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Teens' Cars

Sacrificing the ride for academia

Fiction Feature

Poetry from a new writer

Harem

Sarah Brightman's uneven opus

Graduate profiles...

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

THE VOICE

Jul 30, 2003 Volume 11, Issue 31

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

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



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

Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do.

-- Dale Carnegie



THE VOICE

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

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EDITORIAL PAGES

THIS WEEK

FICTION FEATURE: Poetry from new fiction contributor, Sara Kinninmont...

TEENS' CARS: Sacrificing the glory of the ride for academic pursuits...

MUSIC REVIEW: Harem by Sarah Brightman

SOUNDING OFF: AU's request to be removed from the tuition cap

Hot weather blues...

Author Ray Bradbury, in his classic Touched With Fire, argued that 92 degrees Fahrenheit (33 degrees centigrade) is the ideal temperature for murder. Any lower, and people are less agitated; any higher, and people are too lethargic to carry out their violent thoughts...

So this leads me to wonder, what's wrong with these people who describe the most searing of summer days as 'beautiful?' Weather-casters are particularly prone to this misrepresentation. Come mid August, temperatures soar, swelling the mercury well into the high thirties - occasionally creeping into the forties - people get testy, wilted and weak, and start visiting 7-11 just to bask near the Slurpee freezer for a few minutes, but still our clueless newscasters deem it, "a beautiful day".

Yesterday, a local Calgary newsperson commented - with palpable regret - that our current temperature did not constitute a record high. Oh dear. Is this a competition now? Must we have a record number of record highs in a single year? Global warming not working fast enough for ya buddy?

I suppose we may as well find some way to have fun with it - otherwise it would be deeply disturbing to notice that we're reaching record highs several times a month. Statistically, it's miraculous: environmentally it's tragic.

Maybe the news has to put on a brave face and pretend that our constantly rising temperatures are some sort of accomplishment for our beleaguered Earth. "It's 42 degrees today, 4 points above our previous record! Go Earth!"

Ok, so most of us aren't buying into that. But then what is it that some people find so pleasing about the hottest weather? Do they enjoy the sensation of being hot and sticky all day - buttocks tearing Velcro-like from vinyl chairs and wooden benches? Do thrice daily help to break up the monotony of the day? Is there meditative bliss to be found in the rhythmic drone of oscillating fans and AC units?

I am not blessed with air conditioning, but my neighbours are, so I get all the noise, and none of the cool. It's like sleeping in a hot, white-noise blanket... cozy...

I am getting a nice blast of warm air from my roaring computer fan, however. I can almost smell the super-fast RD-RAM chips frying on my state-of-the-art P4 motherboard as I type, shortening the life-span of my silicon-encrusted friend each day the sun keeps broiling my home.

Ok, I know that people yearn for clear summer days so they can go out do all the things they can't do in the winter. Going to the zoo, playing Frisbee in the park, baseball leagues, walking the dog - yep, great summer fun. But at these temperatures? I'm good for a good 5 minute tennis match, then I'm done.

I bought a treadmill to help stay in shape while I'm at home, but at these temperatures I conk out in two minutes. I worked up a hell of a sweat just pumping some iron the other day. All the signs of a great workout, without getting a great workout. Hmm... Nothing like feeling the pain, with no gain...

So forgive me if I'm cranky - like my overworked computer, I'm part-way through a melt-down and fading fast.

I'm watching the news with great interest as the temperatures continue to rise - to see how high it will go before these morons stop proclaiming it a 'beautiful day.' A couple of years ago we topped out at 43 degrees centigrade. I'm sure there are many who hope to beat that this year.

I'll tell you this. The next person who tells me to drink something hot so I can feel more cool gets a hot cup of tea in the face. They'll feel cooler later on.

Tamra Ross Low Editor in Chief

NEW AUSU CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The 2003/04 AU calendar is now available in print, and online. The online version has been significantly revamped, and I will be reviewing the new website in next week's Voice. To order a print copy of the new calendar, contact the AU information center, or check out the online version at: http://www.athabascau.ca/calendar/03/index.html

Coming Soon

The Voice will soon announce a writing contest for all AU students. The prize will be substantial, and we're looking forward to lot of great submissions. Watch this space for details to come soon.

Fiction Wanted

The Voice fiction feature has become popular, but submissions have been slow. Send us your best fiction today, and it might become our next feature.

Attention Budding Writers

The Voice needs some new voices. We know you have plenty to say, so why not get paid for it. Send us a writing sample or article for submission and you might be published in an upcoming issue. It's fun, it's easy, and it pays. Contact voice@ausu.org for more details.

Link of interest

Students interested in learning about conferences, job openings, internships, and other student opportunities should check out the Outside Opportunities page on the AUSU website, located at: http://www.ausu.org/opportunities/index.php

AUSU THIS MONTH

CHAT WITH AUSU ONLINE

Apologies to those students who tried to attend the Sunday, July 20th chat time. AUSU was experiencing server problems and the councillors were unable to get into the chat room.

