

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

10th ANNIVERSARY 1993 - 2003

Vol 11 Issue 21
May 21, 2003

10 Years as
The Voice of
AU Students

SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, RESEARCH, AND AU

Debbie Jabbour concludes her
report from the WCUCC

Just CAUS

A new column from CAUS Chair
Shirley Barg

FICTION FEATURE

The Transfer... conclusion

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

THE VOICE 1993 - 2003

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Volume 11, Issue 21

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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

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

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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.


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EDITORIAL PAGES

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

THIS WEEK

Just CAUS: Newly appointed CAUS Chair and VP of AUSU, Shirley Barg, starts a new column to inform you of what is happening with post-secondary education in Alberta. Expect coverage of government policy changes, funding issues, and CAUS initiatives throughout the province. If you are a post-secondary student, you can't afford to not know what's going on.

Science, Chemistry, Research and AU Students: Debbie Jabbour concludes her coverage of the WCUCC Conference, and asks why similar conferences do not exist for students in other research-oriented disciplines.

The Transfer: The Conclusion of our first fiction instalment by Carolyn Vaughan.

College vs University? Rising tuition costs and new trends in education are making this question more important than ever. Shahzadi Bhatti explores the differences between college and university, and finds that sometimes the best decision is to utilize both types of school to save costs and increase your options.

AUSU VP EXTERNAL NOW CAUS CHAIR

Two weeks ago The Voice announced that Athabasca University Students' Union [AUSU] Vice-President External Shirley Barg was elected Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students [CAUS]. This week I spoke with Shirley to find out more about her new position, and what it means for AU students.

Shirley will be continuing as AUSU VP External, because she feels that her position with CAUS is complementary of her position with AUSU. As VP External, a large part of Shirley's job is to work with government and students' organizations - particularly in Alberta - and to remain aware of changes to government and university policies which affect students. Since CAUS is the primary post-secondary students organization in Alberta, and because they work to directly influence government policy affecting post-sec students, their mandate in many ways overlaps that of the VP External. In fact, Shirley has already been working with CAUS for over two years through her involvement with AUSU. Shirley also wants to stress that while CAUS is specifically working for university students in Alberta, what they do will affect AU students across the country and around the world because changes to education policy will affect the services that AU offers, and the cost of being an AU student. Therefore the CAUS position has a much wider scope than to simply improve the situation of Alberta students.

One unique feature of AUSU has meant that Shirley also has a unique position within CAUS - she is beginning her third year with the organization, where most members only serve a single year. This is because most university students' associations serve only one year terms, whereas AUSU councillors serve for two years. Shirley took on the role of acting VP External with AUSU prior to the last AUSU election, and at that time she became involved with CAUS. Now, as the elected VP External, she's continuing her work with CAUS from the unique perspective of someone who has much more experience working with government organizations and representing post secondary students than many other CAUS members.

Shirley is a unique students' representative in another way: next year she celebrates her 50th birthday, but she continues to work alongside students of all ages, many of whom are younger than her youngest daughter.

Shirley not only understands the challenges facing the ever-growing numbers of mature students in Alberta, but she also understands the struggles of parents who must make significant sacrifices to send their children to school.

Shirley is not the only one with a long association with CAUS - AUSU itself became a member of CAUS in 1993, very shortly after AUSU was formed. CAUS itself has existed since 1986, although it began under another name and originally represented colleges and technical schools as well as universities. Eventually it became clear that the colleges and tech schools often had different needs from universities, and so the Alberta College and Technical Institute Students' Executive Council [ACTISEC] was formed, and CAUS began representing post-secondary students only. Times have changed, however, and Shirley notes that in the past few years CAUS has again begun to work more closely with ACTISEC as students in all levels of the education sector have begun to feel the crunch of reduced education funding and rising tuition.

I asked Shirley a few questions about the direction that she will be taking with CAUS, and how her new position will affect AU students:

How do you feel that your new position as CAUS Chair will benefit students of Athabasca University?

"In the last year I have been working hard to advance the concerns of students of Distance Education [DE], which have been picked up by other CAUS members." DE is also becoming a more prevalent issue with other university students, as more students from the U of C, U of L, and U of A begin to take AU courses to supplement their degrees. Shirley says that it "bodes well because when students taking DE courses are being recognized as being legitimate students it enhances everything."

"Some concerns which primarily affect AU students, like the removal of DE from the governments' tuition fee policy, may not be as important to other universities in Alberta, but these issues still receive prime attention." Many other schools in Alberta are starting to branch into the DE field, and as they do they will encounter many of the same challenges that AU students have faced for years. In the last few years, there has been "quite a transition in the acceptance of AU" by other university students, says Shirley.

Through your experience with CAUS, what have you found to be the most effective strategy for influencing government policy? How powerful is the student Voice?

"The student voice can be much more powerful than what is has been so far. One thing we are trying to do more of because we find that it has the greatest potential to have our concerns heard, is to raise public awareness. I often say that University education is like a funeral, you don't realize the cost until you have to arrange one. People will often say, 'I had no idea it was so expensive, why didn't anyone tell me?'"

Shirley says that CAUS wants "to prepare people for what they will have to pay" when they or their children decide to go to university, so that they can start now to put some pressure on the government to raise funding and make affording an education easier. "The most effective form of lobbying" is that which uses the public voice. Shirley notes, however, that often people have to hear about education issues many times, and from many sources, before they begin to realize the magnitude of the problem, and how it will affect them. Only then are they willing to take action to change education policy.

Are the old methods of lobbying still working, or is it time to try something new?

One new approach that has been very effective has been "coalition building with groups who have a high stake in an educated populace, such as a teacher's or physician's associations." By working with groups that are highly respected, "we can build even more awareness."

Another thing CAUS is doing differently, is they no longer go to the government to simply ask for a solution to the education problem. Instead, "we go in with one or two specific issues that we want to talk about, and we also offer some specific solutions. It's a more mature way of dealing with the problem and we're finding that CAUS has gained a lot of respect with the provincial government in the last few years."

You now have two very demanding jobs. How will you balance your position as CAUS chair with your position as AUSU VP External?

If CAUS had not recently hired an executive director [to handle many of the CAUS administrative duties] I would not have been able to run for Chair. At the other three universities, the students' unions have a lot of support staff that they can get to help them on projects, whereas we don't have that luxury." With the new executive director in place full time, Shirley will be able to concentrate on forming effective lobbying strategies, travelling to educational conferences and government meetings, and educating the public as to the need for a updated government policy for post-secondary education. These same activities should enhance her work as AUSU VP External, as she will now have a much stronger voice when representing the concerns of AU students, as well as all Alberta students.

