

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 35
August 27, 2003

Will work for food

Why get an arts degree?

A day to study?

Life comes first...

Experiencing the blackout

What goes through your mind when
the lights go out?

The first ever Voice writing contest!

Win scholarship dollars and become a
published writer! Details inside...

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

THE VOICE

Aug 27, 2003

Volume 11, Issue 35

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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.

There is no such thing as security.
There never has been.
-- Germaine Greer

THE VOICE

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EDITORIAL PAGES

THIS WEEK

WILL WORK FOR FOOD: Is an arts degree nothing more than the fast track to burger flipping heaven... ?

SUDS CONFERENCE - JULY 2003: Report from the 2003 Students Union Development Symposium...

REPORT ON THE AUGUST 10 COUNCIL MEETING: Find out what happened, and where your students' union is going from here...

WORTH A SECOND LOOK: We've all heard about the Ontario blackouts, but what was it like for those who lived through it, and had no idea what was going on... ?

PARADISE (of the air-conditioned gated-condo-community variety): Another Voice Fiction Feature

Perhaps I spoke too soon...

Two weeks ago I wrote an editorial discussing the recent speech by AU President Dominique Abrioux to the students of Athabasca University. While I lauded the participation of Dr. Abrioux and his willingness to speak with students directly [which was probably a ridiculous statement on my part, as I'll explain later on], I also expressed frustration that in the past The Voice has had no written statements from AU on issues of importance to students.

This is true, but perhaps I was remiss in not being more aggressive in trying to obtain these items.

I'll be honest; I wimped out.

It's not like me to do that, as anyone who knows me can attest [or at least I hope so!]. If anything, I think some might accuse me of being over-assertive on many issues. It's a trait that not everyone likes [especially if you are female - I live in the real world], but one that serves me well as editor of this paper and as a self-employed individual.

So, I have had to ask myself, why have I been so reticent about directly contacting Dr. Abrioux for a statement? I can think of a number of reasons...

First, there is the reputation of The Voice. While our paper has enjoyed varying degrees of popularity with student readers - most likely the all time high was when we were a print publication mailed to students' homes, and the low, I suspect, came just after the move to online, when no one knew about us - it has also, supposedly, engendered varying degrees of respect from AU itself.

I have to be honest and say that I have no first-hand information about the administrative history of our paper, other than what is found in the archives themselves, but I have certainly heard a number of tales about past conflict between the university and The Voice. Conflict which was said to stem from irresponsible and misleading reporting by past Voice writers and editors. These tales made me nervous, and I think that I often approached AU administration with a sense of trepidation. I wondered, "Is this one of the people who had problems with The Voice?"

One of the supposed results of this conflict was that AU stopped sending The Voice information regarding new courses, job postings, program updates, and other university news of interest to students. Instead, AU opted to begin printing their own paper, *AU World*, which until last year was mailed to all students a couple of times a year. The change, I have heard, was a result of university disappointment with how their content was being handled by The Voice.

I've been very cognizant of this fact since I began with The Voice, because I know that readers have a keen interest in seeing more university information in our paper. The feeling was that I should tread carefully, in order to rebuild the damaged relationships with AU and perhaps gain the ability to start printing more university news now that AU World appears to have been abandoned.

Imagine my surprise when I did make a few inquiries, and found that a) no one I spoke with at AU is aware of any problems, or of any instances where AU had trouble with anything The Voice printed, and b) that it was the previous AUSU council which, in attempting to establish a arms-length relationship with AU, asked that the University publish their own newsletter rather than use The Voice to print announcements.

While I certainly understand and applaud the desire to establish a more independent SU, a move to not print AU notices in The Voice is nonsensical. Certainly printing this type of information is less of a favour to the university than it is a valuable service to students. I have since been in contact with a number of AU departments and I hope to be able to bring readers more notices from the university in the future. I am aware that students are especially interested to know about job and research opportunities, and new course and program announcements, and I hope to include more of this information very soon.

Another factor that has limited my interaction with the university has been my past relationship with AUSU. One of the first things I learned when I joined the union was that strife within previous councils have lowered the respect that the university had for the students union, and that as a result, a positive relationship would have to be rebuilt. Sound familiar?

I've always been careful not to discuss union issues within The Voice, however I have to say that council decisions are often strongly tempered by a desire to rebuild the relationship with AU. I'm not saying that decisions are made on this basis - just that it always seems to come up as a factor. During my time on council I was very frequently reminded to tread carefully when dealing with AU and that any positive relationship that could be built with the university would be an important step toward rebuilding respect toward the union. While I think that the union has been very conscientious in trying to maintain a good relationship with students and the university, and in balancing its ethical responsibilities, in retrospect I realize that I developed a great deal nervousness about dealing with the university. This nervousness was only enhanced when any positive dealings with the university would be lauded as a 'breakthrough' in our relationship.

I am now coming to realize that this hyper-awareness of how AU views AUSU places an enormous burden on those relationships. When I would approach university staff on behalf of the union - and now on behalf of The Voice - I realized that I would bring that concern with me, like a heavy cloud ready to blacken at the slightest sign of disagreement. This cloud was with me in all my early dealings with the AU publicity department, when in retrospect I've never seen any evidence of reluctance to speak with students, The Voice, or council, and I've had nothing but delightful and positive experiences with those people, who seem to have a lot of fun with their jobs.

When a person is overwhelmed by doubts and worries about what others think of them, it is considered a sign of low self-esteem. I wonder, then, if an entire organization can become imbued with low self esteem? I think they can, and I think it's detrimental in ways you do not realize until you move on. In reality, I now believe that the AU staff I have dealt with have been entirely unaware of most of this supposed negativity, and that the worries were in my head, and my head alone. Why are these worries so dominant in AUSU, then? I don't know where they started, but they are always there - lurking quietly under the chairs.