If you have a question for AUSU, or would like to get to know your council, drop by the chat-room [accessible through the 'Message Forums' option on the AUSU home page www.ausu.org. You will need an AUSU web site account.] during one of our chat times and talk live with AUSU council members or your Voice editor. **All times are MST**

Thursday, July 31 4:00 PM Shirley

Friday, August 1 7:00 PM Councillor Karl Saturday, August 2 2:00 PM Voice Editor Tamra

Tuesday, August 5 2:00 PM Karl

More chat times to be posted soon...

NEW FEATURED TUTOR ON THE AUSU WEB SITE

Nanci Langford

History and Women's Studies

Nanci Langford is a tutor in History and Women's Studies, currently teaching the six courses that make up the core requirements for a degree in Women's Studies. For the next year, until August 2004 she is also an acting coordinator of Women's Studies. Nanci began her career with Athabasca in 1992...

Read more at: http://www.ausu.org/tutor/index.php



AUSU COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS

AUSU Committees are looking for student members who can volunteer just a few hours a month to answer email or attend teleconferences. Anyone who wants to become involved with AUSU Student Council can gain great experience and insight through committee work.

The External Committee, chaired by Shirley Barg, needs representatives from Atlantic Canada, Saskatchewan, and Northern Canada. Contact Shirley at sbarg@ausu.org if you would like to get involved, and help improve services to AU students in your area.





This week, AU students Sound Off on AU's request to be removed from the Alberta Government's tuition cap. The Voice will continue to offer coverage on this controversial subject as more becomes known. AU has not released a statement on their position so far. If you have a comment on this subject, send it to voice@ausu.org - please indicate if we may print your comment.

I just wanted to lend my support for Sandra Moore's comments in the last issue of The Voice.

I personally have a limited education budget and each increase in tuition means that my budget is stretched thinner. If the increases continue, my course load will be reduced to one or two courses a year. When that happens, I will be looking for more cost-effective alternatives. AU will probably lose other students in this way.

I agree with Sandra that AU should lobby all levels of government for the same degree of financial support that other, traditional universities in the province receive. AU could use their recent award for excellence in distance education as leverage in their lobby efforts. While I don't agree with government carrying the full burden of education costs, they certainly use a lot of tax dollars and income dollars (e.g. lottery income) on projects that do not result in the long term and widespread advantages of education.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my comments.

Christine Blais

There are two aspects to Athabasca University requesting exemption from the tuition fee policy. The first is the exemption itself. I shudder when I think of the implications. AU administration has given AUSU their assurances that removal from the tuition policy won't result in "unreasonable" increases. Alberta Learning has also told us that since AU must still submit its business plan to the government, they will ensure AU isn't putting undue financial hardship on students.

This begs the question if we're being told AU tuition increases will be kept at reasonable levels, why is AU asking for exemption, and why is Alberta Learning being so agreeable to it? Our last tuition increase was 7.3% in Alberta (lower for the rest of Canada since the out-of-province fee didn't go up), and adding the increase in materials costs, it amounted to a 9% hike.

Will our tuition increases be less than that once AU no longer falls under government restrictions? I highly doubt it.

The second aspect to this issue is that Athabasca University has asked AUSU to support its exemption request to the provincial government. AU says its asking for exemption because it's under-funded by the provincial government and that it needs to be released from the tuition policy to allow it to be more competitive across Canada.

Part of becoming more competitive is reducing the out-of-Alberta differential fee. Since AU purportedly can't operate with reduced revenue, it means the difference will likely be made up by high tuition increases for the Alberta students--higher increases than the Alberta government will allow in its tuition fee policy. Once that happens, AU will be at same level of tuition revenue it is now. However, AU can't operate without an overall increase in revenue, and with no government tuition restriction in place, AU will again turn to its students for more.

If AUSU was to support AU's request for exemption from the tuition policy, we would no avenue of recourse to stop unreasonable tuition increases. We won't be able to go to AU administration because we've supported it. We won't be able to go to the provincial government because we've given our blessing in allowing AU to do what it must with our tuition.

Tuition deregulation is probably the most crucial issue collectively faced by AU students in the last decade. The effects of this can be deep and long-lasting, particularly if we stand by idly and allow it, or even worse, support it.

Shirley Barg

While I can't really blame AU for looking for ways to increase the amount of money they take in, it seems to me that they have gotten into a dangerous habit of looking to tuitions as their first choice, rather than their last. And why not, with such a decentralized student population, it's much more difficult for us to put together effective, co-ordinated action. Athabasca University doesn't suffer through sit-ins, or have to deal with their students being able to effectively lobby one or two MLAs. Someone from Ontario simply does not have a lot of leverage in dealing with the Alberta government, meaning their complaints about high tuition mean less -- both when AU raises them, and when AU looks for more government money.

