\_e.html](http://www.ec.gc.ca/NOPP/P2TUT/en/opportunities/index_e.html)



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**Dear Sandra,**

**For the past two months I have been corresponding in chat rooms, emails and telephone conversations with “Jim”. I met him in a chat room for people suffering from depression. We have so much in common and we are both in our early 20’s. He sent me a picture and I sent him one. He is very handsome and said that I looked like an angel. He now wants me to meet him in his hometown, Toronto. I am from Moose Jaw, SK. I have enough for a plane ticket, but not enough for a hotel so Jim has offered to let me stay at his place and pay for my plane ticket back. I really love “Jim” but am very afraid to meet him. Should I forget about the fear and dive in or should I not go?**

**In love, but afraid.**

**Dear In Love,**

Though I admit relationships initiated over the Internet have worked out before, your situation sounds very dangerous. I’m sure you’ve heard of internet relationships gone bad, where people portray themselves as older, younger, saner or even as a different gender.

First of all, you met him in a chat room for depressed people where predators know that there are going to be vulnerable lonely people. You have exchanged pictures, but you have no guarantee that is what he looks like. He could be a 600 lb pervert with extremely bad hygiene for all you know.

I firmly believe that though you can connect emotionally with someone through writing and telephone conversations, true love cannot develop unless you have met face to face. Your love is probably only infatuation and this man is possibly taking advantage of you.

As for traveling half way across the country to meet a strange man, stay in his home and rely on his money to pay for your way back, that is a very risky situation. If it were me, I’d rather engage in some other high-risk behaviour like skydiving. If you feel that you must meet this man, maybe you could try corresponding through videotapes first, seeing that his voice matches his photo that he sent you.

When you do meet, meet on neutral ground in a café or mall where you will not be alone together. If you cannot afford to get yourself there and back and he is willing to pay one way, have him pay the way there. This way you have the resources to get home if need be. Do not stay in his house. A night in a motel or even a hostel is worth avoiding who knows what if you stay at his house.

It all boils down to going with your gut. If you are afraid, wait until you feel more comfortable with him. It has only been two months and if he’s the real thing he’ll understand your apprehensions. If he’s not he’ll just move onto his next victim.

Good luck and if you do decide to meet him please keep your guard up and take my advice about meeting in a public place, staying in a motel/hostel and being able to afford to get home on your own.

*Sandra*

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

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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](mailto:smoore@ausu.org)*

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## Voice Fiction

**Send us your short stories, poems, plays or creative essays. All types of creative writing are wanted for the new Voice Student Fiction column.**

**Write [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for more information.**



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

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

Here's a sampling of benefits of belonging to a grad students' association:

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

#### For more information contact:

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

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# CANADIAN FED WATCH!

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## NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

*By Karl Low*



### Foreign Affairs and You

One of the most controversial issues being talked about today is of course the United States' insistence upon waging war in Iraq. The Government of Canada has been criticized for its lack of stance and for fence-sitting on the issue.

The United States and Canada have also been butting heads on international trade, specifically on softwood lumber and the duties imposed by the U.S.A. Some people feel that Canada is letting itself be pushed around too easily by the U.S., while others feel that this is what we get for relying on the United States for the majority of our international trade.

Now the Government is trying to get your opinions and views on these matters, as well as on what role Canada should play in the future on the global stage. The department of foreign affairs and international trade has set up a web-site where ordinary Canadians can go and get involved in a discussion about Canada's international actions, and what we should aim for in the future.

You can find the site at <http://www.foreign-policy-dialogue.ca/en/welcome/index.html> and read the discussion paper put forth by the minister of foreign affairs, as well as make your ideas and comments known. If you have been looking for a way to tell the government exactly what you feel about recent foreign affairs decisions, this looks to be the place to do exactly that.

### A Billion Dollars Extra

What do you do if you happen to raise a billion dollars more than you planned for? Well, if you're the Alberta government, you split it between paying your debt, and pocketing it.

The provincial government had expected to be getting about eight hundred million more dollars this year than it spent, however, because oil revenues are (again) more than they budgeted for, it seems they have an extra billion dollar surplus on top of their eight hundred million dollar surplus.

So what do they plan to do with this 1.8 billion dollar surplus? To start, \$900 million will go into a new Capital fund. Basically to roads and other needed infrastructure. Of course, most of that \$900 million had actually already been expected - the \$800 million surplus that the government originally intended. Which leaves the unplanned for billion dollars. Half of that is being cut off the top and put directly into the Alberta debt. The remainder is going to be going into the government's "sustainability" fund. This is the fund the government is setting up so that they no longer have to worry about oil prices dropping.

Here's the problem with these ideas. The Alberta schedule for paying down the debt is already ten years ahead of the legislated schedule. Yet it was not that long ago that the government was crying that there was no money to pay for teacher's needed salary increases, that we were getting too little from the federal government for



health care, and that enough had already been invested in post-secondary education, even though the U of C is being forced to cut \$30 million dollars from its budget to stay in the black.

As to the sustainability fund, think back to the last time that you can recall the government actually going a full year where oil prices were below what they had projected. One credit I will give to the current Alberta Government is that however they determine their numbers for oil and natural gas prices, they seem to have a solid track record of underestimating what the revenues will be – thus ensuring that there is no shortfall. Even in the last quarter of the budget when you heard the government declaring that there was no extra money due to low oil prices, even then they still had a cushion of almost 200 million dollars, and that's after accounting for the extra 400 million dollars of expenses that they had not budgeted for.

In short, this sustainability fund is really just a way for the government to pocket extra money that they happen to tax from Albertans, rather than investing it in programs that have a real chance of ensuring sustainability, such as scholarships and grants for needy students. If the government says it wants to get off the “oil roller-coaster”, why is it trying to set up a cushion for when the roller coaster travels down? Instead, use the money to educate the citizens and diversify the economy – diversification is the only real way off of the ride.

Of course, the truth is that the government likes being dependant on oil prices. It makes for a convenient excuse when it doesn't want to give money, and a convenient excuse come election time when it does.

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

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**WRITE FOR THE VOICE!**

Contact The Voice editor at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for details on writing for The Voice. Provide a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.





## 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 19<sup>th</sup> edition of The Voice [v11 i08].

After the last instalment we will begin running a piece of student fiction each week, so start sending in your submissions. Any form of creative writing is acceptable, including short stories and poems.

*By Carla Johnson*

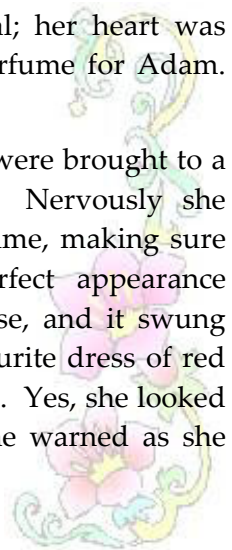
### Part three ...

*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"...*

While she showered, her thoughts turned to Adam and his present role in her life. Again she reminded herself that he was not now, nor ever would be again, a part of her. Even if he were not married to Vicki, his betrayal still loomed large in her mind. She could never trust him. But oh! her treacherous heart fought. All the time her head was telling her to be rational; her heart was dressing for Adam. Putting on perfume for Adam. Doing her hair the way Adam liked.