We wish Shirley the best of luck in her new job, and look forward to the many new initiatives CAUS will be launching this year. If you want to learn more about what CAUS is doing, and about some upcoming changes to the Alberta government's education policies, read Shirley's new Voice column - Just CAUS - which premieres in The Voice this week.

Tamra Ross Low
Editor in Chief.

ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS JUNE?
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The advertisement features a green background. At the top, a red circle contains the text "Want to STOP smoking?". Below this, a lit cigarette is shown with smoke rising from it, represented by a series of red dots. At the bottom, a red rotary telephone is shown. The text "It's easier with HELP." is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, a red banner contains the text "Smoker's Help Line 1-866-33AADAC". At the very bottom, there are logos for AADAC (Alberta Addictions and Alcoholism Development Centre), the Government of Alberta, and the slogan "HEALTH FIRST" with a small apple icon.

Want to **STOP** smoking?

It's easier with **HELP.**

Smoker's Help Line **1-866-33AADAC**

AADAC
Alberta Addictions and Alcoholism Development Centre
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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?

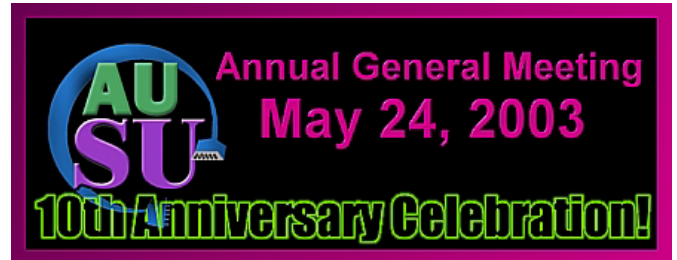
As an organization incorporated under Alberta's Societies Act* we are required by law to have an Annual General Meeting each year. This is done to make an accounting to our members, particularly regarding the financial statements for the previous fiscal year. It is also the only

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

COLLEGE VS. UNIVERSITY

By Shahzadi Bhatti



As a society, we regard university as providing a higher education than a college. However, what we need to understand is that university is theory based while college is practical. The average population will look more highly upon an individual who has acquired a university degree than one who has graduated with a college diploma. Such thinking is very harmful for our society. University is not necessarily the best means of education for all fields. For example, if one wants to become a doctor, university education is the best solution. However, for somebody wanting to pursue a career in computer graphics, it is better to attend college. This is because computer graphics is a more practical field than medicine. This practical training will only be provided by colleges and in such circumstances, attending college is the better choice.

Today, universities such as Athabasca University are attempting to make the boundaries of these systems more permeable. By providing programs such as the Bachelors of Professional Arts (BPA), Athabasca University is enabling students who have earned a two-year college diploma to earn a degree by admitting these students in the third year of the BPA program. Therefore, a student can get two years of practical training from college and continue with two years of theoretical university experience to earn a valid university degree.

This is a great change in the education system, as the two years of college experience are not wasted. It is also better financially because students can pay a cheaper tuition for two years in college and then enter university and pay the appropriate fees. Hence, a student enrolled in a program such as the BPA is paying less than those enrolled in four-year programs at any other university. Also, the student is coming to university with hands-on experience which will aid in finding a job after university. Most employers would want to hire a student who has had both practical and theoretical experience in their field of study compared to another student who has only had one or the other. Hence, Athabasca University is doing a great job at breaking this education barrier between college and university by helping students convert their diplomas into a degree.

After I attained my Digital Media Technical Production Diploma from Seneca College, I decided to pursue university education but the costs were horrendous. When speaking of costs, I am taking about tuition, books, parking fees, student council fees, etc. I also knew that I could not work and attend university due to the time I would have to spend traveling to school, attending lectures, doing group work, and much more. After thorough research, I discovered Distance Education and it was an interesting concept. I discovered Athabasca University in my research and I found the Bachelors of Professional Arts Degree Program to be the best choice for me.

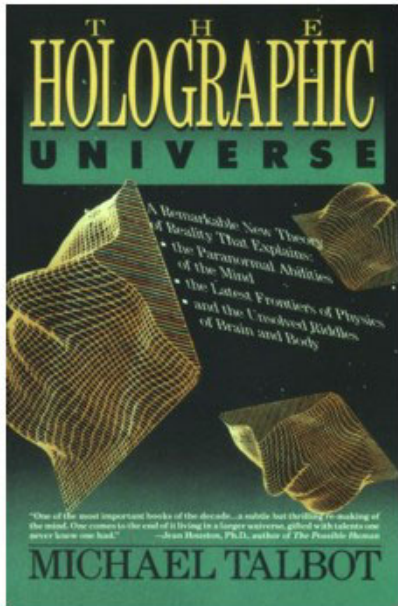
If I attended any university in Ontario, I would always have friends there, which would interfere in my studying and the costs were too much. I also would not be able to attain a full-time job. After studying at Athabasca University for two years, I can surely say that I have been able to work, and save that extra cash I would have spent going to any university in Ontario. I have also learned to be more independent, and organized in all my work. I am even getting better grades than I did in college or high school, which is a positive sign. I like the theory style of education I am getting at university, as it is something I did not get to experience during college life. Best of all, Athabasca recognized my two years of college as two years of university education. Thus, I am happy with the choices I made. Instead of taking a big step from high school to university, I am glad I got the college experience, and now I even get to experience university education. Overall, I hope for a bright future once I graduate and am able to apply for jobs with both a diploma and a degree.



The Holographic Universe

Book review

By Laura Seymour



Once in a while a pocketbook comes along that completely blows me away. *The Holographic Universe* by Michael Talbot is one of those books! Published in 1992 by HarperPerrenial it is an amazing find!

The cover quote is from Jean Houston, Ph.D. author of *The Possible Human*: "One of the most important books of the decade ... a subtle but thrilling re-making of the mind. One comes to the end of it living in a larger universe, gifted with talents one never knew one had." The quote is not a horn-blowing build up. It is a review of a book that is *that* interesting and amazing to read.

The back of the book has quotes from Larry Dorsey, M.D. author of *Space, Time and Medicine*, Lyall Watson, author of *Supernature* and Fred Alan Wolf, Ph.D., author of *Taking the Quantum Leap*.