While I remain respectful of this current AUSU council, what they stand for, how much they have accomplished in such a short time [the record will speak for itself once this council moves on], after long consideration I have to suggest that this assumed negative attitude toward AUSU may have never existed, and to therefore be constantly concerned about rebuilding something which was possibly never broken, places an enormous burden on the council when being a council member is already a very difficult job. It is also irrelevant.

I, for one, wish to wipe the slate clean and no longer approach anyone at the University with a sense that there may be negative feelings, or that the building of a positive relationship is of paramount importance. Getting the

work done - that's what matters. Of course I wish to have positive dealings with everyone that I encounter my job, that goes without saying. To place additional weight on these interactions, though, leads undue tension, and I think all of council should ask whether these concerns are in any way beneficial to themselves as persons or councillors.

Among the people that I've spoken with at AU, I had a chat with Dr. Abrioux himself. He, in fact contacted me in response to my editorial of two weeks ago. In his reply, he asked me why, if I had been wanting written statements from the university, I had not called him and asked.

It is a fair and obvious question, but also a loaded one. There are a number of reasons why I didn't call Dr. Abrioux directly. For one thing, in most large institutions and corporations the publicity department handles all public statements. I check the AU website for press releases very frequently, and I'm often in contact with the publicity department, who are very helpful.

Second, while I was able to obtain Dr. Abrioux's direct e-mail address quite easily, I have always been respectful of the chain of command in using proper channels to contact people. I felt that just dropping him an email without setting up a formal interview would be rather cheeky. My bad.

Dr. Abrioux has affirmed that he reads all his e-mail himself, and welcomes questions from students. I'm sure, however, that he'd prefer not to be contacted if you received the wrong book with your course, or if your AU sweatshirt does not fit. Fortunately there are people who deal with those things too.

I took Dr. Abrioux up on his offer, and contacted him to establish better ways of communicating in the future. I must say that I found Dr. Abrioux extremely approachable, easy to speak with, and very willing to discuss the issues. I still believe that Athabasca university should use its public relations department more effectively to inform students on important issues and changes to policy rather than waiting until there are direct request made. However, when those statements were not available, I am remiss in assuming that AU does not wish to make such statements. There are a couple of reasons I jumped to this conclusion, which are council business and I won't discuss them here, but nevertheless, I stand corrected.

Taking all of this into consideration, I would like to say that I continue to have questions and concerns about statements made by Dr. Abrioux regarding the tuition deregulation issue, among others, and I will question those within The Voice whenever I feel appropriate. My talks with AU staff have indicated that they are a professional bunch, and they understand and expect this. This should go without saying, but at AU sometimes it needs to be said.

I have chosen not to directly comment on Dr. Abrioux's statements regarding tuition deregulation for distance education courses, at least not at this time. Instead, I have just posted the [mp3 files and transcripts of Dr. Abrioux's address to the students](#) on the AUSU website, as per an earlier arrangement with AUSU, and I would urge all AU students to at least browse the transcripts and become more informed on this important issue. And if you do, please send your comments to The Voice for inclusion in an upcoming Sounding Off column where I will print students' responses to Dr. Abrioux's comments.

Tamra Ross Low
Editor in Chief

TRANSCRIPTS OF DOMINIQUE ABRIOUX'S ADDRESS TO AUSU NOW ONLINE

Finally, for those who could not make it to the AUSU council meeting where AU president Dominique Abrioux addressed the students with AU's perspective on the new Alberta tuition fee policy, the files are online. You can listen to Dr. Abrioux's address via some rather rough sounding but decipherable mp3 files, or you can read the transcripts I spent the last week typing up for your illumination!

Better yet, use both and learn more than you ever wanted to know about tuition deregulation for distance education courses. This is without doubt the biggest issue facing AU students today, and probably in the past several years. Don't be left in the dark - learn more, and gain some insight into what the future might hold for AUSU.

The files, plus some supporting documentation provided by Dr. Abrioux, can be found on the AUSU website, here: <http://www.ausu.org/multimedia>

Once you listen to or read transcripts of the speech, send your comments to The Voice for inclusion in an upcoming Sounding Off column where I will print students' responses to Dr. Abrioux's comments.

THE FIRST VOICE WRITING CONTEST

See this issue for full details of the first Voice writing contest. Good luck to all entrants. Please ensure that you differentiate between items submitted for the contest, and those submitted for immediate publication!

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.

THE VOICE FICTION



The Voice wants your fiction.

We are accepting creative writing in all genres for a Voice fiction feature.

Send us your stories, poems, and other short fiction.

Send submissions to voice@ausu.org



THE FIRST VOICE MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST!

\$600 in scholarships to be awarded
\$300 each in the fiction and non-fiction categories

Write for The Voice and win money for your education.

The Voice is launching its very first writing contest, with categories for both fiction, and non fiction.

Non-Fiction: In 1500 words or less, tell us what you would do if you were the President of Athabasca University. Feel free to use research or statistics in your article [with proper citations], or write a creative opinion piece. Don't just write a critique of AU - tell us what you would do to make a difference and to make distance education even better!

Fiction: Free form - write a 1500 word or less fiction submission in any genre or any format. Short stories, poetry, a scene from a play, even a comic. Be creative!

Please read the contest rules and regulations and submission guidelines very carefully to ensure you are not disqualified. Good luck!