The turmoil in her heart and mind were brought to a halt by the knock on her door. Nervously she glanced in the mirror yet another time, making sure she would present the most perfect appearance possible. She had let her hair loose, and it swung shining to her shoulders. Her favourite dress of red silk swirled around her svelte figure. Yes, she looked her best. "Now, be still, heart!" she warned as she opened the door.



Her breath caught in her throat as she looked at Adam. How handsome he was in his cream suit! How black and shiny his hair was - making her fingers itch to caress it! "Oh Adam", she thought. "You were mine. How could you have left me?"

His eyes caressed her as he walked with her to his car. With a gasp she recognized his old white '59 Cadillac. Seven years ago it had been his pride and joy, although aged and battered. Now it sat, gleaming and new, completely restored to its original splendour.

"I finally found enough money to do my baby justice." He explained proudly. Although Laura flinched at the use of the word "baby", she couldn't suppress a sigh of pleasure as he opened the door for her and she once again slid into the luxury of white leather, now perfect and new once more. "I only use it on special occasions", he added.

"Yes", she thought, "Special occasions indeed." It had been a special occasion when he had picked her up to take her to her Grade 12 graduation. She had arrived in style in his Cadillac, secure in his love for her, celebrating that milestone of life. And later, much later, they had parked at the edge of the river. The moon was a golden reflection in the rear-view mirror as they had leaned into the cracked white leather and held each other as if they would never let go. They had made plans that night and the future shone brightly as the moon.

"As Juliet's inconstant moon!" Laura now thought in scorn. What a fool she had been. Still, the smooth luxury and rich scent of old leather swept her nostalgically into a bemused state.

"Adam, I love it." She stated. "I always loved this car. Now it's like everything is renewed. The queen has been given a second chance."

"Everyone deserves a second chance." He stated abruptly, putting the car into gear and leaving her to regret her choice of words.

Feeling the purr of the Cadillac's motor beneath her, Laura was again swept into the past. How many times had they cruised downtown on a Saturday night, enjoying the attention only a car like this could command? How many times had they washed and

waxed their "baby" together, splashing each other, laughing as they worked, until the Caddy shone like glass?

She glanced sideways at Adam, recalling all the times they had driven around with Laura cuddled close to him on the wide seat, like the "two-headed driver" they always laughed about. But suddenly the warm glow of her remembrance was chilled by the thought of Vicki. Had she sat close to Adam on this wide white leather seat? How often had they cruised Jasper Avenue together, revelling in the envious stares of other drivers?

As if aware of her thoughts, Adam spoke, "You are the only one who ever appreciated this car. Vicki thinks it beneath her dignity to ride in anything more than a year old. If . . ." he corrected himself, "when . . . we go out together, it's in her Mercedes, or one of the new Cadillacs her father keeps in our garage."

The mention of Vicki hurt deeply, yet Laura knew that she must become accustomed to not only hearing the name, but discussing it impersonally.

Their destination appeared to be an old house, but turned out to be an exclusive French restaurant. The main floor rooms had been converted into exclusive small eating areas; the one Adam led her to only contained two other tables which were presently empty. Her glance strayed to stairs leading upward, and Adam explained,

"This restaurant also offers several upstairs rooms available for overnight rental for special occasions."

There was that term again, 'special occasions'. Surely this WAS a special occasion. Laura felt her cheeks fill with warmth as she speculated on those upstairs rooms. Oh to be with Adam alone again in such a romantic environment! With a rush she realized that, in spite of seven years separation, and in spite of everything Adam had done to her, her feelings towards him had not changed. Her love was still as strong and true as it had been when she was a tender, innocent teenager.

The shock of realization hit her and she glanced up into Adam's eyes. Could he still read her thoughts? The hunger she saw there frightened her. It wasn't possible that Adam felt what she did. If his love had

been as strong and true as hers, they would have been together always until now. They would have their daughter, their family would be united, no shadows, no nightmares.

The rest of the evening passed by all too quickly. The food was exquisite, as was the environment. But nothing surpassed the company. It was Laura and Adam. Lovers true and honest. They talked of nothing, yet they talked of everything. By the time coffee arrived, Laura felt dazed. She no longer had another life beyond Adam.

"Laura," he spoke warmly, "It means so much to have you here." Perhaps the wine had made him bold. "I . . . I'd like you to know... that I've never stopped loving you. I looked for you. Oh, Laura, you are the only one I've ever wanted or loved."

Laura wasn't sure if she was hearing right. After all, the last time they had been together this way, he had proposed that she become his mistress while Vicki retained the position of wife. "Adam" she spoke gently, "you have a wife. You made a choice seven years ago, and now . . . there is no future for us. I can't say . . .", at this she paused, "that I don't feel the right things. What I felt for you seven years ago has not changed. But", she added, "time and unforeseen circumstance befalls us all. We make our choices and then live with them. Sometimes it hurts." she added, as he flinched with the cruelty of her words, "but . . ." her voice faltered, "that's the way it is."

His eyes were shadowed and there was pain in his voice. "Laura," he whispered, "Let's forget the past. Let's make a new future. Me and you. And our daughter when we find her." He paused and grasped for words. "We've both paid a heavy price. Can't we let the past go and make a new beginning?" The hope in his voice was almost her undoing.

"No, Adam." She forced harshness into her voice. "It's over. It was over a long time ago. But if . . ." she corrected herself, "when . . . we find our daughter, I hope to share her with you, if that proves to be possible."

Adam made as if to speak again, but stopped. After some minutes, he signaled the waiter and they left the restaurant, silence unbroken. Later that night Laura was to reflect on that silence and wonder if it meant

something beyond the words she and Adam had spoken thus far.

As they cruised home in the Caddy, both were lost in thought and feelings. Then Adam sped off and Laura was left unceremoniously at her motel, with only memories of fond good-night kisses to sustain her. She forced herself to focus on their daughter. "You are only here for one purpose. Don't let him get to you again". Warning bells sounded in her brain and in her heart, but to no avail. Adam had once again spun his magic. Laura was his victim, helpless to run away from the remembered desire of youth and the new reality of mature love.

To cope, Laura immersed herself in her work. After several days, Aaron managed to corner her. "Laura - have you been deliberately avoiding me?" His teasing tone seemed to mask some deeper emotion. "I've wanted to ask you out again, but whenever I phone you aren't in. Are you free for dinner and a movie tonight?" His tone was so hopeful, his smile so charming, that Laura didn't have the heart to turn him down, and so she reluctantly agreed.

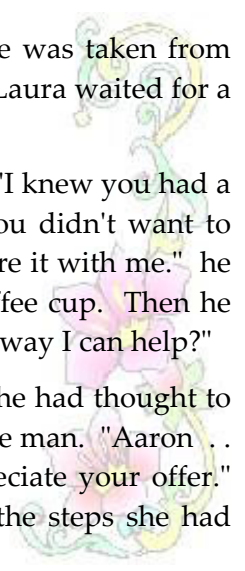
Aaron again proved to be good company. "I could really get to like this guy." Laura thought to herself. Still she stayed conscious of her need to somehow use him as a source of information. Somewhere between dessert and coffee she decided to take the plunge.