If AU will not raise tuitions exorbitantly because of market conditions anyway, then the tuition cap shouldn't matter.

If AU wants flexibility, let them be flexible under the cap, instead of over it.

If AU wants more money, then they should go to where the problem is -- not the students, but the governments.

Karl Low

For next week's Sounding Off column, tell me what summer break means to you as an AU student. Do you take time off - or ramp up your study time. Do you have an favourite anecdote about summer studying? Write me at voice@ausu.org



Can you remember your first car?

Mine was a 1968 Pontiac Grand Parisian. I was the proudest sixteen year old in Vancouver when my father bought it for me. I tried to spiffy it up however I could on a shoe-string budget and it was great until I totaled it in an unfortunate accident (see the Voice Vol. 9, Issue 35).

My next rides were of similar vintage: a 1968 Cutlass Supreme; a 1970 Buick Wildcat; a 1970 Pontiac Lemans; etc. For all of them I did my best to keep them visually appealing and reliable, if not economical.

Of course I wasn't alone in my endeavors, as my teenaged friends were also trying to become and remain drivers on very limited budgets. Jason Campbell

(www.igrooves.com), a very good friend of mine, bought his first vehicle in September 1982—a broken-down old truck. He tried to keep it from falling apart beneath him by spraying it with several colors of paint. In hindsight it was a pile of junk; but to him, it was "his truck."

I found myself reflecting on those times today as I lay on my side in the dirt brush-painting my "new" 1987 Volkswagen Golf in the driveway of my home. I was literally laughing out loud as I watched the rust-paint run down the side of it. I felt like a 38 year old teenager, painting my beater so that it will last a few more months (in this case, a few more years). It actually looks pretty good if you don't approach closer than twenty yards or so;

Jason (left) and Richard Campbell in front of Jason's first vehicle

any closer and you begin to make out the brush-strokes dried into the finish.



Wayne's "new" car: rust paint on all but the door

For the past several years I've contemplated taking my university studies to a fulltime level and recently my wife and I have decided that I should take the plunge. As part of our preparations for life after fulltime work, I sold my 3/4 ton Ford pick-up with a 7.31 diesel engine and bought a Golf 1.6l diesel car. I'm hoping that it will last me through my impending years of study (fingers crossed). If going back to school doesn't make me feel young again, keeping my new old car road-worthy certainly will. I'm contemplating cutting a hole in the floor-boards under the driver seat so that I can give the engine a helping-hand going up hills-Fred Flintstonestyle. Well, I'd better be off now. I have to get to the auto wrecker's before it closes. I need cheap parts and more cheap parts... Better pick up some more rust paint while I'm out too...



THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE

Send your submissions to voice@ausu.org

Poems by Sara Kinninmont

THE SAME PLAID SHEETS

tracing

the lines of his Celtic tattoo

her fingertip

following the lines- intricate

lines

of unknown meaning

to her

their

limbs entwined

heavy with lethargy

she licks his shoulder

holding the salty

taste

on her tongue

questions and chatter

threatening

to steal the moment

how is it

she finds herself

here

again

in a bed

so familiar yet

faded by years

on likely

the same plaid sheets

as years before

but with a new

roommate on the other side

of the wall

playing

the same

monotonous song

CONVERSATION PIECES

The iron gladiator helmet

a gift

given to me in my twenties

I placed it on the bookshelf

next to

my copy of Marguerite Duras' The Lover

The helmet and the book both by-products

of love

affairs between young women and much older men

Can a man in his forties truly

have known

what I wanted or needed?

Apparently not, case in point

one ugly

metal gladiator helmet (unsuccessfully masquerading as a love token)

Now, the helmet is simply a

conversation piece

as is the relationship from which it spawned



Send your poems, short stories, and other short fiction to voice@ausu.org



Sandra Moore spoke with Jacqueline at AU convocation... AU GRADUATE PROFILE OF JACQUELINE ROCHELEAU

AGE: 45

LIVES IN: B.C.

TRAVEL TIME TO ATHABASCA: 16 Hours

PROGRAM COMPLETED: Bachelor of Nursing

YEARS IT TOOK TO COMPLETE: 6

FAVORITE COURSE: Senior focus – palliative care

LEAST FAVORITE COURSE: STATS

FAVORITE TUTOR: Many were very helpful, singling one out

would be tough.

HIGHEST FINAL GRADE: Passed all courses which was a big accomplishment! thoroughly enjoyed palliative research – got 95% on "evolution of palliative care."



I met up with Jacqueline, during the AUSU sponsored convocation breakfast sitting at a table with fellow BN graduates, most of whom she had met for the first time.

While working on her degree, Jacqueline worked full time and said that personal discipline is what kept her going as a full-time student and employee. Obtaining this degree has meant personal fulfillment for Jacqueline and now that she is finished she can't wait to read novels and get back to sewing. She encourages other AU students to not give up and states that the convocation experience was filled with good food, great people and a friendly welcome by the townspeople of Athabasca.