Rules and Regulations:

- Entrants must be students of Athabasca University. Student status will be confirmed with the AU registrar. Please ensure that the registrar has your current address and contact information.
- All entries become the property of The Voice. Winning entries will be published in an upcoming Voice issue. The Voice reserves the right to print non-winning entries at a rate of remuneration in accordance with current Voice freelance submission rates. The Voice may use information from non-fiction entries to create a composite article about what entrants would do as president of AU. No remuneration will be provided for such use.
- All decisions regarding this contest and the selection of winners remain with the judging panel and are final and binding.
- AU, AUSU, and Voice staff or council members are not eligible for the contest.
- Entries will be judged by a panel to be selected by the Voice Editor, and this panel may include: AU students, AU tutors, and/or AUSU council members. The panel will include at least 3 members.
- The Voice Editor will collect articles and oversee the judging, but will not be a judge.
- Entries must be original works which have not been printed or published elsewhere, and must not be course assignment papers or derivatives of.
- Entries must not contain any information that would make the identity of the author evident to judges. To insure fairness, all entries will be forwarded to the judging panel with a reference number attached, but no personally identifying information will be forwarded. The Voice Editor will keep the identity of the authors private until the contest closes. The Voice editor will keep a record of the authors of submissions, and will be the sole owner of this list.
- Entries will not be edited for grammar, spelling, or content, although The Voice Editor may black out any personally identifying information contained within the submission. Otherwise, entries will be forwarded to the judging panel, as is.
- **The deadline for submissions in both categories will be October 15, 2003. The winner will be announced by November 10, 2003. The Voice reserves the right to extend either deadline if necessary.**
- One grand prize winner will be selected in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. If no entries are received in one of the categories, the prize money will be returned to the Voice scholarship budget. Prizes will be awarded in the form of a cheque, payable in Canadian funds.
- The Voice reserves the right to add additional, secondary prizes.

- The Voice is not responsible for lost emails. The Voice editor will confirm receipt of all entries by email. Follow up if you do not receive a reply.
- All entrants agree to allow their name and city to be printed, along with their submission, should it be selected as a winning entry. No further remuneration will be paid to the contest winner when their entry is printed.
- Entrants will be asked to sign a standard Release and Indemnity form; each prize winner agrees to release the Sponsor and its agents from any liability in connection with the prizes awarded in this contest.
- Any entrant found to be tampering with the contest results, or attempting to influence any of the judging members, or using any forums or other public communications media to advise others of which entry is theirs will be disqualified; or if The Voice editor determines, at her sole discretion, that any other form of tampering has been attempted, that entrant will be disqualified.
- Where applicable, this contest is subject to all federal, provincial and municipal laws. Contest void where prohibited by law.

Submission Guidelines:

- Your submission must be an electronic file, sent as an attachment to email. Submissions sent as the body of an email will not be accepted. Contact voice@ausu.org if you require instructions on how to attach a file to an email.
- Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format [.doc], rich text format [.rtf] or plain text format [.txt]. If you use a Word Processor other than Word or work on a Mac computer, you can save a file in one of these alternate formats using the 'save as' function and selecting the desired format on the save menu. Contact The Voice editor if you require assistance in formatting your submission.
- All entries must be under 1500 words, due to judging time constraints. Length will be determined by the Word Count feature in Microsoft Word. Your References and Citations section will not be included in the word count.
- Entries should not include unnecessary formatting such as drop caps, graphics [unless the graphic is integral to the work], or unusual fonts. Times New Roman or Arial 12 point font are preferred. Entries must be text - scans of hand written or typed documents will not be accepted.
- All entries forwarded to the judging panel will be converted to the same file format, font style and font size.
- Submit your entry as an email attachment. The email should include the following information: Your full name, your AU student ID number, an email address and telephone number where we may contact you, your home address, the title of your entry, and whether you are submitting a fiction or non-fiction entry. Make sure non-fiction entries are based on the topic question detailed above. Fiction entries can be on any topic you like. Do not include your contact information within your article - but be sure to include a title. Your contact information and article will be coded, and filed separately.
- Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Non Fiction entries: will be judged on originality, creativity, the plausibility of your suggestions, and how well your support your suggestions with data or argument. You will also be judged on the presentation of your article, including professionalism, proper spelling, grammar and syntax, and readability.
 - Fiction entries: will be judged on creativity, entertainment value, and the originality or your writing style. Regardless of the genre you choose, you will be judged on the effectiveness of your piece, and your technical writing skills.



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!

What Can an Arts Degree Really Do For You?



We've all heard the cliché: What can you do with an Arts degree? Professional burger flipper. If other BA students are like me, they are constantly fending off questions from well-meaning (I'm assuming anyway) friends and relatives who ask, "What can you do with that degree?" This question is often asked with a mild look of contempt or not so mild note of sarcasm.

Up until recently I often answered the question with either "ahhhh....lot's of stuff" or "you know... things", reinforcing their belief that any schmuck can go to university.

Why should we go to university anyway? We all know people who have gotten Bachelor's degrees and go on to... well, flip burgers. Many students complain about the possibility of being over-qualified for jobs or not being able to find a career in the field they studied for. But these concerns can, in most cases, be solved with resourcefulness and creativity.

The first things students will want to do is have answers for those concerns of the "well-meaning" friends and relatives. The University of Texas has compiled a list of careers that students with a Bachelor's degree can do (www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/careers). The career categories are divided into "direct career options" (for example, with an Anthropology degree a career option would be Environmental Researcher), "less direct career options" (with a Bachelor's in Geography you could be a legislative aide), and "indirect career options" (get your B.A in Sociology and possibly become a genealogical service specialist).

A lot of other universities have this type of "what can I do with a ..." career lists. Another comprehensive list is on the University of North Carolina at Wilmington site (<http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/>). Although the websites above are American, almost all of the careers apply to Canada and other countries. Remember to keep a list of possible careers in your pocket or wallet and stun those who dare to ask the question. I guarantee they won't be doing it again.

So you've just applied to an Arts and Science program with dreams of making the big bucks. Maybe rethink your decision to apply to a certain program if your goal is to become filthy rich. I am not saying an arts degree does not lead to financial satisfaction, but rather the ultimate goal should not be monetary gain. Find out what is best suited for your talents and interests. Talk to an academic and career counselor. Evaluate your hobbies and interests. Take a career aptitude test, if you are really unclear about what direction your education should take. Be realistic about your future salary, if you're doing what you love, the job satisfaction is worth more than whether you drive a Lexus, a Sunfire or a Schwinn.

