

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

10th ANNIVERSARY 1993 - 2003

Vol 11 Issue 20
May 14, 2003

10 Years as
The Voice of
AU Students

SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, RESEARCH, AND AU

Debbie Jabbour reports
from the WCUCC

TATTOOS

Wayne Benedict gets inked

FICTION FEATURE

The Transfer...

Plus: Canadian FedWatch!, Dear Sandra,
From My Perspective, Profiles, and news,
announcements and opportunities from
your university and beyond.

THE VOICE 1993 - 2003

May 14, 2003

Volume 11, Issue 20

Welcome To The Voice PDF

The Voice has an interactive table of contents. Click on a story title or author name to jump to an article. Click the bottom-right corner of any page to return to the contents. Some ads and graphics are also links.

FEATURES

EDITORIAL PAGES

AU PROFILES: Student - Carolyn Ann Vaughan

ARTICLES

GREAT DEALS FOR THOSE WHO VISIT TORONTO

Tamra Ross Low

SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, RESEARCH, AND AU STUDENTS

Debbie Jabbour

TATTOOS

Wayne E. Benedict

REVIEW: X2

Jeanette Bliemel

FICTION FEATURE

THE TRANSFER

Carolyn Vaughan

COLUMNS

FLICKS & FOLIOS - Italian for Beginners

Laura Seymour

CANADIAN FEDWATCH

Karl Low

DEAR SANDRA

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUSU AGM

BRYON PAEGE MEMORIAL AWARD

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – WHAT'S COMING FOR AUTISM

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

EDMONTON EVENTS

Community Networks Group

FROM AU

AU STUDENT ESSAYS INSPIRING

Joseph Pivato

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

The Insider

FROM THE READERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLASSIFIEDS!



Nimra brings up some excellent points that I'd like to build upon [Nimra's letter appeared in vol 11, issue 18 - April 30, 2003, and also the following week].

Tutors often teach more than one course, and if you're a student in any of the AU Admin or Management programs, you're likely sending your course questions and assignments to the Call Centre, which oversees many different courses. The Call Centre highly recommends putting the following information in the subject line of any email you send, either to a tutor or to the Call Centre:

Program - Your Full Name - Your Student ID Number - Reference to Your Message

For example, if I'm sending an email asking questions about Chapter 7 material in FNCE 370, my email subject line would read:

FNCE 370 - Shirley Barg - ##### (My 7-digit ID number) - Ch. 7 Questions

In a conversation I had with a Call Centre staff person, she told me how horribly delayed responses to students' assignments and questions can get because no references have been given as to who sent it or what it's pertaining to. Call Centre employees have to try to find the information based only on the student's email address.

It's nice to know that we, as students, have ways to make sure we get responses to our questions or assignments marked and returned in the quickest time possible simply by putting the right information in the subject line of our emails to tutors and the Call Centre.

Shirley Barg

Thanks for the information, Shirley. It's important for all students to remember that when you send an email you must always assume that the reader won't know who you are or what you are writing about, so make sure to provide enough information to clarify your identity and purpose. It might really speed up response times!

I'm a little surprised to hear that the call centre will spend time looking up student information, when it is so time-consuming. It might be a better if they simply replied to e-mails that are ambiguous and asked for clarifying information so that students know in the future how to properly format their queries. This is what I try to do, as it greatly reduces confusion and prevents me from providing irrelevant answers. We all play a part in making communication effective...

THE VOICE

c/o Athabasca University Students' Union
#306, 10030-107th Street,
Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
800.788.9041 ext. 3413

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

THE VOICE ONLINE:
WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

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

To subscribe for weekly email reminders as each issue is posted, see the 'subscribe' link on *The Voice* front page

www.ausu.org/voice

The Voice does not share its subscriber list with anyone

Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its frequent contributions

© 2003 by The Voice

Dear Voice Editor,

I was delighted to read the editorial in The Voice, Vol 11 Issue 19 re: student finances. It was informative and I hold strong feelings about this, being a grandmother and a brand new AU student (just today). I don't even have the materials for my Course NURS 438 - I don't know who my tutor will be, but one thing I am sure of I am delighted to be able to take part in an open university.

I am an old girl, 52, and when I first went back to school in 1981, I was 30 years old. I needed to take academic upgrading, I did attend classes everyday, but I could work at my own speed. This was a good thing for me. I read fast. I need to be able to lead my own pace. Anyway I got my RN diploma with three small children ages 4, 6 and 8.

Now today I start the process of working on a degree. What a blessed thing modern technology is. I can access a wealth of material online. I can still work shift work and take a course. I could register, sign up for a course in a very short time. And I could speak to a student advisor on the telephone via a 1 800 #. I feel ecstatic. Gaye Duren-Purdy the student advisor was very helpful to me. I am prepared to work hard, I want the knowledge, but I am so grateful I can start learning and working toward my Degree starting on June 1st.

What a privilege it is to live at a time such as this. There are challenges in this world- many, and I have seen my share, but today, this day I have become an AU student and I am positively delighted.

Carolyn Vaughan RN
Nova Scotia

Thank you, Carolyn, for your enthusiastic words. You're delight and your appreciation of the opportunities afforded by open university are wonderful reminder to all of us of what a tremendous opportunity we all enjoy. I wish you the best of luck in your studies.

We love to hear from you! Send your letters to voice@ausu.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter in the Voice.

when
People
need an ally ...



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

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

INSURANCE



Group Rates for AUSU
Students - Employees - Alumni

**1 CALL CHECKS
THE MARKET**



 **1-800-272-8840**
In Edmonton
Click here to find a local office

24 Branches Throughout Alberta including Athabasca
www.brokerlink.ca

EDITORIAL PAGES

THE VOICE: 1993 - 2003 10 YEARS AS YOUR STUDENT NEWSPAPER

THIS WEEK

The Voice introduces a new fiction writer, Carolyn Vaughan. Read part one of her dark tale about an overworked nurse kept too long on the night shift, then read more about Carolyn in AU Profiles. If you would like to be featured in AU profiles, contact the editor.

WCUCC - Part 2 of Debbie Jabbour's report from the 17th annual Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry

Dear Sandra: Sandra counsels a student who has failed an exam. Do you know what your options are if you fail?

Retro Fedwatch - Karl Low takes a look at the first few issues of the Voice and notices some disturbing trends

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

For the average university student, May marks the end of study for another year. Despite the fact that many universities continue to offer summer courses, for all appearances, most campuses seem to roll up the carpets, turn out the lights, and soap up the windows come summertime. It's easy for an AU student to forget this, but this year I've been keenly aware as the end of study has approached because as Voice editor I'm on the mailing list for the Canadian University press. I was quite surprised to learn that most university newspapers stop publishing in May, and only resume again in September. Many also go on hiatus during spring break and Christmas vacation. The past month the mailing list has been inundated with announcements of last yearly issues, and goodbyes from outgoing editors and writing staff...

The Voice is unusual because we publish 51 times a year, just as the AU student is unusual because he or she studies any day of the week, time of the day, or calendar month. Not only do many of us fail to take summer off from our studies, some of us intensify our school work during the holidays. It's one of the greatest benefits of distance education that we can continue learning throughout the year, but it is also an unusual hardship for weary students.

The most important skill for succeeding in distance education is the ability to self-motivate. Generally, people who fail as distance students, do so because they are unable to motivate themselves so their coursework simply never gets done. Not everyone is cut out for distance education. Those who do succeed learn early on to fit study into their free time and to follow a self-prescribed and regular schedule, or they learn to complete their assignments very quickly at the end of the course contract period. Based on a number of tutors who have complained about students handing in all of their assignments at the last minute, I suspect that many are the fast worker types.

Unfortunately, once a student learns to force themselves into study mode, it can be difficult thing to stop! It is not unusual to hear from AU students who admit that they have been working year round for many consecutive semesters, and that they never take time off.

I wrote on this topic last year, and described my own perspective on the distance education problem. While I have been AU student for many semesters and I have completed many courses, often I feel as though I am not progressing and I think this is due in part to the fact that I never reach the end of the semester or the end of the year. A traditional student will be able to say, "I am in my third year." The AU student often cannot. Years, and semesters become nebulous terms which can only be described by determining a set number of courses to represent a semester. If you decide, for example, that four courses comprise an average semester, and you have taken twelve, then you can say that you have completed three semesters even though you may have taken all the courses separately, or in groups of two or even five.

Every year at this time I feel a little bit jealous of the traditional university student, because they have such a well-defined summer break and such a well-defined sense of completion. Of course most of the time I feel much more fortunate than the traditional student so this is really a small complaint.