Author's Note: During convocation, the business people of Athabasca hung bright red ribbons on their storefronts and many put up signs congratulating AU graduates.

Congratulations Jacqueline Rocheleau B.N.

Look for more grad profiles in upcoming Voice issues. If you are an AU grad and you were not interviewed on convocation day, contact <u>voice@ausu.org</u> to be a part of AU profiles. As always, we are seeking undergrads, tutors and staff for profiles as well.

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



to be happening in the future.

Newfoundland Studies Post-Secondary

The provincial government of Newfoundland has <u>announced</u> almost \$74,000 in funding for a feasibility study on whether postsecondary education needs to be expanded within the province. The studies to assess various needs of the region including educational, cultural, social, and developmental ones. The study is also supposed to come up with preliminary plans and strategies for how to deal with these assessed needs.

Once again it seems that the folks in the Maritimes have a keener eye for the future than most of the rest of us. While the rest of the provinces are happy to pay lip service to postsecondary education, Newfoundland is the only province that actually seems to be studying the need and what's going

This should be important for Athabasca University as we have much to contribute when it comes to delivering education to people who normally do not have access. That is, after all, our mandate. Since Athabasca University is claiming that it must expand in order to survive this strikes as a wonderful opportunity to spread awareness of the university and hopefully expand without having to raise tuitions.

Supporting the Cattle Industry?

Alberta has recently <u>announced</u> an additional 79 million dollars to be used in support of the cattle industry. To put this into perspective, the entire <u>budget</u> of Athabasca University was done with a total revenue of only 54 million dollars for 2002, and the tuition of all of the students, graduate and undergraduate, of Athabasca University only came to 26 million dollars. Or in other words, for less than a third of what is being given out as aid today, tuition at Athabasca University could have been waived. Think of the economic benefits that would have – not only would students be able to freely take courses making them more valuable workers in the future, but they would have been able to spend their money elsewhere, perhaps at the grocery store buying beef instead of having to deal with the food bank, like many students do each year.

Now, I understand that cattle is a major industry, and that there are many livelihoods riding on this decision, but remember that all of this has come from a single case of BSE. A case that we still do not know where it came from, of a disease that we still do not know for sure how it spreads. If this single case can shut down the beef industry across our entire nation, this suggests that perhaps we need to look at a less risky form of agriculture. Instead of devoting all of this money to continuing an industry that is still at an unknown level of risk, maybe some of that money should be devoted to creating and marketing other food products.

If we remember last year, the Alberta Government was having to bail out the cattle industry again, because drought conditions made their food too expensive. How many more years will the Alberta Government continue to bail out ranchers while letting post-secondary students fall by the way-side? Perhaps equally disturbing is simply the willingness of the Alberta Government to loosen the purse strings when it comes to cattle, but when it comes to students unable to afford basic necessities of life while gaining an education – something that will eventually benefit many more people than a cow can - the strings stay tightly shut.

I guess that's what angers me most about this. It's not so much that I mind supporting the ranchers, they are in a bind and it certainly isn't of their own fault, it's that I see this 79 million dollars now and wonder where this was when the government decided that their funding increase to universities should be less than the rate of inflation.

Thanks, Mr. Klein.

When's the next election, again?

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.



AUSU STUDENT GIFT PACKS NOW AVAILABLE

AUSU students can now order their student gift packs, free courtesy of your students' union.

The packs are filled with AUSU logo items to help you study, relax, and learn more about AUSU.

Contact ausu@ausu.org to order your gift pack today!

SURVEY ON STUDENT BARRIERS TO E-LEARNING



This survey seeks to determine student attitudes toward taking courses online. AU currently offers several online courses, although most are still delivered through the use of print materials. Whether you have taken an online course or not, your input on this important survey is valuable.

This message is for anyone who believes barriers exist to learning at a distance. Even if you have never taken a course online, or even if your organization is not presently involved in distance learning, please read on!

The obstacles students face appear to depend upon several things, including the stage or level of experience that the individual learner has developed regarding distance education. Therefore, research involving persons who are currently learning online and those who have never taken an online course is needed. (In fact, it has been especially difficult to gather information from students who have never studied online.)