I picked this book up at an Upledger Institute course but I was inundated with reading material at the time. I was also in an AU course and had, as I'm sure you know, a hard time finding recreational reading time. If I had known how amazing this heavily researched book was—I would have dropped most of my expendable reading material and dug in.

Michael Talbot should not be mistaken for the *Miami Vice* actor who played the character Switek. That actor has an extra "t" on the end of his name.

The main "problem" with this book was that when I picked up a pencil to start underlining some amazing research from the multiples of physicists, authors, psychologists, psychiatrists and psychics that Talbot quotes throughout, I found that I was marking virtually every line of every page!

Reviews of the book have included such praise as: "A delight for science buffs or anyone interested in the paranormal abilities of the mind, the latest frontiers of physics, and the unsolved riddles of brain and body, *The Holographic Universe* explores the ways in which our concepts of time, personality, even consciousness, are altered by defining them as holographic" -- Booklist.

Talbot takes a scientific stand toward proving the theory that the world around us is a holograph. His point is not that the world around us is an illusion but that it is a "dream" we are all helping to create. His supporting research is outstanding. Not citing the usual few authors quoted within the text, he is voluminous in his research.

The start of the book defines a holograph. This descriptions is itself fascinating to read. The author cites the way the idea began and how the idea has been picked up and modified by the scientific community at large. Information is diverse – including topics such as hypnosis, and scientific experiments influencing machinery, time, and energy as well as affects on other humans. Talbot also looks into UFOs, religious experience, and miracles.

Talbot has one point in his corner that I respect enormously. He doesn't whitewash the references he uses. If someone doesn't agree with him or a theory doesn't support his point he doesn't hide it. Talbot is honest enough to call a spade a sharp pointy thing to dig in a garden with.

While I was reading *The Holographic Universe*, I was constantly interrupting my husband during TV commercials, reading or sleeping, with snippets from the book. I apologize dear! I am more than a little impressed with this book's in-depth research and I needed to share the information. You may feel the same way.

In case you can't tell by now -- I recommend this book to anyone involved in related studies or with an interest in psychology, physics, or paranormal research. So many books use a few references but here is one that is cleaning the bookshelves off to find interesting material to add to the text.

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).

Just CAUS by Shirley Barg

The Post-Secondary Learning Act, also known as Bill 43, received first reading in legislature last week before being tabled until fall. The Act is an attempt by the government to combine the Universities Act with acts governing other post-secondary institutes in the province. In putting forward Bill 43, the Alberta government seems to have found one more way to undermine democratic process in this province.

Alberta Learning invited students' groups and post-secondary institutions to submit comments on what should be in the new act; however, Bill 43 contains several clauses that seem to have been written for the sole purpose of raising the eyebrows and ire of the organizations it most affects—post-secondary institutes and their students' organizations. For example, one section of the Act gives the Learning Minister the power to dissolve any students' council at any college, technical institute, or university.

Here's how Bill 43 says that can happen: students' associations will have to provide audited financial statements to their institutes' governing board or council. If any "irregularities" are noticed, the school can call upon the Learning Minister to appoint an investigator. If the investigator confirms the appearance of "irregularities," the Minister can oust an entire Council. The Minister will then appoint an administrator to handle all the affairs of

the students' association until another Council can be elected. The administrator's costs must be paid from students' association funds. The Act omits any guidelines on what would constitute an "irregularity."

The Learning Minister, as quoted in *The Edmonton Journal* (May 15, 2003) said this process was proposed to protect students in case their membership fees are misappropriated. Premier Ralph Klein suggested that the government might need to step in if students' organizations act irresponsibly or use students' membership fees in inappropriate ways (*The Edmonton Journal*, May 16, 2003). Perhaps the government does not trust that we, as post-secondary students, have the maturity or ability to responsibly manage our own affairs and our own funds. Do we need government intervention to protect us from student representatives we have elected and whom we have the right and power to impeach if they're not doing their jobs? Who protects the tax payers in this province if the government acts irresponsibly or uses our tax dollars in irresponsible ways?

If students' associations received funding from the provincial government, I could better understand the need to provide proof of fiduciary responsibility to Alberta Learning. But students' associations do not get funding from the government, nor do they get funding from the universities. Students can access their associations' financial records at any time and have the right to question whether or not funds were used appropriately. As not-for-profit organizations, students' associations already submit annual financial statements to the government. Why, then, is it necessary to implement such draconian measures on students' associations?

It's been suggested that this section of the proposed legislation was included to distract students from other aspects of the Act we find quite concerning such as the omission of the Tuition Fee Policy. The Government's intent, in taking the Tuition Fee Policy out of legislation, is to bring it forward as regulation; however, regulations can be changed without discussion in the House, without input from opposition, and ostensibly behind closed doors.

The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) will be submitting amendments to Bill 43 on these two issues and on other sections of the Act that concern us. We intend to fight hard to ensure that democratic processes are maintained, and that tuition policies remain in a position to be publicly debated. Students are one of the greatest renewable resources of Alberta, and student leaders work hard to make sure that all post-secondary students get the best treatment possible by the provincial government. We won't let Bill 43 undermine our efforts.

Shirley Barg, Chair
Council of Alberta University Students

The Council of Alberta University Students provides a combined provincial voice for all students of the four Alberta universities: University of Alberta, Athabasca University, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge. Post-secondary education decisions made by the Alberta government affect all Athabasca University students. Shirley Barg, Chair of CAUS, is the Vice-President of the Athabasca University Students' Union



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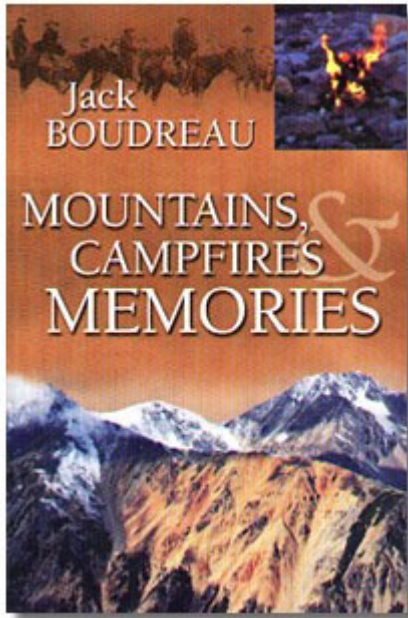
Debbie Jabbour
[djabbour@ausu.org].