"Aaron . . ." she began uncertainly, "I . . . haven't told you everything about myself." She noted the sudden flash of worry in his eyes. Perhaps he was expecting some bizarre revelation; Something that would change his opinion of her forever.

"I had a baby many years ago. She was taken from me. I'm here now to look for her." Laura waited for a reaction.

The relief in his face was palpable. "I knew you had a secret of some kind. Something you didn't want to tell. I'm glad you've decided to share it with me." he paused, playing with his empty coffee cup. Then he looked directly at her. "Is there any way I can help?"

Laura felt suddenly ashamed that she had thought to take advantage of this kind, sensitive man. "Aaron . . . I'm not sure right now, but I appreciate your offer." She then proceeded to explain all the steps she had



taken up until now in her search, leaving out any personal reference to Adam, simply stating, "A friend here in Edmonton is making inquiries as well". A great weight seemed to lift off her, and they were talking as old friends. Possibilities and ideas flew between them, and they talked for hours, drinking coffee. When they became conscious of the fact that they were the only ones left in the restaurant, they both looked guiltily at the waitress tactfully hovering by, obviously waiting for them to leave. Laura glanced at Aaron as he paid the bill, and a twinkle of unspoken humour passed between them. Again Laura was assailed by a feeling of guilt. Was she using Aaron? He had offered his help. Surely that absolved her. But she couldn't deny that niggling feeling - knowing Aaron was interested in her personally, knowing she couldn't return the interest. Again she hardened herself. "Stop being sentimental." She thought. "Finding your daughter is all that matters."

A warm camaraderie filled the car as Aaron drove her home. They were now allies. As they turned down 101st Avenue, minutes from home, he said, "I think maybe there might be some information I can access at the hospital. Leave it with me for a couple of days, and I'll see what I can do." Before Laura could express her gratitude, he added, "Don't get your hopes up, there may be nothing, and I may not be able to find it even if it is there. But I'll do all I can." With those reassuring words, he stopped the car in front of her hotel. Laura reached for the door handle, thanking him sincerely for a lovely evening. As she turned to him, he reached over and gave her a brotherly hug, as if realizing that any closer contact would be unwelcome.

"It will be O.K. Laura, I feel it inside. Trust Doctor Grant", he added flippantly. With a smile on her face she escaped the car, waving to him as she inserted her key in the lock.

"He really is a nice man", she thought to herself. "If only . ." but she didn't want to admit that something was still holding her back from loving again - something called "Adam". She did feel heartened, however, having confided in Aaron. Even if he couldn't help her, it was nice to have finally shared her burden with someone else; someone who had no

vested interest in the whole situation. Laura sighed as she got ready for bed. "Sometimes things seem so close!" She thought ruefully.

On Saturday she went grocery shopping. She was looking over the fruit, choosing the nicest apples; when she became aware of someone beside her. She moved over a little to make room for the intruder to find space, and glanced at her. To her surprise, she recognized Melanie, the little girl she had met in the park.

"Hi Melanie!" she exclaimed. The little girl looked up at her, and her face lit up with momentary pleasure.

"I know you!" she exclaimed, "I saw you in the park."

"Yes, we swung together. How have you been? Are you picking apples?" Laura added.

"Yes, my grandma asked me to choose some good ones. She taught me how to pick the nicest ones."

"Your grandma is very smart to teach you things like that," Laura smiled. Melanie really was a very pretty child, in spite of her seriousness. "So have you been to the park lately?" she added, in an attempt to make light conversation.

"Well", Melanie said, "I like to go every day, but right now everything is kind of upset in the house I live in, so my grandma makes me stay home most of the time. But tomorrow, Adam promised me he would take me to the zoo, and I can hardly wait!"

Something clutched at Laura's heart. "Adam . . ?" She said quietly. "Is that your dad's name?"

"Oh no", Melanie answered quickly. "Adam is . . .", she was suddenly stopped by a tall, grey-haired lady who had come beside them unawares.

"Melanie", she admonished, "You know better than to be bothering strangers. Let's go." Her tone seemed unusually harsh.

"But grandma . . I was just . . ." The little girl's protests were cut off as her grandma grabbed her arm roughly.

"I said let's go." The woman spoke quietly but sharply.

"It's O.K.", Laura tried to mollify the grandmother. "I met Melanie at the park. I was enjoying talking to





her." At Laura's words, the grandmother looked up into her eyes. Laura shrank back at the malevolence of that look. What had she done to merit such animosity? But before she could speak again, Melanie's grandmother had grabbed her and quickly walked towards the checkouts.

Melanie turned back once and gave a little wave, as if to say, "Don't mind my grandma, I still like you!"

Laura finished her shopping with a sense of disquiet. Why had Melanie's grandmother been so hostile? Why had the name "Adam" come up in their conversation? What strange coincidences!

Later that evening, as Laura was preparing her lonely supper, the phone rang. It was Aaron. "Laura!" his voice was excited, "I've found out some things that I think might fit! Can we get together?"

Laura could not contain her excitement. "Aaron! Tell me! Don't make me wait!" Her heart swelled in anticipation. A breakthrough at last?

"No, Laura, I've got to show you what I found. Are you free right now?"

Of course she was. "Alright. You win. Come over Aaron, and tell me in person." She resigned herself to having to wait. "Have you had supper? If not, I'm just making mine. You're welcome to join me."

"Supper sounds great. I'll be there in about 15 minutes", and they terminated the conversation in order to hurry his arrival.

Laura rushed about trying to stretch her supper to feed two; fortunately she had stocked up at Safeway. All too soon it seemed (where was her sense of urgency?) his knock sounded at the door.

Aaron refused to enlighten her until they had eaten supper and shared the bottle of wine he had brought. Finally, relaxed and replete, they sat on the hard motel sofa and faced each other.

"Tell me, tell me Aaron! I've waited long enough. What have you found?" she demanded. In answer he pulled a white paper from his jacket pocket. He held it towards her. It was a photocopy of a standard form of some kind. The title on the top read, "Record of Adoption of a Minor Child Within the Province of Alberta". As Laura scanned the information in front

of her, she gathered that this was a record of the adoption of a child born on April 7, 1987; in Vancouver, Canada. With a cold shock she recognized her name under the "name of mother". "My baby!" she whispered. She quickly and excitedly glanced at the entry under "name of father". It was blank. In fact the rest of the document held no other identifying information whatsoever. Under the heading "name of adoptive parents", the entry was again blank. Laura let go an audible sigh of disappointment.

Aaron seemed to sense what she was thinking. "I know it doesn't seem to give us (she noted the use of "us" and warmed to it) much to go on, but it does confirm that your daughter was brought here to be adopted. At the hospital at which we work, in fact!" he added jubilantly. "If we can find out this much, we can find out more!" he stated confidently.

Laura hesitated, then spoke, "Thank you Aaron. What you have found means a great deal. At least I know for sure I'm on the right track. I have a feeling that my daughter is still here, somewhere, in Edmonton. Thank you for giving me that confidence."

Aaron beamed with pleasure. "I like you, Laura, I like you a lot. It gives me a great deal of happiness to help you and make you happy. I just wish I could find out more for you, but I'll keep looking." His warm words were accompanied by an even warmer look. It was obvious that Aaron wanted more than just a "working relationship" with Laura. How she wished she could give it to him!