We invite your assistance in further data gathering by completing the survey located at: http://www.umbc.edu/oit/phonetree/student_barrier/survey.html

Sarah Brightman *Harem*EMI Records



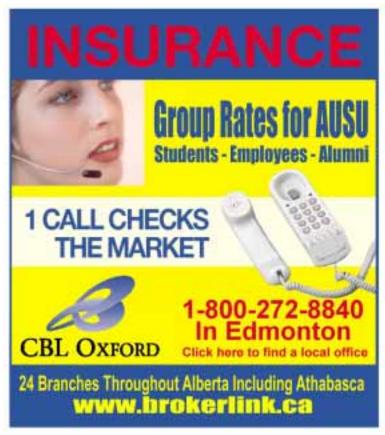
Called "The Angel of Music" by some, Sarah Brightman has a voice like an impressive instrument. But even the best instruments can be put to the wrong use. I have always found that Ms. Brightman's albums are uneven in this regard; some of the songs will be exquisite and others will leave you wondering why she bothered. *Harem* is no exception to this with highs and lows throughout the album. The strongest parts of the album are those songs where Sarah concentrates on evoking the album's middle-eastern feel, as expressed in the title track "Harem". A fan of dance or world music will appreciate this track as it skillfully blends both the middle-eastern sounds and modern dance, with Sarah's operatic vocals providing a great counterpoint.

It is immediately followed, however, by a version of Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World*. While Sarah's version aptly demonstrates just why she is called "The Angel of Music", she manages to remove the very reverence for the earthly that makes Mr. Armstrong's version the classic that it is. Instead we are given a panoramic song that feels devoid of the very emotion the lyrics speak of – she sings from the vantage point of an angel in heaven, of a wonderful world that it seems she has not actually experienced.

The third track, *It's a Beautiful Day*, is much more reminiscent of music from Brightman's previous album, *Dive*, mixed with an arabic flavor, and is a wonderful song to showcase the power and versatility of Ms. Brightman's voice. This track, which contains snippets from Puccini's *Un bel di* from Madame Butterfly, is one of the strongest on the album, and one in which her producer Frank Peterson's influence (of Enigma fame) most clearly shows through.

Mr. Peterson's influence should not be discounted on the other songs, however. In fact, if there is one problem that extends throughout the album it is that it is almost too smooth and over-produced. A truer middle eastern feel has some rough edges – the edges that give us the passion in the music. It's a pity that the production of *Harem* removes a lot of the passion that Sarah's voice is capable of evoking.

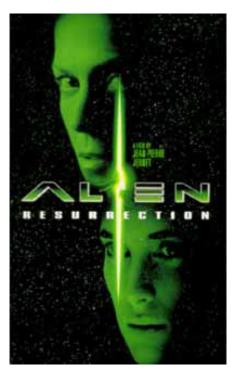
For fans of Sarah Brightman, this album contains enough to make it worthwhile, though it is closer in styling to *Dive* than her classical works. For fans of world and middle-eastern music, it is a passable album, but will probably be a disappointment over-all. Look to something by Ofra Haza to really get that feel. For the non-fan, if you like soft pop-rock and dance, if you enjoy some of the middle eastern sounds, this album would certainly fit in with your collection. It won't have you dancing around, but it certainly makes for good listening and study music.





ALIEN RESSURECTUION Film Review

By Laura Seymour



Who could imagine the original film *Alien* would be such a hit? Or that its sequel *Aliens* would kick butt a second time – and who could stay awake during *Alien 3...* what a snooze. I thought the series was going to be another *Jaws* situation when *Alien Resurrection* came out. I was wrong. The fourth film was a great recovery.

The tension has been found again. We're freaked out again. Mind you, this is a devoted chicken speaking — I hate horror films! Somehow the *Alien* series has always been an exception.

Our heroine, played again by Sigourney Weaver, is now a genetically reconstructed Ellen Ripley since two hundred years have passed since our last episode took place. The original Ellen gave her life in the last installment to destroy the alien. Now another company has come out looking for an alien specimen for themselves.

Using blood samples from the past and doing DNA cloning they take the queen alien from Ellen's original body. The problem is there has been some

genetic mixing during the tinkering while the new Ripley becomes confused in wondering how human she really is. Considering she is crossed with the alien creature she has a legitimate question. Meanwhile, on the military space vessel Auriga the experiment is taking place.

A group of mercenaries have brought special cargo consisting of live humans in hyper sleep chambers. These humans are to be used as hosts for the alien's eggs. One mercenary is a woman named Call, played by Winona Ryder. Call knows a secret. She knows the scientists are planning to kill Ripley. When she finds Ripley, she discovers it's too late. The newly developed aliens begin escaping and soon the deaths begin. At this point Ripley isn't sure what she is so she joins the mercenaries to fight the creatures so that they can't get off of the ship and reach Earth. However during all this a new species of alien is created. Being part alien herself Ripley is becoming connected to the new species. They are technically her own.

Some of the principle cast members in this film include:

Ripley played by Sigourney Weaver	
Annalee Call	Winona Ryder
Johner	Ron Perlman
Vriess	Dominique Pinon
Dr. Wren	J.E. Freeman
General Perez	Dan Hedaya
Elgyn	Michael Wincott

I have ONE complaint in this film. When the big bad alien dude crawls into the shuttle pod just prior to lift off there is suddenly gore and blood. That doesn't follow all the rest of its ummmm "performances." Remember all the rest of the attacks? In every other moment we've watched this cranky creature it always opens it's mouth in super slo' mo' before devouring its prey. So why the sudden departure? Actually, I can hear my beloved William Goldman patiently explaining that this is for timing. I understand...but I think I would have shot it differently. I think the mind is a dangerously active thing. We can imagine horrors far more imaginative than any camera can show us. That's my argument and I'm sticking to it.