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

MOUNTAINS, CAMPFIRES & MEMORIES

BY AUTHOR JACK BOUDREAU

Review by Wayne E. Benedict



Mountains, Campfires & Memories is the third book that my maternal uncle, Jack Boudreau, has written. The first was *Crazy Man's Creek* (reviewed in *The Voice*, June 20, 2001) and the second was *Grizzly Bear Mountain* (reviewed in *The Voice*, July 25, 2001). In his first two books, Jack related dozens of stories of which he had first-hand knowledge, either through his own experiences or those of old trappers, settlers, or hunters that he had interviewed. All three of his books were published by Caitlin Press and are based on the outdoors. The author highlights the hardships suffered by the robust early inhabitants of British Columbia who relied on its unforgiving natural resources for their survival.

I have enjoyed all of Jack's books, but the first two were especially meaningful to me because they were entirely composed of stories that Jack had either experienced himself or had received from primary participants in the tale. This latest work, however, is an anthology of other writers' stories, largely taken from early twentieth-century newspapers, and connected through Jack's colorful commentary. While I thoroughly enjoyed the book and found its contents in line with the style for which Jack has become

known, I felt that something was missing from my reading experience and realized that it was the originality of the author's first two books.

I have no doubt that Jack spent countless hours researching the contents of *Mountains, Campfires & Memories* and his hard work has paid off with a fine book that will hold strong appeal to the audience that he has built up from his first two best-sellers. While I was personally disappointed with the dearth of familial poignancy that I experienced while reading *Crazy Man's Creek* & *Grizzly Bear Mountain*, I submit that his writing is wonderful and that his latest work is bound to be a best-seller in its own right.

If you enjoy true stories set in early twentieth-century British Columbia "...of adventures gone awry, bizarre encounters with creatures in the wilds, and the results of friendships gone sour." Or tales of "[w]hen men went missing, or furs were stolen...[causing] ...the local police officer or game warden to don his hunting gear to track down the hunter or the hunted," then *Mountains, Campfires & Memories* is most definitely a book for you.

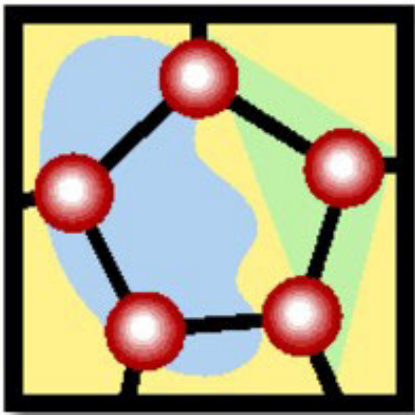
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NANOTECHNOLOGY

By Zil-E-Huma Lodhi



The progress of technology around the world has already turned some of our legends into reality. Nanotechnology is another emerging technology which has a promise to give life the fairy tale of **dwarfs**. In a few decades, this technology will make "supercomputers that fit on the head of the pin and fleets of tiny nanorobots smaller than human cells" (Merkle, 2000) will be able to treat cancer, eliminate infections, or unclog blocked arteries from within.

The word nano is derived from the Greek word **nanos**, which means dwarf. Nanotechnology is the science which deals with activities at the molecular level, in other words it enables scientists to create and manipulate structures, components and devices with a size range from about 0.1nm-100

nm, where a nm (nanometer) one billionth of a metre or 3 - 4 atoms wide (NRC, 2003). Here is a comparison of the nano scale to some of our daily life measurements to make our understanding a little easier.

NANO SCALE (NRC, 2003)

0.1 nanometre

2.5 nanometres

800 nanometres

1.7 billion nanometres

Diameter of one hydrogen atom

Width of a DNA molecule

Diameter of human red blood corpuscle

Height of typical human

ARTS AND SCIENCE

Nanotechnology can make the impossible, possible. You have to see it to believe it. Check out [this website](#) for an artist's conception of nanoworld, which includes tiny nanobots [nano-sized robots] that can live in the skin and change pigments for instant makeup, and medical submarines tiny enough to navigate through the human circulatory system.

NANOTECH AND CANADIAN INDUSTRY

Canada is making its mark on nanotechnology. In April of 2002, The National Post (Stewart, D. 2002) noted that in Canada, "the federal and Alberta governments have committed \$120 million to the National Institute for Nanotechnology in Edmonton." However, the same article points out that this spending is a fraction of what U.S, Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea and Singapore have allocated.

There are good reasons for Canada to be spending more on nano research, and particularly to the development of nanocomposites - polymers which "incorporate nanometer-sized particles of clay" and are lighter, stronger, and "less environmentally costly to produce" (NRC, 2003) The National Research Council "estimates for the market for these polymeric nanocomposites by 2009 are \$3 billion, with the Canadian market alone being worth \$500 million per year by the end of the decade."

Additionally, The National Post reports that, "there are over 700 companies and research institutes worldwide working on nanotech, with over 11,000 employees." Predicted growth of "the size of this market by the year 2010 range[s] from US\$100 billion to \$1 trillion." Nevertheless, Canada is not making nanotech a priority in the same way as other countries.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

The great thing about nanotechnology is that it is truly multidisciplinary because of the great need for scientists from diverse fields to share knowledge, tools and techniques, as well as information on the physics affecting atomic and molecular interactions in this new realm.

Nanotechnology R&D (Research and Development) is opening up vast new horizons in:

Material Sciences
Medicine
Biotechnology
Genomics
Manufacturing
Computing
Information and Computer Technology.

APPLICATIONS OF NANOTECHNOLOGY IN DAILY LIFE

One of the most exciting developments in the field of nano-medicine is the proposal of a new kind of cancer treatment. According to Matt Kelly (2003), Small Times Correspondent, "Cancer, one of mankind's oldest threats, is about to come under attack from one of its newest tools: nanoparticles." The hope is that targeted nanoparticles will be able to find cancer cells in patients bodies and then destroy them - thus rendering chemotherapy obsolete. Two companies, Triton Biosystems and Nanospectra Biosciences, have already developed promising anti-cancer technologies which attack cancer cells without causing damage to healthy tissue.

Consumer Goods

Nanotechnology is not only limited to nano-machines - its applications can be found in every day consumer life. For example, as a housewife if you hate removing nasty stains don't worry, nanotech is here to help. There is now a fabric on the market which is spill proof, thanks to nanotechnology. Manufacturers of the nano-engineered fabric say that it contains "nano-whiskers" which coat "each fiber of fabric." Stains are said to be unable to penetrate the fabric through the nano-coating (Long, 2002).