It can be nerve wracking, though, to choose a program of study that fascinates you and is enjoyable, only to find that job prospects seem limited. Some students, such as myself, have considered just staying a professional student rather than facing the harsh realities of the working world. But the harsh realities of a lifetime of term papers and final exams is more daunting and snaps us back to researching future prospects. The government of Canada (and most provincial government websites) has excellent information on career profiles.

After visiting the website www.jobfutures.ca, I ended up with 21 pages of printouts on Psychology as a career and program choice plus comments from my husband on the number of dead trees it took to produce that information from my printer. This website organizes itself by programs of study (155 to choose from) and profiles of 226 occupational groups. What I really liked about this website was that they had statistics from


people who had taken the program (where they are employed now, if they found the program satisfying, etc.), and hard facts about employment prospects (unemployment in the field, average earnings and job prospects for the next seven years). This website has tons more career information including a short career aptitude quiz. And yes, I keep all twenty-one pages in my binder to show anyone who raises an eyebrow at my program selection (they could also be raising eyebrows at the fact I carry a binder around).

Another thing we arts and science students need to learn is networking. Although our education can take us as far as we'll let it, sometimes it really is who you know. Join up with other students (for example the Athabasca University Psychology Student's Society has regional coffee groups), participate in school activities, and develop a rapport with your tutors and professors.

One of the most personal and professionally satisfying things a student can do is volunteer. It is also a nice break from hitting the books (or your head against a wall) to go out and work with people in the community.

I am still worried about my job prospects when I finish my degree. Can I get practical experience in my future field while still an undergrad? How about the job market in the next few years, will I be just one of thousands of Psych majors pounding the pavement? I love my program and courses, although it does seem daunting to compete in the job market with many other graduates, but soon it will be time to follow my own advice. If we can think creatively and look outside the proverbial box, the places we can take our degree are limitless.


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SUDS CONFERENCE JULY, 2003

Debbie Jabbour


If I were to choose a campus-based university to attend, I doubt I could find a more attractive one than the University of British Columbia (UBC). Situated on a peninsula on the edge of the Pacific Ocean and surrounded by trees - the buildings range from old and elegant to avant-garde modern. Even the plainest, most utilitarian buildings are beautified by the stunning gardens surrounding them; gardens that bloom from March to November.




This was the setting for SUDS 2003 (Student Union Development Symposium), where some 60 student union executives from across Canada gathered to learn from each other how to improve the skills we bring to the governance of our respective boards. Parts of the discussion involved activity reports from other provinces, to give each participant a sense of what was happening across Canada. Representatives from CASA (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations) and CFS (Canadian Federation of Students) provided information and data on student loan reform, the Millennium scholarship, and other government support for PSE. The conference was hosted by the Alma Mater Society of UBC, who presented us with a well-organized and well-run four days of sessions and informal gatherings (according to the AMS with work must come play!)



Since the symposium encouraged attendance from the portfolios of President, VP Academic, and/or VP External, VP Shirley Barg and myself attended as AUSU representatives. With the exception of the representative from Grant MacEwan College, Shirley and I were a generation older than the other attendees. This generation gap was most notable in the conference scheduling, which was different from most other conferences I've attended. Rather than full day and evening sessions, SUDS sessions were short, with plenty of free time and night-clubbing allotted for. The idea probably was that the younger representatives would use these opportunities for some bonding by doing what campus-based university students traditionally do plenty of - partying! While many took advantage of this form of relaxation, Shirley and I were not the only ones who eschewed the evening party life, and we took advantage of every opportunity to discuss post secondary issues with student leaders like ourselves in between sessions.



We stayed at the university student residences, Gage Towers, which gave us a wonderful view of the ocean and the campus, and where we shared quarters with four others. The shared dormitories were quite nice, but the beds were made for students who are much younger and more resilient than I, and we had no telephone or television access. As usual, of course, I had plenty of AUSU work to do upon returning to the dormitory at the end of the day so I was kept busy. Unfortunately, although I had paid extra for Internet access, I discovered that it only allowed sending email if you had a UBC account, so although I was able to receive mail I could not respond. This meant I had to spend a lot of extra time finding alternative ways of dealing with urgent matters back at the office.



Shirley and I did participate in a couple of leisure-type activities while there. One afternoon, sessions ended fairly early and a large group of us piled into two vehicles and headed into downtown Vancouver. The other driver was a Vancouver

resident, so I assumed he knew what he was doing, and followed trustingly. Unfortunately we hit downtown Vancouver during the peak of rush hour traffic. He pulled into a parking spot and called us on a cell phone to tell us to find parking and they would meet us at the end of the block. This was easier said than done. After driving almost all the way down to the wharf with no success, I tried to circle back onto Burrard and Davie where we were to meet the other group. We navigated one way streets and "no left turns," circling block after block in an attempt to retrace our steps. Finally we got within sight of where we had left the other vehicle, only to have them call and tell us they had been forced to move from the parking spot (thank goodness for cellphones!). They gave us further instructions to find parking on the east side, another block down. Once more we began the block circling process. This time we located them, parked in the only empty spot on the street. I dropped off all my passengers, and they instructed me to drive up to the end of the block where there was "sure" parking. Traffic surged behind me, and I drove off, only to discover that what I thought was an empty spot was a loading zone!



Once again I navigated one way streets in heavy traffic, trying to wind my way back to find the rest of the group. Some ten minutes later, I finally rounded the corner once again to see them all patiently waiting by the curb. This time they told me that if I went around one more time they would try and hold a spot. Sure enough, after yet another traffic go-round, I came around the corner to see all ten of them standing in the street, holding the only empty parking spot on the block open for me! After I parked, we all enjoyed a good laugh at our parking attempts and took a picture beside the car before embarking on our downtown tour.