Nevertheless, I decided last year that each summer I would convince myself that I have completed another year of university, whether I have completed ten in the past year, or two. The point is, time has passed and I have stuck with the studies to the best of my ability and to the limit of my finances, and while my progress may not be as quick as I had hoped, each summer I am at least a few credits closer to my degree. Simple mathematics tell me that regardless of my pace I will get there eventually!

So I would like to wish all AU students a very happy summer, and I would like to urge you all to take a little time this summer - and maybe even a short break - to think about the progress you've made this year, and all the things you have done to bring life closer to what you want it to be. If you are a mature student who already has an established career or who has significant life experience, make sure to credit yourself for all the non-academic successes you have had, because often changes in lifestyle, job, and even attitude can do as much to bring you to where you want to be in life, as gaining a university degree can.

Happy summer, everyone!

Tamra Ross Low
Editor in Chief.

Got Fiction?

The Voice publishes all forms of short fiction in all genres. Send your stories, poems, plays, other fictional works to voice@ausu.org.

Need incentive?

We pay!

Let's make cancer history.



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer

cancer.ca | 1.888.939.3333

AUSU's 10th Anniversary AGM

What is it all about?

On May 24, 2003, AUSU will be hosting our 10th anniversary Annual General Meeting in Edmonton. We hope many students will be in attendance. So you may be wondering, what is an AGM and why is this one special?

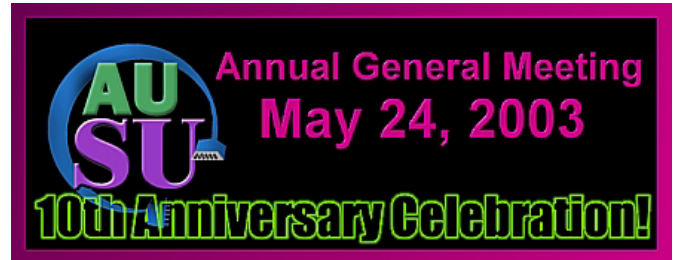
As an organization incorporated under Alberta's Societies Act* we are required by law to have an Annual General Meeting each year. This is done to make an accounting to our members, particularly regarding the financial statements for the previous fiscal year. It is also the only

occasion, besides

elections, where each student member of AUSU is allowed to vote.

This year students will be voting on two main items. The first is the adoption of the financial statements for the fiscal year 2001-2002. The second is the approval of a new set of bylaws.

For more on the AUSU 10th Anniversary AGM and how you can attend [either in person, or via teleconference], see <http://www.ausu.org/agm>



AU STUDENT ESSAYS INSPIRING

In contrast to the students with poor writing skills there are a number of AU students who write very well and who demonstrate not just good critical thinking but considerable creativity. These students are often in our senior English courses. I have selected a number of their essays and posted them in the home pages of our English courses so that other students will have examples of the best essays which they can use both as inspiration and as models.

In order to read these essays click on the links below:

Here are some film and literature essays including critiques of Virginia Woolf, Vladimir Nabokov and Wayne Wang: <http://www.athabascau.ca/courses/engl/373/archives.html>

Here is a study of the Cyborg in Cyberpunk fiction and film: <http://www.athabascau.ca/courses/engl/491/machine1.html>

And now an analysis of Calgary poet, Claire Harris: http://www.athabascau.ca/cil/writers/harris_essay.html

Joseph Pivato
Center for Language and Literature Studies

Great Deals for Those Who Visit Toronto

Tamra Ross Low

Air Canada has launched a web site called *Canada Loves Toronto*, geared toward promoting tourism to the city by advertising deals for travelers. The web site includes listings of cheap flights to Toronto, hotel deals, car-rental deals, low-priced entertainment packages, restaurant packages and discounts on entrance admissions to many Toronto attractions. The subtitle of the site: Great Deals For Your Long Weekend In Toronto, indicates that the city is hoping to recoup some of its losses over the upcoming Victoria Day weekend.

For those who are still concerned about the recent SARS outbreak break in Toronto, city officials insist that the danger has passed. Just in time for Mother's Day, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman has unveiled a new city logo: *Toronto -- You Belong Here*, and a new campaign to convince travellers that Toronto is a safe, warm and friendly travel destination. Reports do seem to indicate that the SARS threat in Toronto is over: It has been some time since any new SARS cases have been documented there, and the World Health Organization's travel advisory was lifted over a week ago.

CTV News reports that the national jobless rate in Canada jumped recently from 7.3% to 7.5%, with the majority of the new unemployment in direct result of Toronto's lagging tourism industry. Most of these jobs were lost in the public service industries, such as tourism, hotels, and restaurants.

To recoup the tremendous losses they have suffered over the past few weeks, Toronto will be aggressively pursuing tourism dollars. The new "*You Belong Here*" campaign will first target Torontonians, and future campaigns will target the rest of Canada.

Toronto health officials plan to close one SARS assessment clinic on May 16.

Canada Loves Toronto: Great Deals For Your Long Weekend In Toronto

<http://www.canadalovestoronto.com/en/index.html>

City of Toronto: You Belong Here Task Force:

http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/task_force/sarstaskforce.htm

Canada Reports Further Decline in SARS Cases:

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/americas/view/39467/1/.html>

CTV Canada: Ottawa adds \$10 M to Toronto SARS recovery plan

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1052600272225_118/?hub=TopStories



INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY IS MONDAY MAY 12TH, THE ANNIVERSARY OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S BIRTH!

This week is National Nursing Week in the United States, while next week is National Nursing Week in Canada. We take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate all that Nurses are and do for us each and every day. We say to every Nurse and Nursing student, thank you and take this time to pause and be very, very proud. We are very glad you chose the Nursing profession as your career.

THIS YEAR WE ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOUR THOSE NURSES AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF SARS BY WEARING A BLUE RIBBON DURING THIS TWO WEEK PERIOD AND BEYOND. WE SAY THANK YOU!

TO OBTAIN A BLUE RIBBON, JUST CONTACT US AT HEALTH@MARSKELL.COM OR (416) 620-1940 OR 1-877-311-5333 - THE MARSKELL GROUP & HEALTH CAREERS CANADA

AU Profiles:

Student: Carolyn Ann Vaughan



Hi Carolyn. Thanks for volunteering for AU Profiles! Tell us about where you live, and your family...

I currently live in Sheet Harbour, Nova Scotia. It is about a two-hour drive from the major city of Halifax Nova Scotia. Incidentally, I am an eighth generation Vaughan in Nova Scotia, directly descended from one of the Vaughan boys who "supposedly" discovered what they thought was the workings of Pirates on Oak Island (although I grew up in Hamilton, Ontario).

My dad, like many Maritimers of his day, went to Ontario to the "streets paved in gold" in 1957, I ended up back in Nova Scotia, because it is hard to keep a Maritimer from the salt water.

Do you have kids or pets? If you have kids, how have they reacted to your educational goals? Are they students too?

Between my partner, and myself- who is a male R.N., we have five grown children, ages 25 -30. We have one grandson who is three, and an eight-pound silky terrier named Sally. My children have always been my strongest supporters. They are my cheerleading squad, even when they were young and I went back to school. Now they are very proud that I am going to get a Degree.

When did you first learn about AU, and how are you liking the student life/distance education? How long have you been a student?

I learned about AU from searching the Internet, and discussing it with one of my daughters who lives in Alberta. She has her BSc from Acadia University, and took a biology course with AU. She was well satisfied with AU. I have been an AU student for two days. I am familiar with distance education because I have taken a Hypnotherapy course through distance ed, I am also a person who went back to school at the age of thirty, to become a Registered Nurse. I have been very pleased with the help I received from the BN student advisor, Gayle Duren- Purdy. I have also been pleased with the quick response from the library explaining how the ID system works, and I have been wonderfully thrilled at seeing photos of 2002 convocation and a virtual tour of the library. And I have been delighted to receive an email response from AU alumni Shirlee Matheson [See the new [AUSU Alumni Page](#) for a letter from Shirlee Matheson, and some pictures from the Distinguished Alumni Award presentation].



My partner of 13 years - also a R.N.

Do you work? What do you do?



I do work. I am a Registered Nurse and I have had the privilege of working in wide variety of nursing jobs. My first job as a RN was in a Catholic Hospital in St. Catharines Ontario, a place where we said morning prayers, and the sisters came around and rang a breakfast bell. Then there was the Victorian Order of Nurses in Nova Scotia, and then a surgical unit, and then a psychiatric unit, where I stayed for a bit. I was head nurse on the psych unit for a while. Then I went to Florida and worked in a Hospice, this was very interesting work. Then I came back to Canada and worked as the Health nurse at the provincial young offenders facility.