Aaron gave her a chaste peck on the lips as he left the motel a little while later. He was so sweet! "Please, God," she prayed, "let me feel something for this dear man. Let me forget Adam. Please wipe him out of my mind!" It was her best chance now. Find her baby, and forget Adam in the arms of another man.

Her search now became heated, confirmation that her daughter had come to Edmonton seemed to give her new impetus. After some days, she heard from Adam. "Laura," he stated without preamble, "I have information from Vancouver. Apparently your", he abruptly corrected himself, "our daughter, was



adopted by a single woman. All I can confirm so far is that she was living in Edmonton at the time."

"I already know that she lived here, Adam."

Laura proceeded to explain about the adoption certificate that she had seen, leaving out details about who had given her the document. Adam seemed irritated that she hadn't shared this information with him. But after all, he hadn't called in more than a week! Laura stated as much,

"Well, you hadn't called, and I don't like to call you. But", she added, ashamed suddenly - after all, it was his daughter too, "I should have told you. We did agree to always compare notes." She didn't add that Aaron's involvement had complicated things somewhat for her. Adam had no right to be jealous anyway.

"Laura . . .," there was a sudden break in his voice. "I'd like to see you..."

**Read The Voice next week for part four of *Forgotten Promise*.  
For submissions for the upcoming Voice student fiction column, contact  
[voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org).**

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*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.*

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th is International Women's Day. In Canada it will be marked by events across the country, including:

### OTTAWA

**Date of activity:** Thursday, March 6, 2003 - Start: 6:00 p.m. End: 10:00 p.m.  
**Title/Type of activity:** *International Women's Week Celebration Dinner*  
**Organization:** Algonquin College - 1385 Woodroffe Avenue, Cafeteria, Building D, Salons A and B  
**Participation fees:** \$20 to Algonquin staff and public, \$10 Algonquin students  
**Other details:** Carol Anne Meehan from CJOH News will be the guest speaker. The topic of the evening will be *Balancing Work and Family*. Tickets can be bought at the Algonquin College First Class Bookstore.  
**Contact person(s):** Leah Cameron (613) 727-4723 ext. 5220; Fax: (613) 727-7785;  
E-mail: [camerol@algonquincollege.com](mailto:camerol@algonquincollege.com); Web: [www.algonquincollege.com/alumni/new.htm](http://www.algonquincollege.com/alumni/new.htm)

### VICTORIA

**Date of activity:** Saturday, March 8, 2003 - Start: 9:30 a.m. End: 4:00 p.m.  
**Title/Type of activity:** *Raising the Flag: Why Study Canada?*  
**Organization:** Division of Continuous Studies - University of Victoria  
**Location of activity:** Centre for Innovative Teaching, Room 105, University of Victoria Campus  
**Open to:** Adults only  
**Registration?** Yes - No charge (free)  
**Other details:** With the help of some distinguished Canadian writers, researchers, journalists and academics, Canada and its history will be examined through the eyes of its chronicles. Discussions, readings and presentations will be held throughout the day, with a special focus on the voices of Canadian and First Nations women, in honour of *International Women's Day*. Author, poet, activist and professor of Canadian Culture at Western Washington University, Lee Maracle will be the key note speaker.  
**Contact person(s):** Manuela Bizzotto or Elizabeth Brown; Telephone: (250) 721-6477; Fax: (250) 721-8774  
E-mail: [mbizzotto@uvcs.unc.ca](mailto:mbizzotto@uvcs.unc.ca) (Manuela Bizzotto); [ebowman@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:ebowman@uvcs.uvic.ca) (Elizabeth Brown)

### CALGARY

**Date of activity:** Saturday, March 8, 2003 - Start: 5:30 p.m. - End: 9:00 p.m.  
**Title/Type of activity:** Peace Rally and Potluck Dinner  
**Organization:** The Women's Centre of Calgary; Calgary Women and Global Action; Women's Committee; and Calgary District Labour Council  
**Location of activity:** Carpenter's Hall, 301 - 10 Street NW  
**Other details:** The Peace Rally will be held between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. outside of Carpenter's Hall. The potluck dinner and entertainment will follow at 6:00 p.m.  
**Contact person(s):** The Women's Centre of Calgary 403.264.1155; Fax: 403.264.1203;  
E-mail: [womens-centre@shaw.ca](mailto:womens-centre@shaw.ca); Web: [www.womens-centre.org](http://www.womens-centre.org)

For a complete listing of events taking place across Canada for International Women's Day, refer to the calendar on the Government of Canada website: [http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/iwd/calendar\\_e.html](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/iwd/calendar_e.html)

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PLEDGING TO TAKE MEMORIAL TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

*CFS National Chair speaks out against tuition hike*

*Published: Fri-28-Feb-2003*

**By Lindsay Harding, The Muse**

**ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. (CUP)** -- Three weeks after Memorial University approved a 33 per cent tuition hike for international students, student union leaders say they are solidifying plans to have the decision revisited and overturned.

University spokesperson Peter Morris says they are wasting their time.

The fee increase, approved by the Board of Regents on Feb. 6, affects undergraduate international students at all of Memorial's campuses, except those in the medical faculty.

Memorial Student Union executive member Thom Duggan says the union is planning a second protest against the increase, though they have not yet set a date. The union is encouraging their international student membership to file complaints against the university with the human rights commission.

Duggan says at least one student is expected to meet with investigators from the human rights commission this week.

Morris calls these actions "offensive" and charges that the union is not acting in the best interest of students. He says they should focus on negotiating with university administrators to see extra revenues are spent where they need to be.

"There are any number of things that they could put their energies to that are far more productive than fighting a battle over a decision that's already been made," said Morris. "As to the notion that this is in any way an issue for the human rights commission [that] is, I would say, ridiculous at best and offensive at worst."

But Duggan says the union has been forced to take these actions because of disrespect shown to students by the administration. He charges that the administration has not taken any of the students' concerns seriously.

Duggan specifically mentions an article in the university-published Gazette printed several days before the Regents met and approved the increase. Although most of the story refers to the increases in hypothetical terms, the first sentence reads, "The university has announced that fees for new international students will increase in the coming academic year."

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and Memorial's Graduate Students Union (GSU) have also backed the Student Union's efforts, despite the fact that the increases do not apply to grad students.

"Graduate students, in general, are just opposed to this . . . about one quarter of all grad students are international students . . . they're concerned that their peers are having these high tuition rates put on them," said GSU executive member Heather Smith. "The other thing is that the concern is there that, if it happens at the undergrad level, it'll happen at the grad level next."

CFS National Chair Ian Boyko criticized the Regents' decision to increase the fees.

"You'd think that [Memorial] would need to encourage international students to come to study in Canada . . . it's in fact doing the exact opposite and I think it's just backwards policy," said Boyko.

Peter Morris objects to Boyko's argument, reiterating the university administration's position that they are taking steps to ensure the fee increase does not hamper access to education for low-income international students.

"Our expectation is . . . with scholarships and bursaries we'll actually increase the numbers of international students we'll be able to attract," he said. "Even with the increases, [international tuition] will still be very inexpensive . . . there's no indication that the cost of this will be any deterrent to students."

However, Boyko calls this line of reasoning "an absurd theory."