Unfortunately, by this time it was quite late, and we had only about an hour left before we needed to return. Shopping in downtown Vancouver is a very cool experience - there are so many unusual little shops, such as one massive vintage wear store that I could have spent days browsing in. Shopping with a party of ten, however, is next to impossible, particularly when that party is a group of students of completely diverse personality types from across Canada. It was fun, though, and all of us were sorry to have to go back to the campus residence for dinner.

On Wednesday evening, we also enjoyed a harbour dinner tour. For several hours we cruised the harbour, beginning at B.C. Place and cruising from False Creek up through English Bay, around Stanley Park, under the Lion's Gate Bridge, and back. The Vancouver harbour is breathtakingly beautiful, and it was alive with other cruise boats, dragon boats, and ships of every size and shape. Our Vancouver hosts pointed out areas where real estate begins at \$1 million, and high rise apartments where local celebrities live. I wandered the boat, meeting people and talking about their different experiences at their universities across Canada. Dinner was excellent, but drinks were incredibly expensive - even water was \$3.50 a bottle.

One popular nearby attraction to the university was Vancouver's Wreck Beach, a nude beach within walking distance. It didn't particularly interest me, although I did go for a walk along the rocky beach



north of the campus, collecting a neat handful of rocks as a souvenir. I also took advantage of the Tuesday night free admission to visit the UBC Museum of Anthropology. One of the most impressive aspects of the museum is the Haida totem poles that greet you as you move through the entranceway and into the glassed back wall of the museum. They are stunning to see, far taller than one would ever imagine from photographs, a testament to the creative skills of their builders. The museum boasts a huge collection of historical and anthropological relics from all over the world, and the sheer quantity of items was overwhelming. Far more than just a few hours is needed to truly appreciate the incredible diversity of the museum's possessions, and I felt a twinge of envy for those UBC anthropology students who have the privilege of actually studying and cataloguing these objects.

Although a closing banquet was planned, as well as another evening of nightclubbing and an optional Whistler's retreat (a ski resort north of Vancouver), I left immediately after the final session on Thursday, since being without the capability of sending email for four days meant a heavy backup of student union work awaited me on my return. Skies were unusually clear during the flight home, and as I mulled over the events of the conference, weighing how these could be used to benefit AUSU, I was treated to a spectacular view from above.

Next week: We get to work: Conference session overview, including presentations by VP S. Barg.

References

SUDS 2003 (Student Union Development Symposium)
<http://www.ams.ubc.ca/suds2003/>

Alma Mater Society - Student Society at UBC: <http://www.ams.ubc.ca/>

UBC Museum of Anthropology: <http://www.moa.ubc.ca/>

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



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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

A Day to Study?

Barbara Godin

Sunday is my day to do my course. I know it seems like an odd day, as Sunday used to be thought of as a day of rest. Well with Sunday shopping, Sunday has become just like Monday or Tuesday. However, I do allow myself the luxury of sleeping in until 8:30 or 9:00. Then I have my coffee, a bowl of cereal and read the Sunday paper. Even though it is Sunday, I still go on my exercise bike, which means a shower and washing my hair. Then there's all that stuff us women do with our hair - blow drying, straightening, then curling again. Why am I doing all this, I'm just going to study?

By now it is 11:00. I'd better start working on my studies. After I get all comfy on the couch with my books all around me, I can't help but look at those big brown eyes staring at me. I can almost hear the words "what about me?" I try to ignore them. I can't. I can feel them almost boring a hole into my turned head... "what about me?" I can't stand it anymore. "Do you want to go for a walk?" Up she stands, tail wagging, she knew it would work, she knew I couldn't resist those soulful eyes.

Half an hour later, we're back home. I get comfy again, no distractions this time, I've got to get this unit done. Next I hear footsteps coming down the stairs... "you almost finished? I thought we could go out for lunch." Well admittedly I had been quite busy lately and had not spent much time with Ed. After all, marriage takes a lot of work, right. So out for a leisurely lunch we go. During lunch, I'm thinking about what I should be doing, but then I think, maybe I'll get a chance to do some of my studies during the week. No, that wouldn't work, I have the grand kids Wednesday and Friday, and I have to work Monday, Tuesday and half a day Thursday. Well there, I can do it Thursday afternoon. Hey that's a plan. My mind turns to mundane topics while we discuss fixing up the house, the garden, our next vacation, etc.

By 2:30 I return to the big comfy couch, ready to work. It almost seems too late to start anything now, I should wait until I have a block of time so I can read the whole chapter at one sitting. No, I'll read it now. As I start to read, my eyes feel heavy. Oh no, it must have been that glass of wine at lunch. I try to fight it, I can stay awake, I can... no I can't. Okay I'll just have a cat nap, then I'll feel refreshed and be able to concentrate better.

"Honey, are you going to sleep away the whole day? It's almost supper time." I look at my watch. Oh no, what did I do. What a wasted day! How irresponsible of me! I'll never catch up now. As I approach the kitchen, I see Ed starting to prepare supper and my thoughts change. I didn't waste my day, I enjoyed it with my family, and I know I'll be able to catch up later. In fact, that's part of the reason I chose Athabasca University, 'cause they realize people have multiple priorities in life - some that just can't wait.



AUSU Council Meeting

August 11, 2003, 11:00 AM MST

Reported by Voice Editor Tamra Ross Low



Chair: Debbie Jabbour, President

AUSU Council Members: Shirley Barg, Nicholas Palamarchuk, Sandra Moore, Mac McInnis, Karl Low,

Minutes taken by: Meeting taped for transcription

Also present - Voice Editor: Tamra Ross Low, plus 2 student observers.

SPECIAL GUEST - Dr. Dominique Abrioux, President, Athabasca University

The August 11th council meeting centered around an address by Dr. Dominique Abrioux regarding AU's request to follow the Alberta Government's recommendation to exempt AU from the tuition cap for distance education courses. The address was followed by a question period, during which all participants - including non-council student observers - were invited to ask questions of Dr. Abrioux. After the departure of Dr. Abrioux, a regular, although brief, council meeting was held.