All in all the film is fantastic. Performances are well done and are very believable. I like the introduction of Winona Ryder and the new cast members to the film. (Of course what other choice is there since the creature keeps getting fed?!) I also respect the heck out of Sigourney for sticking to the film series as so many actors whine that they want other challenges and disappear from the films that made them a huge star!

Fans of the original two films can count on this being a monster (pardon the pun) improvement over the third film.

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).



Dear Sandra,

As a new student I'd like to know more about the actual university. Where is it located, how many people work there, what is the community like, etc... I just want to be able to "picture" it better in my head. Thanks

Rookie Student in Ontario

Dear Rookie,

Every year at convocation the main statement I hear students make is "I'm amazed at the size of the university considering few students physically attend classes here!" AU is similar to any other university; with a cafeteria, an extensive library, science and computer labs and throngs of offices. The only thing missing is hoards of students cluttering the halls, shuffling in and out of classrooms. On a regular working day at AU, walking the sparsely populated halls that echo your footsteps can be quite a lonely experience.

Athabasca University is located in the small town of Athabasca, Alberta which is approximately an hour and a half drive from Edmonton. Isolated by a thick forest of pine trees, Athabasca is the idealization of a small town to escape to for a simpler life untouched by the rapid expansion overtaking bigger centers. AU Vice-President Judith Hughes once said in a speech at the 2003 National Forum on Public Education that upon her arrival at AU in the 1980's she went to a local store to hook up her telephone. Once the formalities of hooking up her telephone were finished, she asked the clerk for a phone book to which he inquired "What do you need one for, everyone knows each other here." For more info on the town, visit the town of Athabasca website at http://www.town.athabasca.ab.ca/

Set on a hilltop above the majestic Athabasca River overlooking Athabasca is the physical structure of AU. Most of AU's 900 staff members occupy office space in Athabasca, but AU has offices in Edmonton and Calgary, AB as well. At the main entrance of the building is a cement pond which serves as a backdrop for family photos after convocation ceremonies. Upon entering the university's reception area, through a glassed entry way, one is transformed back to the early 80's décor of brick and deep chocolate brown, interwoven with traces of orange and yellow. AU has an on-line tour of the university and its departments at http://www.athabascau.ca/tour/index.html.

I fully understand your need to visualize AU. Sometimes without that mental picture in your head, your studies can seem unreal or unimportant. Ramona DeRose said in her address as the AU Undergraduate Speaker for Convocation 2003,

"For many of us, this is the first time we've connected with other students, other than in the dreaded exam rooms, and the first time we've met our tutors face-to-face. Distance learning can at times be an isolating experience. You are in a classroom of one, responsible for setting your own deadlines, and ever tempted by the proximity of distractions. We have had to be disciplined, and committed to our own learning. Our education has taken place not in a lecture hall, but on the telephone and over the Internet. At times, the distance learner feels like the only student to agonize over a particularly difficult concept, the only one overwhelmed with term papers, projects, and telephone quizzes. I am comforted to see just how many students have shared those experiences with me. I admit I traveled to convocation not only to receive my degree, but to confirm that Athabasca University actually exists!" (Check out Ramona's full address at

http://www.ausu.org/graduation/index.php#address)

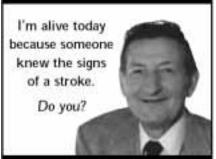
Yes, Rookie Student in Ontario, there is an AU.

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

Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor



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

First Jump Course Training – Traditional Instructor Assisted Deployment (IAD)







Instructor Assisted First Jump training is a traditional approach for most first-time skydivers.

During a 5 to 6 hour ground training program, your Canadian Sport Parachute Association certified instructors will train you in areas of your skydive including equipment and parachute, aircraft procedures, exiting the aircraft, the skydive, canopy control and landing. You will learn enough information about the equipment to feel confident about how it works and how to assess problem situations in the unlikely event that they occur. All your questions will be answered while you have an opportunity to practice what you've learned prior to your skydive.

Once geared up, you will board the aircraft for your flight to 3500 feet with your instructor. On jumprun, the pilot will open the door allowing your instructor to carefully "spot" your exit point. Now, it's up to you! As you climb out of the aircraft, your instructor is right there beside you, ready to deploy your parachute activation system.

Look up! GO!!!!

As you arch your body on leaving the aircraft, you will see the plane and your instructor watching as your parachute begins to open. From the sound of rushing wind past your ears, to the peaceful silence of the parachute ride, you hear your heart pounding from the excitement of your first skydive! Within a few more seconds, you'll hear the voice of another instructor strategically positioned at the landing area, as he/she guides you to a safe landing.