Defense

The defense industry has placed a great deal of hope in the development of MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems) sensors to detect dangerous microscopic particles. According to the MEMS Clearinghouse, MEMS is "the integration of mechanical elements, sensors, actuators, and electronics on a common silicon substrate through microfabrication technology." According to a Small Times report (2003), the "development of MEMS sensors for real-time detection and monitoring of biological and chemical weapons remains a few years away," but it's not so distant. These sensors will make the detection of chemical and biological weapons easy and they will also be able to differentiate between pesticides and other microbes.

Energy

Atomic batteries: In the future, there will be no need recharge batteries or buy expensive ones, researchers have developed a microscopic device that could supply power for decades to remote battlefield sensors or implantable medical devices.

Cymbet Corp, of Elk River, Minn., says "its cells are manufactured to last the full life cycle of any product, with the ability to recharge up to 70,000 times using a variety of power sources from inductive current to radio frequency or solar power" (Dukart, 2003).

Environment

In this era of global warning we need nanotechnology more than ever to replace conventional fuels. We also need more environmentally friendly products which are body friendly too.

Organic metals

Nanotechnology is being used to engineer 'organic' metals from environmentally friendly building blocks like carbon, nitrogen and hydrogen. So far these metals are being used in three application areas: anti-corrosion, electronic smog protection and printed circuit board coatings (Thompson, 2002).

Transportation

The use of MEMS devices in vehicles is expected to nearly double in the next five years. MEMS are being used by the automotive industry to improve performance, reduce costs, and to increase the reliability of the cars. Crash sensing for air bag control represents the largest automotive use of inertial MEMS (Singer, 2002; Sensomag, 2002).

ETHICAL AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Endowed with the promise of changing our lives, nanotechnology still faces the big question: is it ethical to move life around this way? Those who are the fans of legendary *Star Trek* series may remember the Borgs - a mix-and-match of humans and machines. Are we ready to let machines to rule our lives? A pace maker is an excellent example of how a machine may control our heart and thus, our life (Institute of Nanotechnology).

CONCLUSION

Nanotechnology may make our future generations look back upon us as we have toward medieval times - i.e. we may appear primitive in our use of new technology. Clearly, nanotechnology is a science which can potentially change our lives for the better or the worse. Yes, it will be a boon to have nanotechnology at our disposal but there lies the danger of playing God. Ethical issues like privacy, security, and most of all the modification of living system needs to be resolved now. As cameras and other surveillance devices become tinier, there is a danger of misuse. Similarly, who will regulate the research of offensive and defensive military nanotechnology? These are the questions that should answered now so we can look forward to our nano but grand future (Mnyusiwallal, Daarl & Singer, 2003).

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CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Alberta Attacking Students

The Government of Alberta was pleased to announce Bill 43, in support of a seamless post-secondary system. Unfortunately for Alberta and Athabasca University post-secondary students; apparently seamless means sealing themselves away from pesky student requests.

One of the most interesting things about the Act is that the tuition cap, that small matter that kept our tuitions down to only 30% of the total cost of education, has been moved from legislation to regulation. This change means that the tuition cap can be changed at the drop of a hat with no public consultation, input, or even forewarning. The Learning Minister simply goes into a back room, decides he doesn't want to spend as much on University

tuition, and suddenly students are on the hook for the entire amount so that tax-payers no longer have to foot the bill. This looks great for four years, but once the supply of new graduates starts to slow we start to see the real effects in the economy.

Fortunately for the provincial government, elections only come once every four years, so they don't have to look beyond the next one anyway.

As if that isn't enough, Student Unions are included under this new Bill. Not that the government is granting them any funding to increase their advocacy or push the rights of the student. No, they are mentioned in this bill specifically in the context that the Board of the University may choose to have a Student's Union Council investigated and disbanded, with the students paying for the investigation and the investigator's unspecified wage until a new Council can be elected.

Now, considering that every university student's union is funded entirely by you, the student, what right do the boards of the universities, or even the provincial government have to investigate and disband them? Is the tutor's union subject to be disbanded if the board doesn't like what they do? How about the professional staff's union? So why, then, would they put in this bit of legislation against the Student's Unions?

If you take these two changes in tandem, however, the answer becomes clear. They want to make sure we can't make too much noise when they have us bent over.

Bill 43 needs to be seriously altered before any of the damage it can do comes to pass. CAUS [see **Shirley Barg's Just CAUS column in this issue**] is going to be having a publicity push on this, but you can step up to the plate yourself. If you're in Alberta, you can find out who your MLA is and write or call them. In addition, if you know anybody in a union (and this would include your tutors) you may want to ask them to bring this up to their union representative, or who knows, they might find that their union is next.

Worth the Debt?

The Maritime Province's Higher Education Commission has released a study showing that although students are having to cope with higher debt loads than ever, graduates still say that the education is worth the money.

The 1999 graduating class was surveyed and show high employment rates, higher earnings than previous graduates, high satisfaction with their educations. The average debt is over \$20,000 and the number of students requiring \$30,000 or more in assistance has doubled since 1996, however students still say it was worthwhile.

Then again, people who stood in line for the Episode 1 of Star Wars for three days said that it was worthwhile as well. It just stands to reason, the more you put into something, the more you come to believe that what you're trying to do is worth it. It's a fairly well known psychological phenomenon with regard to expectations, effort, and perceived value. Or putting it simply, after spending that much, of course you're going to say it was worth it, otherwise you'd have been a bloody fool for continuing to get more loans. Since nobody wants to say they're foolish, they say that the crushing debt is worth it instead.

Using this logic, we can see that the higher the loans get, the more that suckers.. sorry, students.. will say the debt-load is worth the education, so the Provinces can merrily continue on their way and say they know that the debt is bad, but students are still saying they get value for the money.

Now maybe we do, and maybe we don't get our loans worth. But taking this kind of self-satisfaction survey strikes me as poor research at best.

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.

To read part one of *The Transfer*, see May 14th issue of *The Voice* [v11 i 20].

"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 reach 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?"

At first, Angel thought Aggie hadn't heard, because the old woman continued to croon, "poor baby, poor baby." But gently Aggie placed the rag doll on the sheets of Angel's bed and began to work bony fingers beneath the buckle of the wrist restraint.

Angel dared not move for fear the old woman would lose concentration. Angel saw the little flap holding the buckle begin to loosen, a fraction at first, but slowly, painstakingly, Aggie worked at it until there was a loop about an inch high.