The meeting was brief, because AUSU had already spent all of August 10th together in Calgary, where a strategic planning weekend was held. Among items that were discussed at the weekend session were the AUSU budget for the coming year, and the direction that the students' union should take in the immediate and extended future.

For students who could not attend this council meeting and listen to Dr. Abrioux directly, I recorded the address and question period, which are now available online in mp3 format [sound files which you can listen to using any music software on your computer] and as text transcripts. The sound files are not of the greatest quality, because they were recorded over a teleconference line and because I had to compress them a great deal in order to keep the size small. Nevertheless, I hope students enjoy this opportunity to hear the university president speak on an issue of paramount importance to all AU students.

Any comments on Dr. Abrioux's speech can be forwarded to The Voice for an upcoming Sounding Off column, where students' views on the issue will be posted. Please indicate if we can print your comments. If you require additional information on this, or any issue affecting AU students, contact the students' union at ausu@ausu.org.

Once again, I'd like to remind all students that they may sit in at any AUSU council meeting by reserving a telephone line to call in for free. Contact the AUSU office to book a line once the next council meeting time is announced [watch the calendar on the AUSU website front page].

The Agenda was as follows:

New Business

Approval of Agenda	All
Table motion for Adoption of Council Minutes (July 11/03)	All
Discussion of AU's request re the tuition fee policy, with guest D. Abrioux	D. Jabbour/All
Motion to amend policy sections	S. Barg
Action on AUSU's position on tuition deregulation	S. Barg
Motion on AUSU's position statement on tuition deregulation	S. Barg
Motion on services for students with disabilities	S. Barg
Update on AUSU student scholarships	D. Jabbour
ACAT/DeVry issue	S. Barg
Student handbook	M. McInnis

Art contest
Employment terms for C. Benavides

M. McInnis
D. Jabbour

Reports & Information items

Province-wide Bill 43 campaign
SUDS report
President/VP/Committee Reports

S. Barg
S. Barg/D. Jabbour
All

MY REPORT:

I attended the meeting to report on what happened. I am not an AUSU council member, and these notes are only my personal perspective on the meeting. Contact AUSU for complete information on any of these items.

Discussion of AU's request re the tuition fee policy, with guest D. Abrioux

After the agenda was approved and council passed the motion to table the minutes from the previous council meeting. Debbie Jabbour then noted that while student observers are normally not allowed to speak at council meetings, for the purpose of this meeting with Dr. Abrioux, the students should be invited to speak freely and question Dr. Abrioux if they desired. All council members agreed that the student observers should be allowed to ask questions along with council, and the floor was then passed to Dr. Abrioux, who was attending the Calgary meeting via teleconference.

After a few prefacing remarks, in which Dr Abrioux thanked AUSU for the opportunity to address students, asked to be called Dominique, and had the attendees add some additional to the spreadsheet files that he had sent out [the additional data is on the spreadsheet file which has been posted on the AUSU website], Dominique began his explanation of AU's perspective on the new tuition fee policy and the recommendation that distance education courses be excluded from the fees portion of that policy. It is at this point that the mp3 sound files and transcripts of the meeting begin.

Dr. Abrioux spoke for about 45 minutes, then opened the floor to questions. Most of the question period is also transcribed and available on the AUSU website, although 1 or 2 questions were missed due to tape changes.

After the question period, the normal council meeting resumed.

Motion to amend policy sections

VP external Shirley Barg moved that the AUSU policy manual should include a section for position statements, so that when AUSU establishes an official position on any topic, it can be kept on file within the policy manual. Council agreed that the policy manual should be amended to include a section for position statements.

Motion on AUSU's position statement on tuition deregulation

Shirley read to council a draft policy statement in which AUSU would agree to oppose the deregulation of distance education tuition in Athabasca University.

Discussion ensued. Councillor Karl Low expressed concern that within Bill 43 the out of province fee is not covered under the tuition cap, and that this fee could conceivably be raised without limit. Shirley Barg noted that regardless of AUSU policy, the exemption will most likely go through, and therefore the purpose of the policy is to establish whether this exemption should occur with, or without the blessing of AUSU. Some on council noticed that if AUSU opposes the exemption, AUSU will have greater credibility in the future if tuition raises significantly and AUSU must then go to the Alberta government to ask that the exemption be repealed.

It was also noted that the tuition fee policy only covers tuition, but not book fees, out of province fees, or any other academic fees, and therefore tuition may be the only fee which will be controlled by the Alberta policy, therefore it is very important to ensure that this one portion of the cost of education remain controlled.

However, both Debbie Jabbour and Karl Low stated that they might be more comfortable with supporting AU's exemption from the policy if the Alberta policy guaranteed that consultation between the university and AUSU is necessary for tuition increases beyond the 30% cap, whereas the current policy is not very explicit as to Athabasca's responsibility to consult with the students' union as it stands.

After some debate, the position was passed by a majority of AUSU and thus AUSU established that it would oppose AU being exempt from the new position policy. Arrangements were made for both AU and Alberta Learning to be informed of the official AUSU position.

Motion on services for students with disabilities

Shirley Barg updated AUSU on discussions with the AU Access for Students With Disabilities unit, regarding the use of AUSU funds to assist disabled students. Several options were discussed, including the donation of \$2000 each year to ASD to be used at the department's discretion in order to help disabled students to obtain technology that they require in order to better access AU courses. This option was agreed upon, and this amount has been allotted to the ASD unit in response to a desperate need for funds to assist these students. Athabasca University also provides money to assist disabled students, in the amount of \$1500 per year.

Update on AUSU student scholarships

AUSU has recognized that the criteria for the new scholarships is too rigid, and it is too difficult for students to qualify. To address this, the scholarships will be revised to include more appropriate criteria for future years.