Afterwards, you will review your jump on video from our 3 cameras with your instructor who will document the details in your own personal logbook and review your options should you wish to continue with this incredible sport. Your logbook is a record of your accomplishment along with a brief review of the First Jump Course and should be carried with you to this, or any other Drop Zone.

Edmonton Skydive Centre is the leader in First Jump and subsequent training programs since 1970. We use only modern equipment, and safety is our first concern. Our instructors are Certified and Trained by CSPA (Canadian Sport Parachute Association) and 3M NCCP (Coaching association of Canada).

Courses are usually conducted Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year, with registration at 8:30 am The course starting promptly at 9:00 am. Courses run regardless of weather. Students can expect to jump later the same day (weather permitting). Prepare for your "Ultimate Experience... Your First Skydive!"

See the AUSU Opportunities (http://www.ausu.org/opportunities/index.php#esc) page for a sign up sheet and brochure, or visit www.edmontonskydive.com 780-444-JUMP (5867).

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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

ALBERTA WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT 'PERSONS CASE' SCHOLARSHIP

Value: \$1000

DEADLINE: September 30, 2002

Administrator: Grant MacEwan College

Notes: Must be a full-time student and a resident of Alberta for three years immediately prior to enrolment. Students whose studies will ultimately contribute to the advancement of women, or who are studying in fields where members of their gender are underepresented are encouraged to apply.

Contact Information:

Danielle Wycott or Barbara Greaves Student Resources Centre, Room 7-112,

Grant MacEwan College

10400 - 107 St.

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2

Phone: (780) 497-5063 Fax: (780) 497-4656

Web Site:

http://www.gmcc.ab.ca/General/FinancialAwards.shtml

E-mail: wycottd@admin.gmcc.ab.ca or greavesb@admin.gmcc.ab.ca

ANGELFIRE SCHOLARSHIP

Value: \$2,000.00

DEADLINE: January 31, 2003

Administrator: Datatel Scholars Foundation

Notes: Applicants must attend a Datatel client institution (list available on Web site). Must be a Vietnam veteran during the 1964-1975 timeframe or be the child or spouse of such a veteran, or a refugee from Cambodia, Laos or Vietnam. Scholarship amounts vary from \$700 - \$2000. Please see the Web site for application details.

Contact Information:

Datatel Scholars Foundation 4375 Fair Lakes Court Fairfax, Virginia

22033

Phone: (703) 968-9000 ext 4549

Fax: (703) 968-4625 Toll Free: (800) 486-4332

Web Site: http://www.datatel.com
E-mail: scholars@datatel.com

Application Address: http://www.datatel.com

CANADIAN NORTHERN STUDIES TRUST (STUDENTSHIPS IN NORTHERN STUDIES)

Value: \$10,000.00

DEADLINE: January 31, 2003

Administrator: Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

Notes: For more information, please see the ACUNS Web site.

Contact Information:

Association of Canadian Universities for

Northern Studies Phone: (613) 562-0515 405 -17 York Street Fax: (613) 562-0533

Ottawa, Ontario

Web Site: http://www.cyberus.ca/~acuns/EN/awards.html

K1N 9J6 E-mail: acuns@cyberus.ca



EDMONTON EVENTS

To list an event in any Canadian city in the Voice, contact voice@ausu.org.

EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALES!

Fringe Book Sale, August 15 - 24 Noon to 10 p.m. daily (except Sun 24th, noon to 6 p.m.) Adult paperbacks / Children's books!

20th Anniversary Fall Parkade Book Sale
Two weekends: September 13/14 and September 20/21
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sundays noon - 5 p.m.
Large Print - Languages other than English Non-fiction - Audio and Video materials Adult - Paperbacks - Children's books - Fiction

Edmonton Public Library Book Sales are made possible through donations of used books. Two upcoming book sales are scheduled; both promise to be a wealth of "finds" for book lovers. With the huge success of the recent Spring sale, our stock of children's books and adult paperbacks has been seriously depleted, leaving us short of stock for the upcoming Fringe and Fall Parkade book sales. All donations (of any material, but especially paperbacks and children's books) are gratefully accepted. Donations can be taken to any branch of the public library; simply tell the staff the books are a donation for the book sale. Note: Unfortunately, the Library does not have the means to pick up donations.

Why does the Library discard books and other materials? Library users need the most accurate and up to date information available, and the library constantly replaces old non-fiction or reference titles with new editions and new publications. Fiction books do not date as quickly, but public taste in fiction changes and some authors are no longer as popular as they once were. And of course, new titles are being published all the time. Some books are read so often they simply "wear out" and are sent to the book sale. Edmonton Public Library frequently has to buy many copies of best sellers to keep up with high demand from customers. "Harry Potter" is a perfect example. At a later date, when interest in that title diminishes, some of these copies are no longer needed and are sent to the book sale.