"When user fees go up, accessibility goes down, and it doesn't matter if you use a small proportion to go back into student aid. You wouldn't need that increased student aid if you didn't raise tuition fees – I would say it's that simple."

But Morris says the CFS's position is impractical.

"If you're looking for absurd theories, then Mr. Boyko's notion that we should be providing free tuition to students from all over the world – that's obviously the logical conclusion of the opposition he would express to fees . . . that would be ridiculous," he said.

## CANADIAN LABOUR A SHORT HISTORY [PART 11]

***Worker Gains and Changes in the Working Class and Labour Movement 1940-1975 – The War of Women in the Post World War Canadian Labour Force.***

***By Wayne E. Benedict***



During WWII, Canadian industry relied on the contribution of women to wartime production as a result of a shortage of male workers (many of whom were fighting Fascism in Europe or Imperialism in the Pacific). After the war was over, however, Canada's patriarchal society expected women to give up their jobs and return to their places of domestic subjugation, leaving occupational openings for the returning male workforce. Advertising directed at women in Canada's *Maclean's* magazine between 1939-50 evidences societal desires along these lines and the majority of women's compliance with them. Susan Bland (1992) studied the relationship between advertising directed toward different types of women—working women, single women, and housewives—and its relationship to societal expectations. Early in the war, ads depicted war-workers as unmarried women, progressing to married women without

children, and finally to mothers, as the demand for female workers increased. After the war, ads infrequently depicted women as workers and when they did they were shown in the typical female professions, such as clerical work, where women remained in female job ghettos.

During the war, government ads stated such propaganda as “PLEASE DON’T STARE AT MY PANTS. Would you like to know why I wear trousers on the street? Because I’m doing a man’s job for my country’s sake.” By today’s standards, ads directed at women consumers were incredibly condescending and patronizing, many tied the product to society’s patriarchal views such as the ad that stated “‘Keep them happy with the cooking they like’ is my motto and it certainly works well with Michael...that’s why I call my cookbook my ‘guide to Michael’”. Faced with societal condescension such as this at every turn, it is little wonder that women had problems organizing and acting together for their emancipation.

Workingwomen in general were subordinated domestically, societally, politically, and occupationally but non-English speaking immigrant women fared even more poorly.

Southern Italian immigrant workingwomen in Toronto illustrate this fact. These women, while living in Italy, were accustomed to being subordinated, as the southern Italian peasant economy and society was heavily patriarchal. Women worked in their homes, performed agrarian tasks, and sold excess family produce as their contribution to the family economy. Arrival in Canada did not alter their place in the hierarchy of the family unit and the domestic duties were actually increased to include: stretching limited household resources; “replenishing” the male breadwinner of the family; feeding, clothing and raising the children; caring for ill family members; performing daily shopping; serving extra male kin and/or elderly parents/in-laws who resided in the home; performing housework; and administering household financial management. And as if this were not enough, many would take on extra paid chores such as keeping borders, extra washing, babysitting, etc. If a relative or an older child were available to take on some of this domestic drudgery, the woman would be expected to find paid work outside of the home. This was predominantly semi-skilled or unskilled work in low paying female job ghettos. Franca Iacovetta (1992) believes that southern Italian immigrant women workers did not express an articulated political response to their exploitation in the 1950s and 60s because of barriers of language and ethnicity between women and their workplaces, their low status as cheap/unskilled labour, their isolation as domestic workers, and their suspicion of union organizers. They were also concentrated in industries characterized by unskilled labour with high turnovers, making them very difficult to organize. While the legislated legitimization of labour did little to alleviate gender division, it did eventually lessen ethnic discrimination in the Canadian workplace.

*Next Week: A look at the struggle of the African American and Canadian Worker for Equality in the Canadian Labour Force.*

## References:

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Iacovetta, F. (1992). From *Contadina* to Worker: Southern Italian Immigrant Working Women in Toronto, 1947-1962. In L. S. MacDowell & I. Radforth (eds.), *Canadian working class history: selected readings* (693-712) Toronto Ontario: Canadian Scholars’ Press.

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*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.*

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**By Sandra Moore**

The transition from renter to homeowner is likely the biggest investment you will ever make. It is frightening to know that you will now be responsible for a home. As a renter, if the basement wall fell in or the furnace went, it was the landlord's problem not yours. As a renter you just paid your rent every month, but as a homeowner you'll be responsible for deciphering mortgage terms and paying property taxes.

It is essential to do your homework before buying a house, keeping in mind that it is not a simple proposition. Numerous questions are to be answered in order to make the whole process come to life. Not only do you need to consider your budget, lifestyle and location, you need to look at the many housing and mortgage options. What type of home do you want? Do you have location preferences? What about the mortgage you will need? Do you want it open or closed, long or short term, fixed or variable? The home buying process introduces you to numerous people: real estate agents or homebuilders, mortgage consultants, lawyers, and home inspectors. If it all sounds complicated to you, it is.

The first logical step in buying a home is getting a pre-approved mortgage. You need to qualify for a mortgage. If you do not have good credit, steady reliable employment, and the money for a down payment you may be denied a mortgage. It is a lot easier if you know that your financing is in place before you get your heart set on the house of your dreams.

A pre-approval will also let you know how much house you can afford compared to the debt you currently have. Your mortgage consultant will use the Gross Debt Service Ratio, a process that determines how much you can afford to pay each month toward a mortgage. A conventional mortgage requires a down payment of 25% or more. Anything under a 25% down payment is considered a high ratio mortgage. This type of loan must be insured against default with the federal government through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). You pay a one time insurance premium, ranging from 0.5% to 3.75% depending on the size of the loan and the value of the home. The premium is usually added to the principal amount of the mortgage. It takes an entirely new vocabulary to negotiate the terms of your mortgage: open or closed, long or short term, fixed or variable interest. An experienced mortgage consultant will be able to advise the best options for you. Now, pretty much all that is left to do is to find a house, sign your name to the mortgage forms and prepare for 20-30 years of debt.

Your next step is to begin scouring the market for a house, unless you already have one in mind. Finding a reputable realtor who is eager to devote hours upon hours of their time to finding you a home would be helpful. Talk to family and friends to get a referral since there are usually so many realtors to choose from. Once you decide on a realtor you need to let them know what you are specifically looking for: size, price, location, number of bedrooms, a garage and whatever else you may require. A good realtor will keep you regularly updated on newly listed homes that meet your specifications by providing you with detailed information sheets. If a home comes up that you are interested in viewing the realtor arranges the viewing and tours the home with you. Touring a home with a realtor is a good idea because they can provide you with useful information such as surrounding property values, incentives to buy the home, and if the home is worth the list price. If you are



building your home a realtor will not be necessary, but a very close relationship with the builder will be. Building a home requires you to make every decision alongside the builder from the size of the house to the colour of the carpets. If you decide to buy a house privately there are usually no realtors involved, but it is then necessary to draw up legal papers with a lawyer binding the sale.