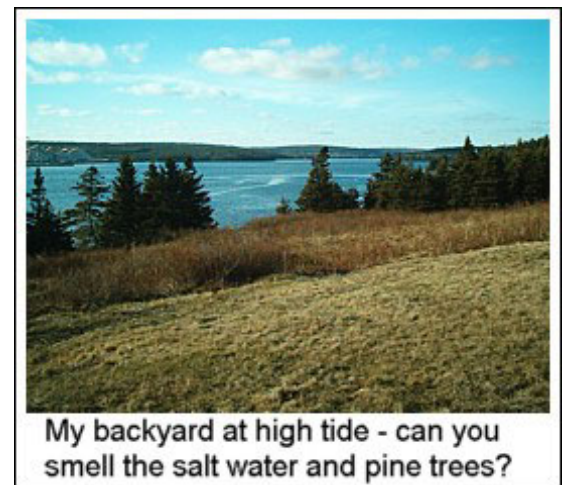
Then I had a little bump in the road and had a run in with Cancer of the Bowel, this was in 1994, then I developed and taught a Personal Care Workers course to First Nations ladies. I loved this job, the women taught me much. Then I worked in the community with female prisoners who were on parole, interesting work, once again the ladies taught me a great deal. The last nursing job was at a rural hospital in Nova Scotia, I worked at this for the past 18 months, and my next upcoming job will be a four month term position on Prince Edward Island. This will last until Mid Sept. and then I am hoping David and I can make arrangements to work a 3-month term down south, preferably New Mexico for Jan, Feb and March. Along with the work, I keep in touch with my grown children in Alberta, and see my little grandson when I get to the city. We have only been in this home for a few years, but it is my cottage on the Ocean and I am hoping to grow deep roots here. I've included a picture of my back yard. We bought a fixer upper, with 2.5 acres of land. Mostly pine trees, beach and wild roses.

What are your goals as a student?

Well I am hoping to fulfill the requirements for a BN and then enter the Advanced Graduate Diploma - Advanced Nursing Practice and hopefully a Masters of Nursing. Then I would truly like to use some of my hands-on experience and knowledge to assist newcomers to the profession of nursing. Nursing, in my mind is the greatest profession in the world. I owe it a debt of gratitude beyond measure.

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

The course I have registered for is Nursing 438 it is called "Trends and issues in health systems." It sounded interesting! As for my favourites I am not sure yet, but I have my eye on the block of Nursing 500 courses - they look challenging and interesting. I am a little apprehensive about the Math 215/216 course but I think it would be one to bite my teeth into.



What are your hobbies or other interests?

I am a woman of various hobbies and interests. When I was a young mother, I learned to sew my children's clothes. I also took up painting. I eventually sold a great number of house portraits (only \$20.00 each, but I sold over 250 of them). I have done stained glass, made four quilts in my life and have one partially constructed. Partially finished quilts have a way of sitting around.

I have always been a voracious reader. I have dabbled at writing fiction, but the only writing I have been able to sell have been health articles, and one gardening article. I wrote a monthly Health column for a local paper for about two years [See "The Transfer" in this issue for some fiction from Carolyn].



My fixer upper
Not fixed yet but coming along

My partner and I owned and operated a small options home for post mentally ill clients for about five years. And just this last year I decided to learn to play the fiddle. I am a beginner at this. My fiddle teacher is 14 years old; she is a master at it. I was her first student. I especially like fiddle waltzes. My favourite is "Tennessee Waltz" - but maybe this is just because I can play it!

I am a member of my faith community, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). I am what you call a convinced Friend and sought membership in 1998.

I once ran for Dartmouth, municipal council to see how the political system works - it was a learning experience, but I didn't win. I did come in third though out of five contestants.

I am the past vice present of the Nova Scotia Self publishing Society - I always tell myself I am going to write a book. I have been saying this since my son was a baby, before Nursing, but who knows, maybe some day. I have been involved in "Alternatives to Violence" meaning I have participated in a number of weekend workshops at Dorchester Prison in New Brunswick and I am keenly interested in restorative justice and native rights issues. I would say I am a lady with many interests. I become quite passionate about situations, particularly social justice issues that impact upon ordinary people.

How is AU helping you toward your goals and/or enriching your life?

To have the opportunity to challenge my mind, to learn new thoughts, skills, and ideas will be a tremendous source of joy to me. AU will guide me in this. I hope to work my way through AU, the same way I got through nursing school when the children were young, one step at a time, one day at a time, giving it my best. I welcome the learning experience with much enthusiasm. And I feel privileged to be able to do so thorough distance education. AU has helped me in the two days I have been a student in that they have permitted me to sign up for a course that will begin very soon. No waiting in line, and I can work as quickly or as slowly as needed in order to accommodate my work as a Nurse. I will have more to say about the AU experience as I integrate into the University learning.

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

If humanly, possible - avoid student debt.

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

I am looking forward to receiving my tutor and my package of learning assignments. I am also looking forward to find a place to live on PEI for the summer. I am looking forward to seeing stories about AU people, students and staff. And above all, I am looking forward to having my children see their mom get her degree. Life truly is sometimes the most amazing of adventures.

Thanks Carolyn! You truly are a lady of many talents, and I'm sure many of us would look forward to hearing what you have to say once you have had more experience with AU courses! Best of luck.

Have you been profiled in the Voice? If not, contact voice@ausu.org and share your story with AU students!

TATTOOS

By Wayne E. Benedict



As a teen growing up in the suburbs of Vancouver in the late 1970s the only personal experiences that I had with tattoos were watching them drift by on the arm of overweight bikers or on the upper chests or ankles of women who appeared hard and aged beyond their years. Except for a short period in which I thought fleetingly about having the snarling, teeth-bared head of a grizzly inked onto my entire upper arm, I have always viewed the tattoo as holding far too much stigma for me to consider one of my own. Even as a teen, I could imagine myself middle-aged or an old man facing daily the distorted and faded grizzly head whose snarl had morphed into a mocking grin; the effigy of a persona no longer my own. Today I can breathe a sigh of relief at having narrowly avoided what would have been a much regretted mistake.

Throughout my twenties and thirties I met many individuals who sported tattoos of one kind or another and I came to realize that the prejudices borne of my youth were misplaced. I have found most people with tattoos to be no different than those without. I now believe that the type, placement and number of tattoos incurred, is a result of an individual's personality and not the other way around. Many of my friends have tattoos and one would never know it, the fact being obscured by clothing or diminished by the inner vis-à-vis outer person.

These facts aside, I never saw the tattoo as anything that I would consider for myself. I could not relate to someone walking into a tattoo parlor, picking a generic design out of a book, and having it permanently injected into their skin. I thought of thousands of people with the same heart or snake tattoo and the potential of them bumping into each other. The result, in my mind, would be akin to two women arriving at the same party wearing the same off-the-rack dress. So many tattoos (nearly all of them) have become skin-art clichés—"Mom"; the skull; the rose; the snake; vines; butterflies; tears; hearts; women; etc. Without originality, what is the point of acquiring a tattoo other than for its own sake?

Such were my thoughts on the subject when my wife broached the idea of her getting a tattoo about six months ago. The immediate image that entered my mind was of those old-before-their-time women of my youth that I had felt so much contempt for. Needless to say, my reaction was less than supportive; but the subject did not die and over the next several months we discussed the why, what & where of her idea. From the beginning I told her to get one if she wanted, but... However, as our conversations continued, I began to support her and finally decided that I would get one if she did. Ultimately, my wife, her sister, and I went in together to get "inked" just after Christmas.

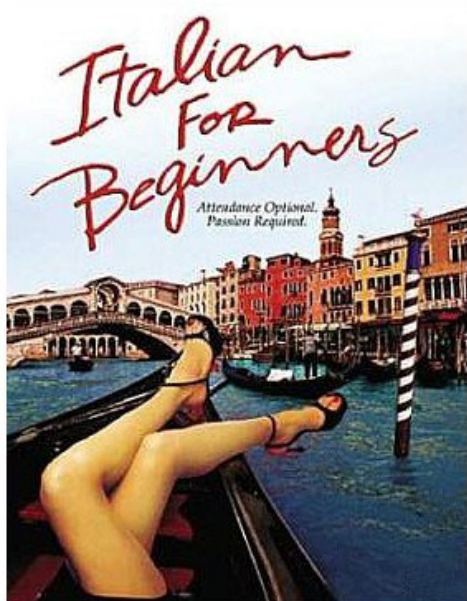
Having decided that I would get a tattoo, I needed to choose what I would get and where I would get it. I knew that I wanted something that would have great personal meaning to me and that I was getting it for myself and not for others. I had it placed over my upper right scapula so that I and those close to me would see it but the general public would not. And I designed a custom tattoo so that few if any others were likely to sport the same "tat". I settled on an old-fashioned inkwell and feather quill as a symbolic acknowledgement to myself of my lust for the written word and of my commitment to myself that I will never willingly put down my pen. The three of us are all very happy with our decisions to have tattoo work performed on us and I am often surprised to catch a glimpse of mine in the mirror. I smile and shake my head at the fact that I, the consummate tattoo opposer, have joined the ranks of those with ink.



ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS

Film Review

By Laura Seymour



The first time I saw this title mentioned on Shaw's pay per view film list, the hubby and I had recently booked our cruise (see last week's article). I was really interested in boning up on my Italian for the trip but I didn't want to add any extra bills on to our already hefty outgoing funds.

I was really curious about the film, so I sat through the dreadful camera work and the overly crisp film image it was produced in! I'm glad I waited for it to come to "free" TV. Then again, I'm glad I saw it.

I'm sorry – there isn't one recognized Hollywood name in the film. The stars are Anders W. Berthelsen, Anette Stovelbaek, Peter Gantzler, Ann Eleonora Jorgensen. I'd really like to tell you who played whom but the credits were hand written on lovely paper and plopped down in front of the camera! Many times the entire card wasn't visible! Sigh ... creative idea for credits but very hard to follow!

Now in Denmark these people may be household names but considering the look of the film and the apparent budget I'd have to guess that's a long shot.

The production is completely subtitled — usually I groan and turn those films off as it's a real hassle to read at a rapid rate to keep up with the story ... but as I said I was curious.

In this film, characters drop in at a quick rate. The story moves along briskly, and occasionally the camera work actually looks like the handheld is used as a way to put us into these stressed out people's lives.

Death keeps weaving its way into the plot but that's to keep the temporary pastor in our film!

Drug addicts, alcoholics, people who can't hold a job, two women who don't know they're sisters, and the deaths of mom, dad, and a favorite teacher! Jeepers! We've got a real soap opera – pardon me! –daytime serial on our hands! You'd think it would be downright depressing – but something makes us keep laughing. As a half-serious student of Italian myself I laughed to the point of hiccups at most of the Italian lesson scenes! They have lovely homonyms and mispronunciations thrown in to show the usual klutzy moves with a beginner to a language.

There are a few problems if you aren't familiar with Italian or Danish. The languages are gunned out and the sound on the film is not top of the line so it could be difficult to understand if there are any distractions.

I'm really not trying to talk you out of looking over the film – it has some lovely touches here and there. Unfortunately, there aren't enough touches to save the film and make it one to really recommend. I watched it because of the content applying to my interests.

At least you get to look at the Danish flag a couple of times! Knowing what it looks like could be great for impressing your friends ... ummmmmmmmm.

I'd like to say that there are many points of serious interest in this film, but even the shots of Venice, Italy are boring.

Watch this film if you're learning Danish or Italian or if you're interested in boning up on how to read quicker.

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).

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Looking Back

The Voice issue of spring 1994. The Alberta Government has announced it will eliminate 21 percent from Advanced Education Funding over three years. The then minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, Jack Ady, says that "I firmly believe, however, that efforts to control spending now will ensure that future generations of Albertans do not carry the burden of our debt."

Come the summer edition, and Minister Jack Ady cuts another 10% from AU on top of the already allotted 21% cut, citing the low number of graduates that Athabasca University has, even though many students who take courses from Athabasca University are doing so in support of degrees at other Alberta institutions. In the Fall, perhaps realizing that having a University go bankrupt would look bad on his record, the Minister looks to boosting the tuition cap from 20% to 25%.

In the Fall issue, the response by AU was an action plan focussed on recruiting more students to try to make up for the shortfall in funding.

Today, the tuition cap is at 30% and there is consideration being given to removing it altogether for Athabasca University. The AU Strategic University Plan is focussed on recruiting more students to try to make up for a lack of funding from a government that has shown repeatedly it feels that a publicly funded post-secondary education program is a luxury that cannot be afforded – especially if it threatens the legislature's retirement plan.

You'd think, being a university, we'd at least learn from the past and see that increasing enrolment is obviously not a panacea to cure funding shortfalls.

Learning Minister Lyle Oberg has stated that the education funding system is not in crisis, but approves Edmonton schools having to run a deficit. The government still proclaims that ensuring the province has no debt is a top priority, while at the same time letting tuition and student debts rise higher on the one hand, and failing to increase the total amount of student finance funding available on the other hand.

The government prides itself on its fostering innovation and technology within the province, while nearly half of the graduating high-school students not attending post-secondary cite the cost as the reason.

At the same time, the Athabasca University Governing Council worries that if it allows its prices to drop too low, it will be seen as a second-class University, never mind that a University's reputation has far more to do with the quality of its graduates than the initial price to get in the door.

Is it just me or does it seem that everybody involved need to be beaten with a clue-stick?

Beaten With A Clue-Stick

The Ontario Provincial Government did get beaten with a clue-stick it seems. More commonly known as SARS, this clue-stick pointed out the dangers of underfunding publicly needed services such as hospitals for nursing, and education to create new nurses. Having been shamed in front of a global audience, Premier Ernie Eves' is trying to make up for it, or at least make sure it doesn't happen again.

To that end, the province has announced a plan to give free tuition to nursing students who begin their career in under-serviced communities.

Of course, by AU's metric, this must mean that all the nurses from Ontario are second class. Imagine having to pay no tuition – why, that education must be worthless.

Hey! Maybe if carpal tunnel becomes an epidemic, I can get my education for free too?

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.





Send your fiction to
voice@ausu.org. All
forms of short fiction are
accepted, from poetry, to
plays, to short stories in
all genres.

by Carolyn Vaughan R.N.

Night shift 12:01, Friday, April 23

She plodded to the chart rack, reached for a tissue and wiped at the moisture collecting beneath the collar of her burgundy scrub jacket. Lightly she tapped the button of the ancient desk fan. The tired motor spiked instantly creating a soft whirring sound.

Every night, shortly after midnight, for the past two years, before starting her shift, summer or winter, Selma Barclay R.N., turned on the desk fan. The hum of the fan soothed her, shielded her from the blaring, wheezing, sleep noises emanating from the nine elderly, long term residents of Bentley Psychiatric Ward.

She looked down the darkened hallway and studied the red neon Exit sign. From her place behind the glass of the nursing station she could see the entire length of the ten bed unit.

She hated night shift on the psychiatric ward. She hated the drone of sleeping humanity. She hated the curling bits of yellow paper hanging from the bulletin board notices nobody read or removed. But mostly she hated night shifts.

She'd requested a transfer to day shifts months ago, but her Nursing Supervisor denied her request. She rubbed her hand over tired eyes. For two years now she'd worked the back shift. Midnight till Seven AM.

Recently she'd begun to fantasize about going into Room 101 and holding a pillow over the face of Alvin MacAroy, a toothless old man who'd been a resident of Bentley Ward for more than fifteen years. In her mind she could see herself, placing the clean white pillow over his face until he ceased his rattling wheezing breath. She wondered if then, the Nursing Supervisor might reconsider a transfer to day shift.

Thinking about the pillow brought a smile to her face. A smile that failed to touch her eyes.

Night shift 4:15, Friday, April 23

Three hours left in the long and bleary night. Gulping from a red and white thermos standing at her elbow, she felt the hot coffee sting the back of her throat. She'd made her hourly rounds, she'd replenished the Kardex, and checked the drug cupboard, and she'd filed the blood work and checked to make sure the charts had been signed.

She had caught herself nodding off a time or two, each time jerking upright, startled, disoriented, wondering where or who she was. She wanted to put her head down on the desk and close her eyes, for a minute, just one minute, but she couldn't. She knew she couldn't. She was the only staff member on Bentley ward, the only staff.

The desk fan helped her block out the sleeping sounds, but even the fan couldn't entirely block out the wheezing rattle from room 101. For the hundredth time she thanked God for the desk fan. She didn't know what she would do without it.

For the second time Friday night, she wondered what it would be like to go from room to room carrying the pillow. Holding the pillow snugly over the face of each piece of sleeping humanity until all the rasping sounds stopped. Eight dead bodies. Eight quiet dead bodies, eight soundless people. Maybe then the Nursing Supervisor would take her off night shifts. She wondered if she was losing it. If maybe she'd been working psych too long.