Proceeds from book sales supplements funding for various library programmes and services. Book sales are made possible through the donation of time by our team of volunteers. For more information on book sale events, making a donation of books for the sale, becoming a volunteer or to get your organization on the list to receive leftover material, please call:

Joan Paton at 496-1856 or e-mail jpaton@epl.ca

'REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA'

WWW.WAGE-PEACE.ORG / The Edmonton Coalition Against War & Racism

Wednesday August 06, 2003

Vigil 8:00 a.m. - 12 PM - RALLY 12 - 1 p.m. @ THE CENOTAPH in front of CITY HALL (Churchill Square)

Silence, Speakers, Music, Displays, Discussions on current issues. Sign PETITION TO STOP U.S./CANADA NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

Context: On August 6th, 1945, 140,000 people lost their lives in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. The Nuclear Age

began: 58 years of acute fear, toxic testing, diverted resources, and wasted billions. Since the end of the Cold War in 1991, eight nuclear powers have turned the world into a powder keg. By remembering Hiroshima, we reflect on the past and renew our resolve to work for peace. Unfortunately, the tide of disarmament has turned. The United States is again increasing its nuclear arsenal, making nuclear warheads smaller, more accurate, and more "usable." Sadly, the Bush administration is militarizing space. It abrogated the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty June, 2002, causing Russia to retain multiple-warhead missiles it would otherwise have retired.

The U.S. is also asking for Canadian approval, and possibly participation, in a National Missile Defense system to "defend" North America. On August 16th, the Liberal Party will enter discussions with the U.S. on Canada's role in NMD. Canadians must emphatically say "NO" to this program, which will be a disaster for world peace. Working through international organizations, Canada can build justice, equality, and economic opportunity-the essential ingredients to lasting peace. The Hiroshima survivors call to us with a simple demand, "Never Again" Join Us!

For more information about the National Missile Defense plans, we invite you to visit the following links:

http://www.pgs.ca/www.bombsaway.ca/

http://www.acp-cpa.ca/CPAmainEnglish.htm

http://www.stopstarwars.org/html/intro.html

http://www.ndp.ca/nostarwars.html

http://www.scientainment.com/

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_security/missile_defense/index.cfm

http://www.ucsusa.org/global security/missile defense/page

INVITATION FROM MAYOR BILL SMITH

Strategies for Urban Sustainability Conference Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Sept. 9-10, 2003 www.sus2003.ca

New thinking, new strategies and new tools are needed to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Canadian cities.

On September 9th and 10th, 2003, the City of Edmonton, City of Calgary, Alberta Municipal Affairs, and Western Economic Diversification Canada will host a national conference in Edmonton -- bringing together Canada's business, civil society and government sectors to explore practical approaches to urban sustainability and the making of a national urban strategy. The conference will be moderated by Allan Gregg -- Chair of the Strategic Counsel.

Presenters include:

- * Sir Peter Hall, Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, London, England
- * Dr. Anne Goldon, President and CEO, The Conference Board of Canada
- * James Knight, CEO, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- * Michele Thibodeau Deguire, Centraide of Greater Montreal (United Way)
- * Don Drummond, Chief Economist, TD Bank Financial Group
- * Robert Green Hill, President of Bombardier International
- * Elyse Allan, CEO, Toronto Board of Trade
- * Judy Sgro MP, Chair, Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues
- * Roger Gibbins, President and CEO, Canada West Foundation
- * Federal Government Ministers (to be announced)
- * Hon. Stephen Owen, Secretary of State, Western Economic Diversification
- * Hon. Guy Boutilier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Government of Alberta
- * Hon. Tina Molinari, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs, Government of Ontario
- * Hon. Ted Nebbeling, Minister of Community Charters, Government of BC
- * Mayors of Edmonton, Calgary, Halifax and Victoria
- * and many others!

Conference registration is \$380.00 for government and business sector delegates. **Note:** A reduced registration price of \$200.00 is available for delegates from arts, culture, social and religious organizations. Please visit our website at www.sus2003.ca for more information and register today!

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

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Contributed By AU's The Insider

 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

- CAPDHHE [Canadian Association for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment in Higher Education] - To be held in Calgary, October 29 - November 1, 2003. http://www.capdhhe.org/conference2/index.htm
- **Teaching In A Digital Age** the impact of new communication technologies on teaching and pedagogy. I'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

Summer Symposium on Health Ethics

Wednesday 6 August 2003

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre (JDHEC) invites you to attend a one-day symposium on health ethics. This course will offer a series of presentations by JDHEC Faculty that will challenge you to examine and explore the essential place of ethics in health care practice.

For more information:

Website <u>www.ualberta.ca/bioethics</u>
Email <u>Dossetor.Centre@ualberta.ca</u>

Phone 780-492-6676

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



CLASSIFIEDS:

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 2nd Floor, 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

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