"Aggie, You get away from there!" Aggie jumped and Angel felt her own hot blinding tears of frustration gather beneath her eyelids.

Beauregard swooped into the room grasped Aggie by the shoulders, plucked the rag doll from Angel's bed and guided Aggie back to her side of the room.

Aggie began to whimper, a soft mewing sound.

"Oh, come on Sweets, Daddy's not mad. Now come on Aggie, get into bed."

Aggie began to croon to her dolly, "poor baby, poor baby."

Beauregard turned toward Angel, his dark face a mask of controlled anger. "You had no right to encourage her like that." The poor old soul doesn't like restraints. God knows she's had enough of them in her day."

"Well I..."

"I know you just wanted to be rid of 'em. But like I told you already, Selma will probably remove them when she comes on duty. She's been known to bend a rule a little." He reached behind Angel's head and handed her a cord with a button at the end of it, then he placed it in the palm of her hand so that even with the wrist restraints in place she would be able to signal the nursing station.

"Now you do as I say, and you'll make this whole experience a little easier on yur self. It's almost change of shift, you wait for a half hour or so, give Selma a chance to listen to report and read her notes and then give her a buzz, if you talk real nice to her, I suspect she might just take off your hand restraints. Especially if you promise her you won't make a peep the rest of the night. Understood?"

Angel nodded her head. This was one helluva place she'd landed herself in and it seemed to have rules she didn't understand. "Thanks mister, I'll do as you say."

"Smart girl," he said, as he winked and left the room.

Angel decided she'd wait at least an hour before she buzzed the nurse, no point in getting her pissed.

Night Shift 24:00 Saturday, April 24

Selma slipped the taped report into the machine and listed while Alice Munroe's voice droned on about the events of the evening. "Alice Munroe, recording for evenings, April 24..." who else would be recording, Selma wondered, Santa Claus? "Ward census nine plus one." Now that was something different, plus one, an admission to chronic? "Jake Reardon was incontinent twice." As if Selma cared how many times the old guy wet himself. "Aggie Turner was given a laxative." When wasn't Aggie given a laxative? Selma leafed through the notes left by the orderly.

Beau had written in heavy bold script, that the new admit wanted her wrist restraints removed, beside it he wrote in bold letters, NO ORDER.

Selma pulled the new patient's chart. Sure enough, there was no doctor's order to remove restraints. She scanned through the data. The poor kid, she was just a runaway getting herself into trouble, been seen in emerg by the admitting Doctor, guy probably wrote hand restraints to keep the emergency room nurses happy. Then the kid had been shipped off to chronic. The ER Doc probably expected the kid to end up on the short stay psych unit; too bad short term was full.

Selma searched the chart, she saw that the ward psychiatrist Dr Blaine had telephoned in verbal admission orders, said he'd see the patient in the morning at his regular rounds. His verbal orders were mostly routine stuff, blood work, diet. Hadn't said a word about wrist restraints. The old coot probably didn't know the kid was still wearing wrist restraints. Selma wouldn't go down the hall to remove them, she still had her paper work to do, but if the kid was still awake when she made her first round, what the hell she'd take them off. You had to do something now and then to let administration know you were alive on night shift, otherwise they forgot all about you.

Selma snapped the off button of the tape recorder. There was no point in listening to the rest of the drivel. Nothing ever changed on chronic.

She was tired, so very tired, and the snoring sounds from Room 101 seemed louder than she could ever remember. She placed her hands over ears trying to block out the constant whining wheeze. Suddenly, without warning, the desk fan above her head stopped. Selma could feel the roar coming from Room 101.

Quietly and deliberately Selma closed the orderlies' note book. Without the fan, Alvin's snore clawed at her soul like razors along the soft underbelly of a bird.

Soundlessly, Selma walked as only a night nurse can, into the darkened room just off the nurses' station. She paused for a moment. She noticed the hearing aid and the false teeth sitting on the bedside table. "Beau should have put those teeth in a denture cup," she thought.

The room smelled faintly of an unopened urinal. Her foot caught on the over bed table. She steadied herself. The pillow was in the Geri chair by Alvin's bed, just as for months she'd imagined it would be. Consciously, deliberately, she picked up the pillow with both hands. Alvin MacAvoy lay flat on his back, his skinny chest heaving rhythmically. A string of spittle curled down over his lip and bubbled with each breath. She advanced slowly toward him until the sound of his wheezy, shrieking sleep noises thundered in her ears like the roar of a thousand fire trucks.

As her eyes adjusted to the darkened room, she saw three silver nose hairs protruding from his right nostril. Beau should have trimmed those. She held the pillow to her body like a shield against the clatter of Alvin's sleep noises while she moved in closer. When the pillow was within inches of his wrinkled brown cheeks, she placed it firmly over his face.

Alvin struggled once, Selma exerted more pressure. Alvin tried to get bony fingers beneath the pillow. Selma held on. Alvin MacAvoy jerked his scrawny legs making a feeble scissor cut. Finally, the wheezy, shrieking sleep noises ceased and Selma found peace. Selma counted slowly to sixty. One little rabbit, two little rabbits...

Selma replaced the pillow case with a fresh one and carefully returned the pillow to the Geri chair. Alvin

would need his pillow when the day shift came in to take him for a walk. Alvin's backside always got sore if he didn't have his pillow to sit on. She straightened Alvin's top sheet so that it lay neatly just below his jaw and wiped a bloody string of spittle from his chin. She kissed the small St. Christopher medal that was hanging about her neck. She was glad Alvin's wheeze was better tonight. Come to think of it she couldn't remember a night shift when Alvin's piercing wheeze hadn't grated on her nerves.

Selma left the room and quietly closed the door. She smoothed her hands down over her uniform and plucked at imaginary pieces of lint. Something didn't seem right to her, but she didn't quite know what it was. She had to get off nights. She just had to.

She turned toward the nursing station when she caught the blink of the call light at the end of the corridor. Why did she have this uneasy feeling in the pit of her stomach?

Selma opened the room occupied by Aggie and the new Admission.

Shortly after Beau left her alone with Aggie, Angel had dozed. She was awakened by the distant sounds of a shrill wheezing sound, but a few moments later the sound stopped. It was dark out but the glow from the outside parking lot lit up the shadows on the far wall. Aggie had fallen asleep and Angel found the wrist restraints becoming more and more uncomfortable.