The third step in buying a home - putting in an offer - can be the most difficult. Included in the offer are all basic details associated with the sale: names of the buyers and sellers, address of the property, the purchase price, amount of deposit, the closing date, etc. Make sure everything you want included with the sale of the house is listed in the offer. "All attached fixtures" is a good example of being specific with what you list. Otherwise, you could move into a house with no baseboards, plug-in covers, light fixtures or taps on the sink. You should also state in the offer that any appliances included are in good working order as of your possession date. Your offer to purchase will either be firm or conditional. A firm offer means that you will buy the property as outlined in the offer to purchase and that there are no conditions attached. Once the vendor accepts your offer, you are both legally bound to the agreement. A conditional offer means that you will buy the property if certain conditions are met. These conditions have to be significant and have to be listed. Substantial conditions include: securing financing, selling a property or obtaining a satisfactory building inspection. If these conditions are not met the offer becomes null and void. If the building inspection finds only a couple of dripping taps, that will not be enough to withdraw the offer to purchase. If the vendor changes the offer (called a counteroffer), you have a certain amount of time to decide whether to agree to the changes, revise them or withdraw your offer. A deposit is required to confirm your offer, which is then applied to the down payment. Remember to make sure you know what you are buying, and give yourself time to think if this is really the house for you before putting in an offer.

For step number four you will need to acquire a lawyer. You must deliver certain documents and monies to your lawyer. These include: a copy of the accepted offer to purchase and any conditional waivers that have been added, a copy of your homeowner's insurance policy, a survey signed by a qualified land surveyor, the money necessary to cover the balance of your down payment, legal fees, applicable taxes, and adjustment fees for utilities or prepaid property taxes. Some people decide to carry out this step themselves, but for first time homebuyers it is very advisable to use a lawyer as one mistake could cost you your house and any deposit you have put toward it.

Finally, you are handed the keys to your biggest investment ever. Make sure before you move in that you have transferred the utilities into your name and changed your mailing address. Now all that is left to do is move in, unless you need to paint or make repairs to the house. Most young people buying their first home come from small apartments, if this is you, you may need to go and buy furniture or decorative accessories to furnish your home. It would also be a good idea to make sure you have a little extra cash available to pay for anything that might spring up – remember there is no longer a landlord to pay for repairs.

This is your home; you own it! All the mortgage decisions, looking, bartering and signing are over. You can finally relax and enjoy your new home - until the walls fall in and the furnace goes!

**T-Shirts all in the wash?**

**Buy a new one, from AUSU**





## POSTDOCS PICK DALHOUSIE AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD FOR COLLABORATION

*Dalhousie University Press Release*

**February 13, 2003: Halifax** - Dalhousie has placed number one in a survey of best universities for postdoctoral fellows, conducted by *The Scientist* magazine.

Dalhousie took first place for universities outside the United States — and placed #4 overall — in a worldwide survey answered by 2,800 postdocs in the United States, Canada and Europe. Respondents were asked to assess their postdoctoral experience.

*The Scientist* reports that postdoctoral fellows crave collaboration and thrive on one-to-one relationships with principal investigators.

"The Best Places for Postdocs" survey, published in the Feb. 10 issue of *The Scientist*, shows that the top institutions share a culture of collaboration and a commitment to teaching. The highest-ranked universities in the world, according to the survey, are: in the United States — Rutgers, Miami, Princeton — and outside of the U.S. — Dalhousie.

*The Scientist* is a magazine focusing on news and information in the life sciences sector. It is published in the United States and its circulation includes 187,000 researchers, lab directors and scientific industry leaders.

"We are pleased to have placed number one in the survey for institutions outside the United States," says Carl Breckenridge, Dalhousie's Vice-President, Research Services. He points out that Dalhousie has many internationally-recognized researchers and is a relatively small university with strong collegial interactions and moderately-sized research groups. "These characteristics and the commitment of our faculty to the research community make for strong research interactions and mentorship," says Dr. Breckenridge.

For further information, contact: Dr. Carl Breckenridge at (902) 494-6513

Visit <http://www.dal.ca/~research/index.html> to learn more about research at Dalhousie.

## WEB-BASED COURSE PRESENTS WIDE WORLDVIEW

*Mount Royal College News Release*

**February 24, 2003** "It really is a survey course," says Social Work instructor Carolyn Anderson of her Web-based International Community Development course.

As such, she wants her students to learn how to find information and become familiar with the concepts and issues surrounding international community development. But, ideally, survey courses also draw interested students into deeper study of the field, and there seems to be no cause for concern on this score — her students often find themselves so engrossed in the supplementary material that they spend hours online sifting through it.

Anderson began working on the site 18 months ago. After running a pilot program in the spring, the course was offered to students in the Social Work and Disabilities Studies program last fall, and is now offered in the Child and Youth Studies degree program.

Anderson conceived of the project when she realized that many of her students "had such a limited vision of what community is. I wanted to provide a course with a really wide range and big view of the world...so they could see themselves in context," she says. "Then it mushroomed into this huge thing," she adds, a little wryly.

...

Last semester, during a discussion on international human rights, a student told of spending 12 years in a Bosnian refugee camp. Another student revealed that she had been a victim of genital mutilation, and though she strongly disagreed with the practice, said she could understand why it happens. An "interesting" discussion about terrorism drew the account of a life in which terrorism threatened a student's existence every day — only the student was from Afghanistan and the terrorists were American.

"I could feel a chill running through the discussion board as the students digested that," she recalls. "There's a richness in that kind of thing in this online course that you don't get in a classroom." Experience in leading group discussion is important for projects like this, says Anderson, who has worked as a group therapist and has facilitated other sensitive online discussions.

READ MORE:

<http://www.mtroyal.ab.ca/news/view.php?item=000111>

# 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

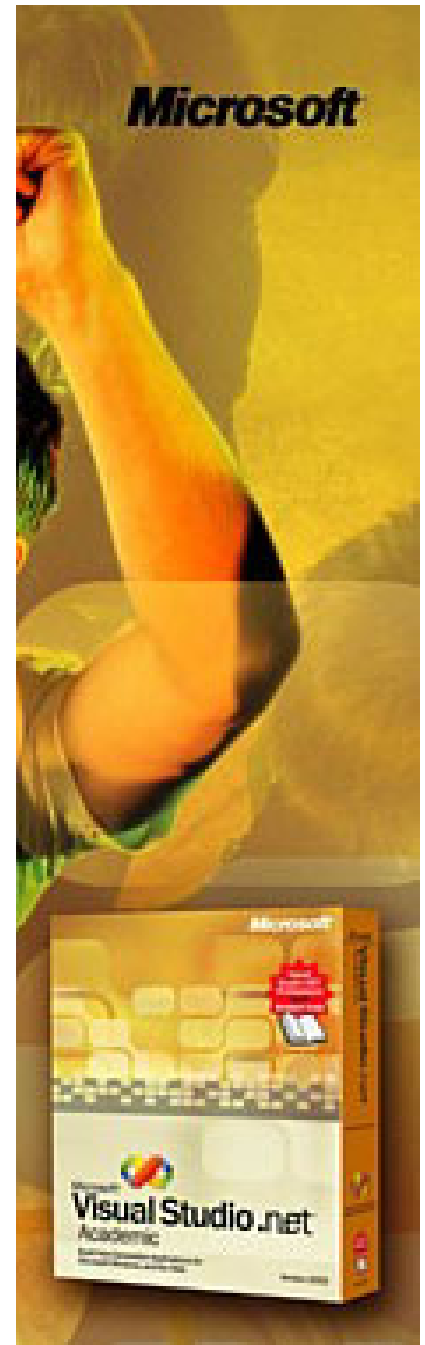
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Registration
4:30 pm – 5:15 pm	.NET Overview
5:15 pm – 6:00 pm	.NET Languages
6:00 pm – 6:45 pm	Dinner
6:45 pm – 7:45 pm	Shared Source CLI (Rotor)
7:45 pm – 8:30 pm	XML Web Services demo
8:30 pm – 8:45 pm	Tablet PC Demo and Academic Programs

### 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

Last week The Voice introduced 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](mailto: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](mailto:Info@EdmontonSkydive.com)  
[www.EdmontonSkydive.Com](http://www.EdmontonSkydive.Com) 780.444.JUMP (5867) 1.866.566.JUMP (5867)

Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor

I'm alive today  
because someone  
knew the signs  
of a stroke.