Impatiently she scrawled her name on each of the patient charts, Selma Barclay R.N. champion of the underdog, defender of the weak, always rises to the challenge. They said that once, on an evaluation form,

but that was years ago. Now she was tired, bone weary tired. Three more hours tonight, and one more night shift tomorrow. Then she'd be off for four blessed days. She could do it. She was a nurse. Of course she could do it. Eleven hours total, three tonight, eight tomorrow, then she would sleep. Really sleep. She could do one more night shift - of course she could.

Evening Shift 21:10, Saturday, April 24

Through fogged filled mind, seventeen year old runaway, Angel Mason, struggled against the bite of hand restraints that dug at her wrists.

"Whoa, child, hold still." The male voice was gentle, soothing.

Angel's tongue felt thick. It was an effort to model her words. She wanted to speak to the man, to ask him why her hands were tied to the rail of the bed, but she couldn't get the sounds to form. She thrashed about, pulling from side to side.

"Easy child, there's nothing here to hurt you now."

Angel opened her eyes. The boyish face of a man came into view. He wore a blue linen shirt, a black stethoscope draped about his neck. His name tag identified him as "Beauregard Adams."

Angel fought for memory. She'd been at an all night party out on Long Island beach. She remembered taking a thing called purple microdot. It wasn't the first time she'd tried drugs, but this time the rocks on the beach started to melt and the shadows of the trees along the cliff took on shapes of monsters with horns poised for attack.

"What's happening?" Angel croaked, trying to still a sense of rising panic.

"Must have had a bad acid trip. Don't fight it kid and you'll be back on the streets in less than seventy two hours."

"Where am I?"

"You're safe." He said. "You're on Bentley Ward, at Island View." And then he added, "The only reason you're on chronic psychiatric is because acute is full." As if it would make any difference to her, which ward she was on.

Angel saw both wrists tied and buckled to silver side rails and the position caused a dull ache between her shoulder blades. "My hands?" she asked, wiggling her fingers.

"It's nothing, just precaution, you were pretty wild when the paramedics brought you in." The assistant's voice was friendly and warm, but his warmth did nothing to assuage her mounting fear.

"Please," she begged, holding back tears. "Can't you release me?"

"Aw, honey, old Beau here is just an orderly. But tell you what; if you settle down and get some sleep, I'll leave a note for the night nurse, Selma Barclay. She's a good one she is. Looking tired lately though. I'll tell her you don't cotton to your restraints." He gave Angel's purple spikes a fatherly pat and promised to check on her before he went off duty. "Oh," he added, as an after thought, "don't be alarmed by Aggie over there, she's a little off, harmless though."

Aggie, had to be at least eighty, but it was hard to judge. Aggie was the only other patient in the room. She stood in the corner clutching a rag doll to her sagging bosom. "Pretty baby, settle down pretty baby," she crooned to the lifeless creature cradled in her arms.

Faded blue eyes peeked at Angel. "Get some sleep, it's okay pretty baby." She shuffled towards Angel and flashed a toothless grin. It was then that Angel Mason sought the blessed relief of unconsciousness.

Angel dreamt she was shackled to a tree and a grinning, gaping bear was trying to swallow her whole.

"Angel, Wake up! Wake up! I've brought you some juice." Alice Munroe the evening charge nurse, tried to arouse the new admission.

"No, I, No, I don't want juice." Angel pulled her head away from the plastic straw being pressed against her lips.

"Look miss, it's like this. I have nine old people to attend to and get to bed, most of them senile. You can refuse if you want to, but If I were you, I'd take the juice."

Angel held her ground. "Please, I don't need juice. Just unbuckle me."

"Can't do it honey. I really can't. I don't have a Doctor's order."

Angel focused on the nurse, "but the man, the Doctor was here earlier."

Alice laughed softly. "You must mean Beauregard. He's not a Doctor. What did he tell you?"

Angel kept her tone calm. "He said, if I slept, the night nurse would take these buckles off my wrists."

"Humph! Selma might remove them when she comes on, but I'm not going to. I told you, I don't have a Doctor's order. And I don't ever, and I mean ever, do anything without a Doctor's order. Now do you want this juice or don't you?"

"No."

"Suit yourself honey. You can refuse."

"I refuse."

"Okey, dokey, but don't go saying I didn't offer you something." Angel watched as the evening charge nurse wheeled the medication cart over to the old woman who was sitting on the bed still cradling the dirty rag doll.

"Have you been to the toilet, Aggie?"

Aggie nodded and then as if she were a child and not a wizened old crone she said, "Aggie flushed, Aggie flushed."

"Good girl! Here then Aggie, here's your sleeping pill and a laxative." Aggie held out gnarled hands, drank the brown fluid from the little plastic med cup and popped the pill into her gaping, slack jaw. "Sleep pretty baby, sleep."

"Yes dear. You sleep, but first let me fix your panties."

Angel watched as the nurse adjusted the plastic underwear, pulling it snug over brown wrinkled skin. "You don't want to have messy bum, now do you, that will just make work for Selma."

Aggie pulled back. "Selma bad mommy! Selma bad mommy!"

"Tut, now Aggie, you know you can't say that."

The charge nurse shot Angel an apologetic look. "I don't know what's gotten into her, for the last few months or so she has been calling Selma a bad mommy."

The nurse looked at Angel and made a circling sign with her finger to her head, and whispered, "cuckoo you know."

For the first time since she'd been admitted, Angel Mason laughed. Not because the Nurse was making cuckoo signs. But because she could see the old woman mimicking the gesture while the nurse's back was turned.

Angel decided if she was going to spend the night tied to her bed in a mental ward she'd better find out who Aggie was. She felt kind of sorry for the old lady, having to wear a diaper and all. Angel had learned enough living on the streets the past few years to know it made more sense to make friends than to look for enemies.

"That's a pretty doll Aggie. Can you bring it closer so I can see it?"

The old woman shuffled forward until she stood a few paces from Angel's bed. Tentatively the old woman reached out and gingerly poked the top of Angel's spiked purple hair. "Oh, pretty baby," she said. Patting first Angel's hair and then what was left of the yellow wool of the rag doll. Aggie's eyes grew wide as she saw Angel's wrists restrained by the buckle straps. Her wizened old face began to crumple and Angel thought Aggie was about to cry. "Oh poor baby, poor baby," Aggie said, running dry warm fingers over Angel's hand.

Angel held her breath, barely daring to make a motion. "Aggie," she whispered. "Do you think you could undo my hand?"

To be continued...

Send your fiction to voice@ausu.org. All forms of short fiction are accepted, from poetry, to plays, to short stories in all genres

Science, Chemistry, Research, and AU Students

Part 2

By Debbie Jabbour

As mentioned last week [v11, i19 - May 7, 2003], the WCUCC (Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry) conference was a wonderful opportunity for students to present their research to an audience of peers and academics. Each was given a short time to explain the process used, what they had discovered, and what the future goals of the research were. While most of the presentations were straightforward and somewhat dry, some students were quite passionate and descriptive about their research. One award-winning young chemistry student from Victoria even referred to his chemistry molecules as "sexy"! What was clear throughout, though, was that each of these students were excited at having made an important contribution to the world of science, however small it might be. I admired the way the research was presented, too. Students were given top billing, even though they had all done their work under the close supervision and guidance of a professor.



The afternoon of the first day we were given a fascinating tour of the Regina RCMP Forensics Unit. Our first stop was the chemistry lab, where substances such as clothing and paint are sent for analysis. I've always been curious about how it is possible to determine what starts a fire, and the lab chemist briefly explained that the lab takes burned items from locations where there is a suspicious fire, freezes them, then re-heats them to identify the presence of volatile molecules such as gasoline or fire starter. If certain substances are present, it can be assumed that the fire was set deliberately and further investigative work is done. Although I did not understand exactly how the process worked, the chemists in the crowd did, and it was clear that there is a very valid and successful procedure in place to identify what starts suspicious fires. The RCMP chemist also showed how even very tiny paint samples can be matched in order to identify things such as vehicles involved in accidents.

We moved on to the biology department where they collect DNA samples. Here it was explained that we all shed bits of DNA-containing-skin that can identify us clearly even after only touching an object for a few seconds. DNA can also be extracted from bone marrow and tooth pulp in long-dead corpses, and only very miniscule quantities are needed. Family DNA patterns are inherited and family connections can be determined to identify people and trace roots.

The toxicology section was next, and we were greeted by the sight of a very tall hookah pipe as we rounded the corner, followed by a complete cabinet full of confiscated drug paraphernalia! This naturally elicited humorous gasps and comments from the students, and we were all fascinated by the wide diversity of equipment in the cabinet, from home-made to professional.