Tentatively she pressed the buzzer Beau had given her. She had rehearsed what she would say when the night nurse came in. It wasn't as if she were actually a psychiatric patient. She had simply taken some bad drugs. Not too smart maybe and perhaps even illegal but not crazy.

Angel felt the door to her room opening and a woman with short cropped brown hair turned on the overhead light. If Angel could have, she would have hidden her head under the covers.

The nurse wore a name tag, the same kind Beau had worn, but, it was the woman's eyes that terrified Angel. The eyes were dark and hooded with a glassy look. There were smouldering dark circles under the eyes and Angel was certain the woman didn't know where she was. Angel had seen that vacant look many times on the streets. Usually she avoided people with eyes like that. Angel was sorry she had rung her buzzer.

Angel heard Aggie whimper. The nurse whipped her head around toward the sound and sniffed at the air. Angel could smell the distinct odour of feces. Aggie must have dirtied her diaper. The nurse moved swiftly, pulled a pillow from beneath the old woman's head and held it down.

It's been two weeks since Aggie's death. Angel no longer wears wrist restraints, but she doesn't say much anymore, just "sleep pretty baby, sleep" and sometimes she mutters, "bad mommy, bad mommy." Beauregard and the evening Charge Nurse, Alice Munroe, occasionally discuss what a shame it was Aggie's death happened the same night Angel Mason was admitted. "Imagine the poor kid coming up with a story about Selma smothering poor old Aggie."

It was Beau that said, "Guess two deaths in one night, the restraints and bad drugs must have completely unhinged the poor kid. Too, Bad."

Selma Barclay doesn't work night shifts at Island Pacific anymore. Her transfer to days finally came through. She stayed another week but then she got an opportunity to work on the children's unit at Mercy Hospital on the lower East side. She bumped into Beau one evening at the movie theatre. When he asked her how she liked her new job she told him she really enjoyed it at first, but lately she'd put in for another transfer. She said she just hated to hear the poor little children cry.

The End

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

Conclusion

By Debbie Jabbour



To read the first two parts of this article, see the May 7th [v11 i19] and May 14th [v11 i20] issues of The Voice.

My daughter presented her research the following afternoon, and I arrived with my textbook in tow so that I could sneak some study time in between sessions. I enjoyed a tour of the poster presentations, and most of those I spoke with were able to explain their research in layman's terms. My daughter's research was "Quantum Chemical Calculations of NMR Isotropic Chemical Shifts of Calystegines" (Benavides & Pitchko, Concordia University College of Alberta). She explained this to me as a study of chemical compositions from the root of the bindweed or morning glory (and other

plants), that are known to cause disease in cattle. Her research isolated the compounds, one at a time, and tested them to see if they fit a particular chemical profile. Of the dozen possible calystegine compounds, they had only managed to completely test two of them, even though the research project took place over most of the summer. This reinforced to me just how slow and painstaking research can be, and how much dreary mechanical work must precede almost any research breakthrough. She and Dr. Pitchko will be continuing the research until it is complete and ready to be published, and this is expected to take the better part of this summer.

What I found interesting was Dr. Pitchko's comment that the first task will be to do a review of published journals and articles. I asked him if this was not the first thing done when embarking on research. He stated, absolutely yes, but added that the review they had done before starting the project was already over six months old, and that in the world of science, new research is ongoing at an incredible pace. It is quite likely that dozens of other researchers will have already made published progress on the same project, and that part of the research process is to continually be aware of what other scientists are doing.

While my daughter was explaining her research to the last judge, Dr. Pitchko commented to me that one of the most important criteria to receive an award at an event like this was that students were able to clearly explain their role in the research, and to show that they were able to work cooperatively with their professors in achieving results. A student who attempted to act like "a know it all" would not be looked upon favourably, whereas a student who acknowledged their limitations and admitted the importance of relying on their teachers and peers to expand on their scientific knowledge would be successful. This was a great relief to my daughter, who had been worried that if she could not answer all the judges' questions she would be in trouble.

I also had the opportunity to speak with other professors from across Canada. One from British Columbia expressed surprise that Athabasca University offered a BSc, asking me how it was possible to take chemistry courses at a distance? I explained that students are given opportunities to perform laboratory experiments at home, with some hands-on experience, and by computer, and I also mentioned Martin Connors holding AU's research chair in science. He was unaware that science is an important study at Athabasca University and I was

pleased to have the chance to enlighten him. I pointed out that I had learned at this conference that performing chemistry experiments was not just a laboratory procedure, but instead involved critical thinking and computer synthesis of data. In fact, the research carried out by a good number of the chemistry students in attendance was not what we would consider "traditional" laboratory research. It was no different from research a psychology student might carry out with a Stroop test, or what a sociology student might do with observations of human behaviour. The only difference was that the chemistry students use chemical compounds to create their data.

At the closing banquet, we enjoyed a brief presentation on "synchrotron", a science facility based in Saskatchewan that uses beams of light and magnets to create super-powerful microscopes with multiple applications. Check out: <http://www.lightsource.ca/> to learn more about this fascinating venture. At the conclusion of the banquet, the awards were presented, and both Dr. Pitchko and myself were proud of my daughter when she received one!

I found this conference to be an exciting and inspiring insight into the world of science. By its conclusion I had reinforced to myself that science is not limited to the laboratory, and that the research projects I've been doing in my courses are as valid as those carried out in any university, and can be equally important. Science can be described as a search for answers to questions – any questions; and therefore, as university students, science is part of our daily studies. There are different types of science, and not all of us are engaging in traditional scientific analysis. However, we all should be doing research in the process of learning, and we can take what we learn from our research and apply it to every aspect of our lives.

Since attending the conference, I've done some research myself into whether similar scientific conferences exist for psychology students like myself. I've not yet discovered any where undergraduate students can have a similar opportunity like the WCUCC - to present their original research. I have, however, joined the Canadian Psychology Association, and I will be actively seeking research opportunities to share with fellow students.

One of the most important lessons I took away from the conference was the need to have a vision of where we are going. This is particularly important at AU, since we are often struggling along, taking a single course at a time. It's easy to lose sight of an end goal because it seems so far into the future – yet without an end goal we may become discouraged and give up when things get difficult. Like those undergraduate chemistry students I met at the conference, all of us are going places with our university degree, and all of us will eventually make our mark on the world. Although most of us will not make an important scientific research discovery – we will all change the world for the better – whether it is by adding to our collective knowledge, by becoming better persons, by setting examples for our children, or by some other means large or small. The theme of the WCUCC conference, "reward your miracle," is an appropriate one for all of us at AU – since we will all be able to reward our own miracle through our accomplishments.