Do you?



## STROKE WARNING SIGNS

### WEAKNESS

Sudden weakness, numbness  
or tingling in the face,  
arm or leg

### TROUBLE SPEAKING

Sudden temporary  
loss of speech or trouble  
understanding speech

### VISION PROBLEMS

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

### HEADACHE

Sudden severe  
and unusual headache

### DIZZINESS

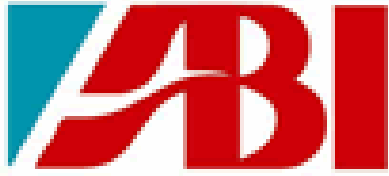
Sudden loss of balance,  
especially with any of the  
above signs

Call 911  
or your medical  
emergency number  
immediately.



1-888-HSF-INFO  
(1-888-473-4636)  
[www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)

# LOOKING FOR A CAREER IN SOUTH AFRICA?



*Interview with the leading corporations recruiting for positions across South Africa*

Global Career Company, the international recruitment consultancy that specializes in the Africa region, will be hosting the '**Careers in Africa**' recruitment summit on the 7-9 March 2003 in Boston, USA. This will be held in conjunction with the African Business Club Conference at Harvard Business School.

Here you will find multinational corporations looking to recruit graduates, MBAs and professionals into their South African operations, across a wide variety of functions.

Once we receive your application, your details will be matched against the company profiles and you will be selected to attend and interviews will be scheduled accordingly.

## **At the summit you can expect:**

- To meet and interview with leading multinational corporations over two days
- Pre-scheduled interviews with companies that have selected you prior to the summit
- A unique opportunity to network with other African graduates and professionals
- A variety of company presentations for you to find out more about your potential employers
- An excellent chance of receiving at least one job offer

## **Applications are welcome from candidates that possess:**

- Fluency in English, French or Portuguese
- Work authorization for South Africa
- At least an undergraduate degree (or the equivalent)

**Apply on line at: [www.careersinafrica.com](http://www.careersinafrica.com) or send your resume to: [sa@careersinafrica.com](mailto:sa@careersinafrica.com)**

Registering will also ensure that you are informed of any other suitable opportunities that match your profile and expectations for a career in South Africa. For more information regarding the conference at Harvard Business School, please visit: <http://sa.hbs.edu/afrbc/>

**Companies Recruiting across Africa include:** ABI - Barclays - Citibank - Flour Mills of Nigeria - PricewaterhouseCoopers - South African Breweries - Unilever - Accenture - bp - Coca-Cola - Mars - SABCO - Stanbic Africa - Woolworths - Anglovaal - Cadbury Schweppes - Ernst & Young - MSI Cellular - Shell - TotalFinaElf – Stanbic Africa -





## NEWS FROM AU

### CONTRIBUTED BY *THE INSIDER*

#### CIM Surveys IT Professionals

Peter Carr, director of the Centre for Innovative Management, and John Pickett, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of IT World Canada, recently delivered the results of this year's national survey of Canadian managers and professionals working in IT. Conducted over a three-year period by AU and IT World Canada, the survey provides the most comprehensive view of information technology application in Canadian organizations.

Approximately 350 people attended regional information session briefings in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

This year's key findings focused on several major issues: the deterioration of confidence in senior management's IT competency; steady improvement in the perception of Canada's e-business competitiveness in relation to the U.S.; increased IT budget expenditure reflecting improved business performance in most Canadian organizations; and continuing serious weakness in the management of IT-related change.

Significant regional differences in Canada's application of IT drew considerable interest, especially in Alberta where stress related to information technology was higher than any other province.

Once again, this year's results attracted media attention across the country with features in the *Globe and Mail*, the *Calgary Herald*, the *Edmonton Journal*, *Ottawa Business Journal*, as well CBC Radio, Report on Business (TV); CJOH Ottawa (CTV affiliate) - to name a few.

For more information about this year's survey results, visit CIM's website:

<http://www.mba.athabascau.ca/>



**Peter Carr and John Pickett share the findings of the national IT survey.**

Let's make cancer history.



**Canadian  
Cancer  
Society** **Société  
canadienne  
du cancer**

cancer.ca | 1.888.939.3333

# 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/paege.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](mailto:donna@athabascau.ca) or (780) 424-2915

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

### CAROL THOMSON MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

**Value:** \$1000

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2003**

**Administrator:** Learning Disabilities Association of Canada

**Notes:** Awarded to an individual with a diagnosed learning disability attending a Canadian college/vocational school. Must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents who have lived in Canada for at least two years. Please visit the Web site for more information.

**Contact Information:**

Learning Disabilities Association of Canada  
Doreen Kronick Scholarship  
323 Chapel Street, Suite 200  
Ottawa, ON K1N 7Z2

Phone: (613) 238-5721

Fax: (613) 235-5391

Web Site: <http://www.ldac-taac.ca>

E-mail: [information@ldac-taac.ca](mailto:information@ldac-taac.ca)

### ROSE MARGARET KING MERIT AWARDS

**Value:** n/s

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 24, 2003**

**Administrator:** The Edmonton Community Foundation

**Notes:** The number of awards and amounts will vary. Must be an Edmonton resident, or a returning student who received most of his/her primary/secondary education in Edmonton. The chosen program of study must lead to a recognized degree, diploma, certificate or licence. Multi-year funding may be considered. Please visit the Web site for full details and a list of qualifying schools.

**Contact Information:**

Edmonton Community Foundation  
710 Royal Bank Building, 10117 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J1W8  
Phone: 780-426-0015  
Fax: 780-425-0121  
Toll Free: 866-626-0015  
Web Site: <http://www.dollarsforlearners.com>  
E-mail: [info@dollarsforlearner.com](mailto:info@dollarsforlearner.com)



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

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

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

A close-up photograph of a woman with short, wavy blonde hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a yellow jacket.