Handwriting analysis and firearms were the final two areas we toured. Examples were displayed of things such as various forgeries, counterfeit money, and demonstrations of how pen impressions and scribbled-out writing can be deciphered. The firearms area had samples of shot residue patterns that reveal angle and range of gunshots, and the firing range is used to test guns for force and velocity. Tools are also studied to determine how they have been used (in break-ins for example), and articles of clothing are checked for patterns that indicate whether they've been torn or deliberately cut



(in cases such as sexual assault). According to the RCMP officer, break-ins have become so common they are rarely followed up any more by the forensic lab, and instead their time and efforts are consumed with shootings, sexual assaults and gang activity.

The RCMP forensics department in Canada has recently undergone significant downsizing and consolidation of offices and services, and many pieces of expensive forensic equipment has wound up in government surplus, sold for a fraction of the value. Of interest was the revelation that within 10 years 50% of the RCMP expert forensic staff will be retiring and need to be replaced. The majority of these staff positions are not police officers, but are open to only those who have university degrees - at the very least an honours undergrad degree, preferably a BSc.

For dinner that evening, the conference organizers took us way outside of Regina on a long drive across the Saskatchewan prairie, to a large red barn perched on a small hill in the middle of nowhere. Although it was just early evening, and the sunset was lovely, the wind was so strong that it was impossible to stand outside. Here we were fed steak cooked by "Merv's Pitchfork Fondue". Chunks of steak were speared on tines of a pitchfork and immersed into a bucket of boiling oil – sounded interesting, and I'm always willing to try something new. Unfortunately I found the steaks inedible. After several attempts to slice through a gristled, rock-hard, and tasteless piece of meat with a plastic knife, I finally gave up. I think I'll stick to the traditional steak barbeque!



During the several hours that we waited for the food to be prepared, I enjoyed a long and enlightening conversation with my daughter's chemistry professor and co-researcher, Dr. Vladimir Pitchko. Although he is originally from Russia, he finished his PhD in Canada at the University of Western Ontario and Guelph University. Not only is he a brilliant scientist and passionate researcher, he is a genuine, down-to-earth, sincere person; whose deep respect for his students was obvious. He spoke highly of the abilities of my daughter as his student, and it was clear that he cared about her education and career goals.

He commented on the visit to the RCMP lab, and how limiting it can be to become an expert in only one field. We talked a bit about why students are recommended to complete undergrad and graduate studies at different universities. He stated that a student who had managed to "survive" at two universities is viewed as someone who has met challenges and proven themselves, and that they have greatly expanded their knowledge and range of experience because every university is very different. He stressed the importance of adaptability, stating that although his first "love" was not analytical chemistry, at a certain point in his life it happened to be the opportunity presented to him, and he had accepted that and built his career around it. Eventually he had found his niche, but it had required that he try out several different areas of chemistry before doing so. He spoke about how research at universities often goes unrewarded, and that academics such as himself tend to do research on their own time, out of the love of research itself rather than with the hope of financial compensation. We talked about making a career in science, or as an academic. He commented that it can be a negative thing for one's career to remain in one educational facility for too long, since a person who makes a major career move to another university after many years is often looked at suspiciously. Whether his viewpoints are valid or not, it provided proof of something I had read in my Psych375 History of Psychology

course - that the politics of science is sometimes a greater impetus to scientific discovery than the scientific discovery itself!

Another item of interest Dr. Pitchko brought to my attention was that age is not always a factor in job success in university circles. I'm always very sensitive of the fact that I'll be a senior citizen before I finally achieve my PhD – and that my job prospects won't be the greatest. Dr. Pitchko disabused me of that notion, stating that in reality, universities like to hire people from different age groups, and that older persons are often preferred. Why? Not only do universities want to have a varied level of maturity; an older person will tend to be stable and stay at the university and are not as likely to only remain for a few short years after being hired. His words made sense, and were encouraging to those of us at AU who wonder whether we will ever be able to do anything useful with our degree.

I was exhausted by the end of the first day, not just from trying to comprehend the foreign language of chemistry, but also because I needed to spend the evening finishing several course papers and attending to Student Union business. My daughter was getting her poster presentation into its final stages of readiness - spraying hypnotic-smelling glue on each piece outside the doorway of our hotel as I tried to concentrate on my psychology assignment.

Finally, at about 11 PM, my daughter suggested that we should both take an hour off and check out the Casino Regina, since it was only a few blocks away. Although I felt rather guilty at leaving my assignment, I agreed with her that a short break was in order, and we walked over. The Casino is built in a former historic train station, and it is one of Saskatchewan's big tourist attractions. We see advertisements all the time for weekend group packages to the Casino Regina, and I was curious to see whether it met the hype. We agreed that we would buy \$20 worth of tokens and that would be our limit.

The outside of the building was quite nice, but it was definitely not Las Vegas. In a town where every other place we had seen was virtually deserted, the casino was a beehive of activity by comparison. The place was senior citizen heaven! Every machine, every table, across the length of the building (and it was a long building) appeared to be occupied by a member of the "freedom 55+" set. It took us a while to even find two machines side by side. When we finally did, I kept losing at the machine I had chosen, and decided to switch to one on the other side. Well of course the moment I did that, along came a white-haired little old lady, who sat down at the machine I had vacated, plunked her quarter in, and promptly won \$700!

We did, however, have fun gambling away our \$20. A few hours later, my fingers stained black from the coins, and our shoulders aching from pulling the "one-armed bandit," we got up to leave. I resisted the impulse to watch the senior citizen who took over my machine (I KNEW what was going to happen!), and we left as quickly as possible to get a few hours of sleep, since I would be driving straight back to Alberta the following evening after the conference concluded.

Read next week's Voice for the conclusion of the WCUCC coverage...

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.

Missing out on all the deals?

www.ausu.org/services

Get an AU ID card, today!



REVIEW: X2

"The time has come for those who are different to stand united"

by Jeanette Bliemel



In a world where humans and mutants must co-exist, a new war emerges. The X-Men are back in the sequel, *X2: X-Men United*. This time, the President's life is in danger and the school is under attack as a new enemy emerges: William Stryker (Brian Cox).

This military general plots to rid the world of all mutants alike, so to save the mutant race, the X-Men unite with their mutant enemies, Magneto (Ian McKellen) and Mystique (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos). This unusual combination of forces must find a way to stop their mutual enemy. X2 carries on from where it left off the first time, as Wolverine continues to search for his past, which Stryker is speculated to be a part of. X2 is a sequel that holds up to its predecessor, with lots of action and special effects, an amazing cast, and a full storyline.

I'm not usually a big fan of action movies, although I do make an exception when it comes to comic book based films. Any comic fan would understand the awe in seeing their favorite superheroes come to life and fight the bad guys on the big screen. It's like the characters are jumping

right out of your comic book.

When a movie like X2 has characters who have immeasurable powers like manipulating weather and fire, or who can teleport across the room, the special effects better not fall flat. Not to worry, this movie won't let any fans down with its awesome special effects that bring the characters to life. The special effects, along with the entertaining action sequences, are very apparent right from the beginning of the film; it drew me in rather quickly.

The X-Men characters also drew me in rather easily. They're all so dynamic and interesting with their distinct personalities and unique powers. One thing that let me down, though, is that the movie doesn't explain much about the character's personalities and backgrounds. There's only enough time to focus on a few select characters throughout the film. In the first X-Men movie, I was disappointed that Storm (Halle Berry) barely had any screen time, but glad to see she got quite a bit more in X2. It was pretty cool to get to know her better and to see a lot of her amazing powers in action. Other characters, like Cyclops, are rarely seen. By the end of the movie you are left wondering and wanting to know more about them.

I thought the acting throughout this movie was very believable and lifelike. Patrick Stewart, who plays Professor X, fits this role like a glove. I think this is one of the most comfortable roles I've ever seen him in. Hugh Jackman doesn't fall far behind. With his stunning good looks, bad boy image, and good heart, he portrays the perfect Wolverine.

Alan Cumming's performance is also quite amazing. He plays the role of Nightcrawler, which isn't an easy role to play since his character is rather dynamic. Nightcrawler, along with Pyro and Iceman are among the new friends who are introduced in this film. Iceman (Shawn Ashmore) was in the last X-Men movie, but he was only seen briefly at the end. However, I was really glad to see him as a main character in X2.

What made the movie even more interesting for me was the tension and temptations between the characters. The love triangle between Cyclops (James Marsden), Jean Grey (Famke Janssen), and Wolverine that was apparent in the first X-Men film, still holds strong in X2. Sexual tension, and even evil temptation lurks among other characters as well.

X2 has all the elements that make a great movie. Interesting characters, lots of action and suspense, a love triangle, and not to mention the incredible cast make this a must see. Within all the comic book movies ever made, I would have to say this is among the best. It seems that some comic based films just don't work, or are poorly made, but I would say X2 sits closely among the best with Spider-Man and Batman. If you are an X-Men fan, you will absolutely love this movie. It was even better than the first one.