WCUCC Conference: <http://www.chem.ualberta.ca/WCUCC.htm>

Concordia University College Chemistry Department: <http://chemistry.concordia.ab.ca>

Canadian Light Source: <http://www.lightsource.ca/>

Casino Regina: <http://www.casinoregina.com/>

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.



Dear Sandra,

I have doubts about my relationship; hope you can help! I don't know if I'm in love or in love with the idea of being in love?? How do you know if a relationship is right or wrong? How do you know whether to stay or move on to greener pastures? My boyfriend is a good guy, but I just don't know if he's the one for me??

Confused in Saskatoon

Dear Confused,

Relationships are never easy. The torrent of emotions we experience when we are in one can change our perceptions of it daily. One day you believe you've found your prince charming and the next day he's turned into a frog. Life is full of chances and risks and only you can decide whether this man is the one for you or not.

To help you decide, ask yourself these questions:

1. *Has anyone ever loved you as much as he does?* Love is a powerful emotion that can help alleviate some of his flaws. If his love is intense and he shows it by making you feel special, isn't that more important than his idiosyncrasies or your perception of how love should be?
2. *If you met him today, would you fall for him?* Is he still the kind of man you are looking for? Are you still physically, emotionally and intellectually attracted to him?
3. *How would you feel not interacting with him every day?* If he is your best friend as well as your partner, losing him as a sounding board will be tough. Can you imagine day to day life without him?
4. *Is he capable of changing?* If something is bothering you about him, give him the chance to change. You'd be surprised how quickly changes can come about when love is on the line.
5. *Will you be better off without him in your life?* Use a pro and con list (in your head or on paper) and see if losing him is really a gain to you.

Of course the grass could be greener, but what if it's not? Everyone wonders if they are with the right person at one time or another, but what is the definition of the right person? Does everyone really have someone out there who is a perfect match, if so what defines a perfect match? The jury will always be out to lunch on these age-old questions. Do what you feel is right.

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>

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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



RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

Value: n/s

DEADLINE: n/s

Administrator: Queen's University at Kingston

Notes: Approximately £10 000 annually. Tenable at the University of Oxford and may be held for three years. Must be an unmarried Canadian citizen or resident in Canada between 19 and 25 years old, and who has completed at least three years of study. Please contact for more information.

Contact Information:

Student Awards
Victoria School Building, 110 Alfred Street
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6

Phone: (613) 533-2216

Fax: (613) 533-6409

Web Site: <http://www.queensu.ca/registrar/awards>

E-mail: awards@post.queensu.ca

PERSONS CASE SCHOLARSHIPS

Value: \$5000

DEADLINE: September 30, 2003

Administrator: Alberta Scholarship Programs

Notes: Must be enrolled full time at a post-secondary institution in Alberta and in a program that is either non-traditional for their sex or a program that will contribute to the advancement of women. See the Web site for more details.

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>

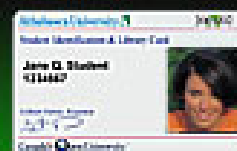
E-mail: heritage@gov.ab.ca

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

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CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*



- **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!

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.

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Community Networks Group

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

Murungo Ano Penga African Art Gallery

Spring Show! Friday May 30th 2003 > 6 - 11 p.m.

The High Street, 12505 - 102 Avenue (Below Starbucks)

Tickets \$20 per couple - **RSVP** by Mon, May 26 (thanks)
Infoline: 433-5504 / e-mail: murungo@telusplanet.net

Dear friend; you and a Guest are cordially invited to an evening of live music guest speakers and an exclusive viewing of this year's magnificent new works (just arrived) from Africa ...

This newly acquired collection is guaranteed to amaze you! In addition this opening evening will include live music - poetry (**Okoto Drummers, Kenya Kondo**) and two wonderful guest-presenters (**Nancy Hannemann** and **Guy Thompson**) who will speak to the 'current realities of Africa' (Q&A follow) hosted in conversation by **Leo Campos** and... of course social - visiting time to continue building a community of friendship and solidarity. Join us and experience African culture through quality original fine art.

- > Music: **The Okoto Drummers**
- > Poetry: **Kenya Kondo**
- > Wine: The Wine Cellar
- > Food: A Cappella Catering

* All ticket proceeds go to Harare Street Kids Association

About our guest-presenters...

> **Nancy Hannemann** is Global Education Program Coordinator at the University of Alberta. Through organizing various events such as International Week and the Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights she works toward educating members of the University and Edmonton communities to understand their role as global citizens. She has a particular interest in Africa and received the Friend of Africa Award (1999) and the Salvos Prelorenz Peace Award (2002) for her contributions to peace and civic education.

> **Guy Thompson** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta. He completed a PhD in African History at the University of Minnesota in 2000, and teaches a range of courses in African, World and Cultural history. Dr.

Thompson is currently finishing a book on rural social dynamics, agrarian innovation, and peasant conceptions of historical change in Zimbabwe. Dr. Thompson has spent a total of 6 years in Zimbabwe, and is a Research Associate of the Department of Economic History at the University of Zimbabwe.

The Woman in You: Mind, Body, Spirit Conference

Saturday, May 24, 2003 - Time: 8:00 a.m. / 4:30 p.m. @ Festival Place, Sherwood Park (AB)

This Women's Wellness Conference is a full-day event with a variety of session topics to choose from such as: Healing Feng Shui, Reclaiming Your Creativity, and The Power of Kindness. Ladies luncheon topics include: Up Your Joy Factor with **Susan Sneath** and Woman of Vision by **Lesley MacDonald**. The afternoon workshop is 'Journey to the Spring of Wellness' facilitated by Dr. **Elizabeth Lange**.

When was the last time you had a day all to yourself? Our current environment fosters hectic lives, especially for women. It is important to take some time to examine the factors that create our frenetic pace of life and learn how to reconnect to our deepest values. Tickets: Only \$99 + GST which includes continental breakfast, gourmet luncheon, door prizes & gift bags. Available at:

Aeroflex Women's Fitness 449-4789, 201 Athabasca Avenue, Sherwood Park or visit: www.aeroflexfitness.com

More Information: Carol @ **416-1111**
e-mail: evntplnr@telusplanet.net

PS. The conference is in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Alberta/NWT Chapter.

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



CLASSIFIEDS:

CLASSIFIED SPACE:

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

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

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

THE VOICE

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

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

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