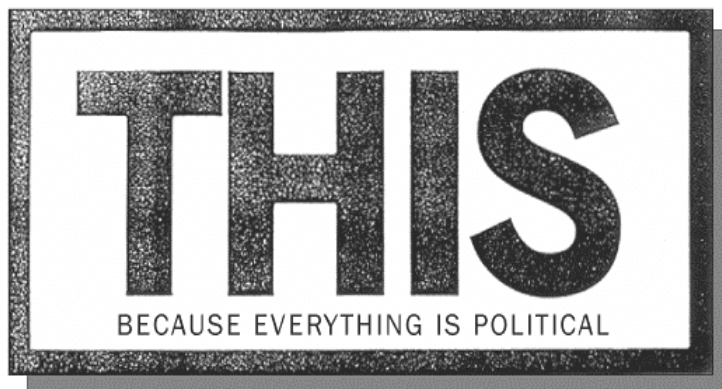
## CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

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](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 7<sup>th</sup> 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"](http://www.thismagazine.ca)





# Community Networks Group



## THEATRE NETWORK ~ LIVE AT THE ROXY PRESENTS:

Kill Your Television's **STOP KISS** by Diana Son

Theatre Network ~ live at the Roxy / 10708 - 124 St.

Tel: **453-2440** / website: [www.attheroxy.com](http://www.attheroxy.com)

Feb. 27 - Mar 8 Tuesdays - Sundays @ 8pm &

Saturdays @ 2pm

2 for 1 Tuesday March 4

### **STOP KISS** by Diana Son

Laughter. Love. Lesbians?

A single kiss between two friends ignites both an unexpected love, and a brutal act of violence. As everyone around seeks to define them: as lesbians, as the victims of a gay-bashing, as *something* they can label, the two women discover a simple and powerful love that defies description.

*"Irresistibly exciting... a sweet, sad, and enchantingly sincere play."* - *The New York Times*

**KILL YOUR TELEVISION** is the winner of the 2001 & 2002 Sterling Awards for Outstanding Production by a Collective ...

Coming soon @ The Roxy:

### **HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH** April 1 - April 20

*An absolutely fabulous glam rock musical. Hedwig Schmidt is a German rock and roll goddess who also happens to be the victim of a gruesomely botched sex-change operation.* <http://www.hedwiginedmonton.com>

### **DALE LADOUCEUR & THE BROKE** Ensemble CD RELEASE May 10th, 2003

*An indefinable blend of Jazz, Folk, Rock. Opening Acts: Craig Shafer and Babe Lloyd. Evening will include a silent auction.*

### **SYNCRUDE NEXT GENERATION ARTS FESTIVAL** June 5-15

*Multidisciplinary festival that features the work of emerging professional artists.* <http://www.nextfest.ca>

Courtesy of: The Community Networks Group (c) Tel/Fax: (780) 474-6058 > Cell: (780) 995-68

### *A special appeal from...*

## THE IMMIGRANT NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Tel: **413-0699** / e-mail: [incpae@edmc.net](mailto:incpae@edmc.net)

Through Community Kitchens, new immigrants in the communities of **Queen Mary Park** and **Central McDougall** will learn about Canadian food and methods of preparation, and healthy Canadian living. If you know of any residents in these areas of the city who wish to participate, have them call Rainbow at 413-0699. We will also tell our groups about your



program if you have one running.

This project is using kitchen facilities donated by John A McDougall school, however they are very short of utensils, and pots and pans are required. The groups are scheduled to start in March 2003 and we really need your help.

Would you or your organization be able to donate these items? **Here's a "Wish List" of supplies...** *Dish Towels, Cuttings boards, Sharp knives, Dishes and cutlery, Storage containers, Large Pots and pans, Mixing Bowls, Baking Sheets, muffin tins, etc., Utensils (e.g. spatulas, slotted spoons), Cookbooks, Non-perishable foods...*

Please drop them off at John A. McDougall School office, 10930-107 St. Pick-ups can also be arranged by calling:

**Rainbow McBryan**, P.L.A.Y. Project Facilitator  
Immigrant Neighbourhoods Community Planning Association  
10930 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5H 2Z4  
Tel: **413-0699** / e-mail: [incpae@edmc.net](mailto:incpae@edmc.net)

Thank you!

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

**Announcing ...**

**EDMONTON MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY WEBSITE! ...**

**[www.edmontonmulticultural.com](http://www.edmontonmulticultural.com)**

EMS has officially launched [www.edmontonmulticultural.com](http://www.edmontonmulticultural.com). This project is a work in progress and our mandate is to ensure that all members of all communities are acknowledged; in other words: we want to ensure that you have a voice. We kindly ask you to support this medium by submitting any content that you feel is relevant to multiculturalism. Send us your articles, papers, recipes. Talk to us about your experiences with racism and access. Tell us **your** story ...

Drop us a line or submit your piece to [communications@edmontonmulticultural.com](mailto:communications@edmontonmulticultural.com). This site is supported by community conscious individuals and businesses. *If you are interested in promoting your business or services on our site, we have a variety of sponsorship packages to suit your needs.* **We thank you for your support!**

**About EMS ...**

In May 2003, **The Edmonton Multicultural Society** will celebrate its 22nd anniversary. Our agency's mandate has always been directed by diversity initiatives, and our mission always remain consistent with maintaining a harmonious and enriched way of life for Edmonton's multicultural communities ... In short we aim to:

- . study, promote and preserve multiculturalism;
- . ensure that the promotion & preservation of multiculturalism is a topic current to all levels of governments;
- . provide a strong, clear, constructive voice for all multicultural communities;
- . provide Edmonton residents and representatives with a resource of education that will help them to communicate and understand their neighbour or client better;
- . ensure that all members of all communities receive equal access to employment, education and related basic human needs services;
- . establish alliances with multicultural agencies;
- . develop and provide the means through which EMS and its members can maintain ongoing contact with each other and with other multicultural organizations ...

For more information, please contact:

**Paula Charles**, Executive Director  
Phone: 420-6866 / Fax: 429-0059  
e-mail: [pcharles@edmontonmulticultural.com](mailto:pcharles@edmontonmulticultural.com)  
E-mail & web hosting courtesy of: [www.hcsdtech.com](http://www.hcsdtech.com)

Courtesy of: **The Community Networks Group** (c) Tel/Fax: 474-6058 > Cell: 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](mailto:smoore@ausu.org)] if you are interested in becoming an AUSU volunteer.

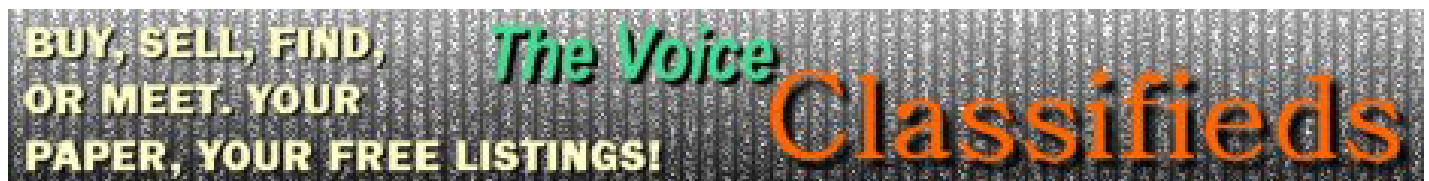
You can also contact Sandra if you are interested in starting up an AUSU club. The time has never been better. This year the Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society [AUPSS] has grown enormously, and two new clubs are in the works. If you have a special interest or simply want to form a students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

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### 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](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with 'CLASSIFIED AD' listed in the subject title.

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## THE VOICE

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*The Voice* is funded by the Athabasca University Students' Union, for the students of Athabasca university

*The Voice* is published every wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at: **[VOICE@AUSU.ORG](mailto:VOICE@AUSU.ORG)**

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