Even if you aren't a fan, I think you'd like it too. It may be a little confusing for people who haven't seen the first one or who don't follow the comics, though. On the other hand, it's probably not that hard to figure out. There are the good guys, there are the bad guys, and they are both fighting for something.

Jeanette was born and raised in Edmonton. She has finally found her place as a university student and is working towards a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a very dubious major in English. This movie buff enjoys creative writing and reading all kinds of books. She hopes to work towards being a predominant writer in the entertainment field.

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.

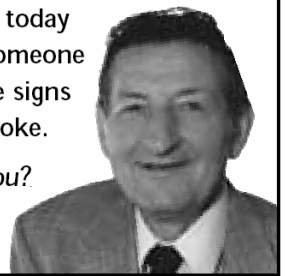
Hope to see you there!

Sandra Moore
Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society

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



Dear Sandra,

I just checked on the gradebook on-line and found out that I failed my final exam! What are my options now? How does a fail affect my degree? Thanks for the help.

B. in Toronto

Dear B.

I can relate; I too have failed an exam. Nobody's perfect and sometimes you can be completely unprepared for an exam. You could have studied the wrong material, you could have zoned out and forgotten everything you had studied, or the material for the exam was just too difficult. Good news though, you may be able to fix this fail!

First, if you truly feel that you did not deserve the mark you were given on your exam, consult the course coordinator and request that the exam be remarked. After expressing my tale of woe to a fellow student about failing a course, I was told that she too had done poorly on this exact same exam. She did not believe that she should have received a mark of 60%, as she looked up the answers to the questions on the exam when she got home and only felt that she answered a few incorrectly. Sure enough, after requesting that it be remarked she got 80% on that final.

Option 2, if you know you bombed or if your remark is still incredibly low, is to rewrite the exam. Unfortunately, the second time around will cost you \$80. You can book a rewrite the same way you book a regular exam, except this time you need to pay. If you book on-line you can pay through credit card, or you can mail in your request with a cheque.

These supplemental exams must be requested no earlier than two weeks, and no later than three months, after writing the original exams. All supplemental exams must be written within one month of their request. After writing a supplemental exam, your final grade will be the higher of the grades received on either the supplemental or the original exam. (*From the AU Undergraduate Student Handbook, May 2002, p. 11-12*).

Failing an exam can be quite a humbling experience. Don't worry; try to rectify the situation first. If you still fail the course, you do not get any credits for the course and a fail comes up on your transcript. If it is a core course that you need for your degree, you will need to retake that course. Don't dwell on the fail, and don't see it as a sign that you are not cut out for university or this particular area of study. Some courses are extremely difficult and time consuming. Some courses' exams also account for 60-80% of the final mark! Be prepared!

Sandra

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

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: WHAT'S COMING FOR AUTISM

CALGARY AREA FUNDRAISING EVENTS

AMANDA LYN BALDWIN

If you live in Calgary you've likely heard or seen information posted by Society for Treatment of Autism: radio spots, brochures, posters on the sides of Calgary's buses and bus stops, as well as all kinds of interviews and media coverage. This has been part of the communication objective that Society for Treatment of Autism had set in place during the last year. This communication objective is/was the preview for Capital Campaign.

In the last few years the increase in demand for treatment services (specifically for autism) has been colossal and it will continue to grow. This escalation has placed a strain on the services offered by Society for Treatment of Autism. For example, past growth has forced different portions of the society to operate out of multiple offices spread throughout the city of Calgary. The solution to this problem: more expansion.

Through expansion, Society for Treatment of Autism [STA] will be able to consolidate Services into one large building allowing for all employees to work as a more effective treatment team. The larger building will house offices and classrooms as well as locker rooms and gym equipment for the staff. As well, additional therapy and sensory equipment for the kids will be more accessible. The official Launch of Capital Campaign is May 2003. It is hoped that construction will begin within a year, and will take a year to complete: the goal is for the building to be completed in 2005.

Expansion will not only be through construction. STA hopes to expand their services to include more diagnostic capabilities as well as an enhancement in adult services (which are presently quite minimal). With a spending goal of three million dollars, the facility will better support both clients and employees. But where this budget come from? Since the government only provides enough money to keep STA operating, additional funding must be obtained through a fundraising drive: Capital Campaign. The drive includes many events ranging from press conferences to wine tasting. The most recent event was held in February at "The Garage."

STA even has a sponsor: Mark Knoll is one of Canada's speed skating champions. His accomplishments include being a member of the '98 Olympic Team, 13th in the 5000m at the World Single Distances Championships 2000, and having a national record in the 5000m at the 2001 World Cup. Mark's brother is diagnosed with autism.

There are many ways that you too, can help. Contact Isabelle Martin (Fund Development Officer) anytime at (403) 258-5529 to find **ways you can help**. All kinds of donations of both money and time (volunteering) are needed. You can also help the Society for Treatment of Autism by attending one of the fundraising events listed below:

❖ **Legends Alive Concert**

May 22, 2003, 7:30pm

Saddledome

Call (403) 531-6157 for Tickets (\$15 -\$20)

❖ **Groovy Garden Party/Auction**

June 19, 2003

Bow Valley Square

Contact Isabelle Martin: (403) 258-5529

❖ **Annual Fireman's Ball**

June 7, 2003

\$100.00 per ticket

Contact Isabelle Martin: (403) 258-5529

❖ **3rd Ann. Wine Tasting**

October 18, 2003

Art Space Art Gallery

\$75.00 per ticket

Contact Isabelle Martin: (403) 258-5529

Society For Treatment Of Autism: <http://www.sta-ab.com>

2003 BRYON PAEGE MEMORIAL AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



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

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

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

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

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

CRITERIA:

A nominee must:

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

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 10TH, 2003

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

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

For scholarships available through the Athabasca University Student's Union, see the AUSU website at www.ausu.org



KINSMEN AND KINETTES BURSARY, THE (VARIES)

Value: \$1000

DEADLINE: February 1, 2003

Administrator: Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs of Canada

Notes: To be eligible you must be a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant and plan to register as a full-time student, in September of the upcoming school year, at a recognized University, Community College, Technical Institute or other post-secondary institution for advanced learning. Applications must be submitted to the Kinsmen, Kinette, or Kin Club nearest your permanent residence. Please visit the Web site for more information and club locations.

Contact Information:

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

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

Fax: (519) 650-1091

Web Site: <http://www.bellevillekinsmen.ca/bursary/>

E-mail: bzak@kinclubs.ca

Application Address: <http://www.bellevillekinsmen.ca/bursary/MariyIn-Students/2003HREFApplication.pdf>

NORTHERN STUDENT SUPPLEMENT (N.S.S.)

Value: n/s

DEADLINE: n/s

Administrator: Alberta Scholarship Programs

Notes: Submit application with the application for student assistance.

Contact Information:

Alberta Scholarship Program
9940 - 106 Street, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 28000, Station Main
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4R4

Phone: (780) 427-8640

Fax: (780) 422-4516

Web Site: <http://www.alberta-learning.ab.ca/scholarships>

E-mail: heritage@gov.ab.ca

Application Address: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/forms.asp>

AS PRIME MINISTER AWARDS

Students interested in trying out for this year's As Prime Minister Awards will want to check out the Live internet form on May 14, 2003, at 7:30 EST. Join Robin Rix, national winner of the 2002 **As Prime Minister Awards**, as he shares his application experience, the excitement of attending the national judging program along with 49 other semifinalists and what it's like to be a Magna As Prime Minister Awards national winner.

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*



- **Distance Education Technology Symposium (DETS-03)** - sponsored by the Centre for Distance Education - May 15-17, 2003 - Edmonton, Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. Details: <http://cde.athabascau.ca/DET/2003/> or contact Pat Fahy.
- **AMTEC (Association of Media & Technology in Education in Canada)** - "E-convergence: Education, Media & Technology" - May 25-28, 2003, Montreal, PQ. Details: <http://www.amtec.ca>
- **ICDE World Conference** - 21st annual - June 1-5, 2003 - Hong Kong. Details: <http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/HK2003>
- **CADE** - June 7-11, 2003 - St. John's, NF. Details: <http://www.cade-aced2003.ca/>
- **"Women and Leadership in Higher Education: How Thick is the Glass Ceiling?"** - International Conference - June 12-14, 2003 - Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico. Details: http://www.swaac.ca/Prof_Dev.htm or <http://www.swaac.ca/Regional.htm>
- **Distance Teaching & Learning Conference:** - 19th annual - "Working Smarter - Building on Success" - Aug. 13-15, 2003 - Madison, Wisconsin. Details: <http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conference>
- **AU Learning Services Conference** - October 3 & 4, 2003 - Edmonton, Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. Details to follow.

OTHER CONFERENCES

- **Teaching In A Digital Age** - the impact of new communication technologies on teaching and pedagogy. l'Université de Montréal. <http://profetic.org:16080/coll2003/> [French only]
- **China Conference 2003** - Edinburgh July 2003. China Conference Info welcomes people from the commercial and educational sector involved in E-Learning, Distance Learning, Training, HR, IT Training, Localisation, ICT or Knowledge Management, to this world first international event. China represents the biggest target market for these sectors ever and is still largely untapped.

Entering the Chinese market place is a complex move. This conference provides a forum on exchange of market information not only on product and service requirements, but on specialist market entrance requirements. If you are working in any of these sectors you should seriously consider entering this event in your diary. The conference will be patronised by professionals from, China, the USA, Europe and Australia and represents the largest collective gathering of these specialists centred around the Chinese market ever!

Go to the website for more information: <http://www.chinaconferenceinfo.com>

Know of an educational conference that is not on this list? Contact voice@ausu.org with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

Community Networks Group

To suggest listings for events, conferences, or opportunities in your area, contact voice@ausu.org.

GHOST ROCK MEN'S GATHERING

August 20 - 24, 2003 - Info: 921-3980

The Ghost Rock Men's Gathering is an event inspired by the 'mythopoetic' approach of Robert Bly for men dedicated to inner work. In a culture starving for the sacred, Ghost Rock attempt to be a sanctuary, a spiritual home, a holder of the heart. This gathering is an intentional experiment in manifesting a 'group mind' using a unique blend of ritual and creative arts.

As a participant you may expect to find numerous opportunities for creative expression in conversation, movement, writing and music. The retreat format includes morning circles, drumming, sweat lodges, poetry and storytelling. It's facilitated by Murray Armstrong, Matthew Marsolek & Greg Jahn.

The Ghost Rock Men's Gathering is held on a farm 60 miles west of Edmonton. The gathering begins on Wednesday evening August 20th 2003. Supper will be provided at 6:00 p.m. The opening circle is at 8:00 p.m.. The gathering continues with all meals provided and concludes with a lunch on Sunday August 24th 2003.

About the Facilitators...

Murray Armstrong is a clinical social worker and a certified teacher with AAMFT. He has specialized in working with men in individual and group settings for the past 13 years. As he says, he facilitates learning and self-discovering 'from the inside out.'

Matthew Marsolek is a men's retreat - music workshop facilitator with many years of experience. He has worked extensively with the Montana Men's Foundation and the Ghost Rock Men's Gathering. Marsolek has studied East Indian & African music for the past 12 years and is a recording - performing artist with the Drum Brothers.

Greg Jahn is a ceramic artist and yoga teacher from Montana. He has been engaged in numerous men's gathering since 1988 with leaders such as Robert Bly, Michael Meade, James Hillman, Robert Moore and others. He has been instrumental in the formation of the Montana Men's Foundation and has co-lead the Ghost Rock Men's Gathering in Canada for five years.

For registration & further information:

Ken Fearnley, 921-3980

John Larsen, 477-2057

e-mail: fearnley@attcanada.ca

THE FIREWEED INSTITUTE ...

www.fireweedinstitute.org Infoline: (780) 433-1830

Urban Wild/Urban Food Gardening Course: Edmonton homeowners learn to convert a section of their lawn into either an organic vegetable garden or a garden featuring native species - flowers, grasses, shrubs, berry bushes, and trees. Help transform our urbanscape into one that can increase its self-reliance in food production and increase biodiversity by re-introducing species native to this parkland region. Novice or experienced gardeners welcome. Participants will leave with a master garden plan, a plant list, and a work plan. Topics covered include:

- Principles of the Urban Food/Urban Wild Project
- Garden Design and Garden Styles
- Creating a Master Garden Plan
- Native Plant Alternatives and Suppliers
- Yard Preparation - Soil Building, Lawn Removal
- Organic Vegetable Gardening (biointensive methods)
- Water Conservation and Composting

Dates: Monday eve's from 7-9:30 (May 12, 26, June 2-9, June 16, and June 23) Location: Robertson-Wesley United Church - Memorial Hall, 10209-123 Street. Cost: \$145 (\$75 for additional person working on the same yard)

Urban Wild Garden Tour #1: Explores alternatives to a lawn, from xeriscaping (no lawn but other soil covers) to permaculture (perennial grasses and flowers, often native) to speciality gardens and issues like water conservation and biodiversity. Those interested in our 2004 Urban Wild Course to convert lawn into a garden of native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs should come see what is possible.

Date: Sunday, July 6, 2003 - Time: 12 to 4 p.m. / Cost: \$5
Meeting Place: Please call or check our website for details.

Urban Food Garden Tour #2: Explores alternatives to a lawn, especially organic vegetable gardening. As part of sustainable city, the Urban Food Project encourages urban food sufficiency to reduce the climate impacts from industrial agriculture and globally transported food. This tour will introduce you to a range of organic gardening designs and techniques, discuss heritage seeds, and address issues like water conservation and biodiversity. Those interested in becoming participants in our 2004 Urban Food Course, converting a lawn into an organic veggie garden, should come see what is possible.

Date: Sunday, Aug 24, 2003 - Time: 12 to 4 p.m. Cost: \$5.
info@fireweedinstitute.org www.fireweedinstitute.org

CANADA'S LARGEST PEACE CHAIN PLANNED ...

'Hands Across Edmonton - Hands Across the Globe'

2:00 p.m. Monday May 19, 2003 / Info: 988-2713

Edmonton's Peace Dove will be the focal point for what is hoped will be Canada's largest Peace Chain. Edmontonians of all faiths and political persuasions will gather on the Victoria Day holiday at the Peace Dove located west of the Muttart Conservatory to create the Peace Chain.

Joining hands will symbolize a dialogue of civilizations, a 'reaching out and holding on' for peace, in stark contrast to the clash of civilizations idea promoted by the war makers. The Peace Chain will reach north and south from the Peace Dove.

Organizers would like to see the Peace Chain span the North Saskatchewan River across the nearby Cloverdale foot bridge, and stretch south, up the Mill Creek Ravine. Using pedestrian paths and bridges will ensure that there will be no interference with motor vehicle traffic.

Hands Across Edmonton- Hands across the Globe is intended to express a cross-cultural collective vision of peace and justice in the aftermath of the war on Iraq, and now the illegal American occupation of that country.

Following the formation of the Peace Chain, participants will be encouraged to create their own Peace Picnics in the river valley park system. For more information about 'Hands Across Edmonton - Hands Across the Globe' kindly contact ECAWAR at:

Tel: **988-2713** www.wage-peace.org

OSCAR D'LEON IN EDMONTON

Sunday, May 18th, 2003 ~ Doors Open @ 8:00 p.m.
Shaw Convention Center ~ cash bar & Tapas all night
General Admission: \$35 in Advance (or) \$45 at the door

The Dominican/Cuban Association of Calgary in conjunction with Salsaddiction/ SalsaOnSundays & Spice Productions are proud to present ...

The Greatest Salsa Performer of all times! Mr. **Oscar D'Leon**. For the first time in Canada, directly from Venezuela, the biggest Salsero of the world!

Oscar D'Leon is a genuine Latin music legend and possibly the most recognized Venezuelan artist outside his own country. More than 20 years of experience in show business including 60-recorded albums. This extraordinary entertainer clearly delivers his intense love and passion for music. His performances world wide, including places such as; L.A., Miami, New York, Rome and Paris brand him as the "Master of Salsa."

Advance tickets: www.ticketmaster.ca (451-8000)

Paraiso Tropical (9136-118 Ave, Tel. 479-6000)

Salsaddiction (10565-114St, Tel. 913-4655)

Spice Productions (Tel. 953-2468 - 24hr Hotline)

Do not miss this unforgettable evening! See you at the show! / To buy tickets or additional info, please call **953-2468** (24hr Hotline) at Spice Productions.

E-mail: jizquierdo@albchem.com

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



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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



CLASSIFIEDS:

CLASSIFIED SPACE:

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

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

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

THE VOICE

c/o Athabasca University Students' Union
#306, 10030-107th Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
800.788.9041 ext. 3413

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

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**

To subscribe for weekly email reminders as each issue is posted, see the 'subscribe' link on *The Voice* front page
www.ausu.org/voice

The Voice does not share its subscriber list with anyone

Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its frequent contributions
© 2003 by The Voice