ACAT/DeVry issue

DeVry university has requested to be included in the Alberta Transfer Guide. They would be the only for-profit school in this guide. ACAT asked all Alberta students' organizations to comment on this issue.

While many on AUSU expressed a dislike for including DeVry in this guide - for a number of reasons - they concluded that since inclusion in the guide in no way confers credibility to the institution, and because the transfer guide is intended to provide the most complete information for prospective students, then AUSU should not oppose DeVry's inclusion in the guide. DeVry would only be listed as a receiving institution, for which DeVry already has a number of agreements with other Alberta schools.

Student handbook

Councillor and Handbook/Planner committee chair Mac McInnis updated council on discussions between his committee and the AU Public Affairs office regarding the possibility of creating a joint planner with AU. Council members and committee members argued the pros and cons of working with AU, and many issues were taken into consideration, including: finances (if AUSU worked with AU, the university would pay for a portion of the book, but on the other hand the greatly increased production that AU desires would greatly increase the AUSU contribution), autonomy (whether AUSU should maintain an arm's length relationship with the university when creating publications, or should work with the university on joint projects), student perception (does working with the university help raise the visibility of AUSU), and control of AUSU funds (would AUSU have sufficient control over the project, if the book is to be created as a joint project with the university).

Based on the discussion, Mac felt he was ready to continue talks with AU public affairs, and that he would be able to obtain the information that council and committee members felt was needed.

Art contest

Councillor and Handbook/Planner committee chair Mac McInnis informed council of the winner of the art contest for the planner cover. The winner - who will be announced in an upcoming Voice issue - will receive \$250 and have his/her artwork on the cover of the upcoming AUSU planner.

Employment terms for C. Benavides

Council discussed the employment agreement of the AUSU administrative assistant.

Province-wide Bill 43 campaign

This discussion was left to AUSU email, and students are invited to contact Shirley Barg at sbarg@ausu.org if they have any questions about Bill 43.

SUDS report [from the Student Union Development Symposium]

This report was not completed at the time of the meeting, as President Jabbour and Vice President Barg had not had enough time since returning from the conference. President Jabbour promised a detailed report of the conference, plus Voice articles detailing the conference for the information of student readers. The introduction to this report is featured in this issue of The Voice.

President/VP/Committee Reports

Due to the length of the meeting, in addition to the lengthy session the day before, reports were tabled. All reports are to be reviewed by council members prior to the next meeting.

The meeting ended with a statement from me, where I indicated that given the length of the speech by Dominique, I would not be doing a complete transcription as previously promised.

I lied. The complete transcripts are [online](#). Enjoy!

For more information on any of the items mentioned in this report, please contact any AUSU councillor, or council as a whole. Contact information is on the AUSU website. All information presented above is based on my perspective as an observer, and more complete and detailed information can be obtained from council or the council website directly. Any errors or omissions are my own. I am not a member of AUSU council.



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Even the ones underwater. This giant kelp forest off the coast of B.C. is more diverse than a rainforest. Sadly, it's not protected from the harmful practices of industry. In fact, 99.99% of Canada's waters are unprotected. When will Canada start protecting our oceans? With your help, we'll get Ottawa to act now. Call [1.800.26.PANDA](tel:180026PANDA).





CANADA'S WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TEAM PLAYS AT CANADIAN VENUES

Shannon Maguire

As the 2003 Women's World Cup soccer tournament draws closer Canada's team is about to play their final three international friendly games. This is the last chance for soccer fans to attend a game in Canada before the team leaves for the tournament which is being held in the United States. The next game is Canada vs. Mexico in Edmonton on August 31, followed by Canada vs.

Mexico in Vancouver on September 4 and the final game, which is Canada vs. Australia in Kingston, Ontario on September 14. According to the Kingston Whig Standard, the city of Kingston is very excited to have the team play there because they usually do not get major sporting events due to their small size and that it also "might be the first time the full team will be together."

2003 Women's World Cup

Once Canada's team is finished their friendly matches they will be off to the United States to begin the actual tournament. The tournament consists of 16 teams competing in 4 groupings. The groups were drawn in July and are as follows:

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
United States	Norway	Canada	China
Sweden	France	Germany	Ghana
Nigeria	Brazil	Japan	Australia
North Korea	South Korea	Argentina	Russia

Canada's first game will be against Germany on September 20 in Columbus. This could be a tough match for Canada who lost 7-0 and 3-0 to Germany the last time they played each other in international friendly games in June 2001. Germany is also ranked number 3 in the FIFA Women's World Rankings for 2003 while Canada is ranked number 12. Canada's second game will be against Argentina in Columbus on September 24 and their final game is against Japan in Boston on September 27. If they advance in their group they will proceed to play either the winner or runner up from Group D in Portland on October 2. After that the semi-finals are scheduled for October 5 in Portland and the final for October 12 in Los Angeles.

Background of Canada's Team

This will be the third consecutive World Cup that the Canadian Women's team has qualified for. The team first qualified for the 1995 Women's World Cup in Sweden where they failed to advance past the first stage. They lost to England and Norway and tied with Nigeria. In 1999 they qualified once again for the World Cup in the United States. Unfortunately they failed to advance again with losses to Russia and Norway and a tie with Japan.

The Canadian team is equipped with a new coach from Norway named Even Pellerud who joined the team in 1999. They also have 8 new players who have not played in a World Cup Tournament with the team. The team has been doing well in their international friendly games so hopefully we will see them advance to the second stage this year. I urge all Canadian soccer fans to attend as many games as possible and cheer our team on through the tournament. If you would like more information on the Canadian Women's World Cup team visit the Canadian Soccer Association's website at www.canadasoccer.com.



THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE

Paradise (of the air-conditioned gated-condo-community variety)

Sara Kinninmont

Dusk is falling and the gated condo community appears to be deserted. The beach is empty; her sands blemished and scarred from another day of fun in the sun. All that remains poolside is someone's dog-eared copy of the latest Nora Roberts best-seller. The smell of barbecue wafts in the air. The fathers are out on their lanais firing up their grills after a long day of ritualised male bonding, either poolside or on the golf course. They carefully watch the charcoal while swigging on tins of Budweiser, from a six-pack "the wife" picked up at the market in Kihei - the king of beers for self-dubbed kings of the grill. Typically, the men are shirtless despite their pelts of back hair and paunches that hang over the waistbands of their Bermuda shorts. The majority of them have moustaches a la Tom Selleck; this is Maui after all. Magnum would be proud, except that his many disciples fall far from the mark. None of them come close to exuding that same playboy charm, which in no way deters them from trying.

The wives are all wearing sarongs and too much makeup. Despite being in Hawaii, many of them show no signs of a tan for all of them are scared shitless of aging. Many even forgo facial expressions in an effort to avoid wrinkles. There is the odd sun goddess who spends all the daylight hours soaking up the rays with blatant disregard for the evil effects of the sun. In fact, she is often seen putting on tan amplifier; no sunscreen for this girl. She knows she looks better with a tan, and no one can convince her otherwise, not even her dermatologist. Needless to say, when it comes time to fly back to the mainland, she goes home with skin that looks about ready to be reincarnated into a Louis Vuitton steamer trunk.

By dusk the kids are all planted in front of the TV watching Nickelodeon or MTV, chugging Cherry

Cokes, and picking at their peeling skin, a result of the inevitable sunburns they got by ignoring their mothers' pleas to "please put on sunscreen." The combination of excessive amounts of sugar and lack of scheduled activities fuels misbehaviour and hyperactivity.

This typical dusk scenario is being acted out in condo 18. Mr. Smith is out on the lanai carefully watching various meaty hunks darken on the grill. He calls into the condo, "Hey Babe. Can you take the rest of my Buds out of the freezer and put 'em in the fridge?"

Mechanically putting the beer into the fridge, she looks at her zombie-like kids sprawled out on the floor in front of the television. "Not so close to the TV. How many times do I have to tell you? Are you drinking pop before dinner?"

"Dad said we could," they respond in unison.

Mrs. Smith brings her husband another beer. "Hon, did you tell Bobby and Susie they could have pop before dinner?" He grunts as he prods the steaks with the super-astro tongs he bought in Lahaina. "Hon, are you listening?"

"Uh huh."

"Did you tell Bobby and Susie they could have pop before dinner?"

"Come on, Babe. We're on vacation."

"Fine," she says, and lights up one of her Marlboro Lights. She takes a few deep drags and stares off into the distance. "Did I tell you Burt and Marla want to meet up with us at the Aston later for the hula show?"

She flicks her ash off the edge of the balcony, completely unconcerned about the hibiscus bushes

below. "I keep forgetting this is their first time here. That kind of thing is still exciting for them. What do you think Hon? Do you want to go?"

"Sure."

"I guess it could be fun. Maybe if Marla has one too many Mai Tais she'll go up on stage when they call for volunteers. I'd give good money to see that. Especially if she wears that hideous tangerine wrap dress she tries to pass off as a Diane Von Furstenberg, when I know for a fact that she got it at Winners."

She sprawls herself onto the lounge chair on the far side of the lanai. "Do you think it's okay to leave the kids alone?"

"Babe, they'll be fine. You have to loosen up a bit. We're on vacation." He pours more of his "secret sauce," which consists solely of HP sauce and some chili powder, on his 24oz T-bone steak. "Burt played a round today. I'd love to know how the course is treating him. I'm just getting raped out there. I shot a ninety-seven yesterday."

"Uh huh. Did you see Aileen at the putting green? Ugh, that woman has no class. She can barely play the game, which isn't surprising since I've heard she and the pro certainly aren't working on her technique, at least not pertaining to golf."

"Babe, you don't know that for a fact."

"I do know that if I was married to Stan, I'd be on the prowl for young virile men too."

Without thinking she begins to bite her thumbnail, totally unaware of the fact she is ruining her French manicure. "Funny how money and power will make almost any man attractive. We, of course, know what he saw in her. Ex-Dallas Cowboys cheerleader turned pseudo-catalogue model? Yeah sure, fifteen years and twenty pounds ago. Anyway, she sat herself down next to me at the Jog 'n' Java this morning after I dropped the kids off at day camp. She talked my ear off. 'Tiffany this and Nicholas that.' Talk about living through your kids. All she does is brag about them. 'Well Tiff is going to New York on a special ballet field trip, and our Nicky is quickly becoming a football hero.' She has no reason to be so high and mighty about those kids. From what I hear,

precious Tiffany hasn't eaten a square meal without running to the bathroom with her fingers down her throat in years, and Nicky is no sweetheart either. It's common knowledge that he knocked up his girlfriend over spring break last year when they were in Cancun. Stan even paid to have things taken care of, if you know what I mean."

"Stan never mentioned anything about it to me."

"And tarnish his golden boy's reputation. Come on, Hon. What would he say? 'My boy knocked up his latest girlfriend. Please pass the guacamole.' Not likely. If that boy doesn't get smart he's liable to do it again. I've seen the way he and that DeLucca girl have been sneaking around over the last week. You'd have to be blind not to. As soon as Stan and Aileen have teed off the first tee, she's on her way over to their condo. Most mornings when I walk by the curtains are closed. It's not like they're even trying to be discreet about it. God knows what's going on in there, but that doesn't stop everyone from trying to guess."

"Well, boys will be boys. Babe, do you want another wine cooler?"

"Actually Hon, bring me a light beer. I'm on diet, remember?"

Gazing off to the west, taking in the last of the sunset - the perfect sunset, like on those cheesy Hawaiian tourism brochures with captions reading, "Come experience paradise" - she thinks about the two teens fooling around. If she was truthful, she couldn't blame the DeLucca girl. Although she'd never admit it out loud, even with half a dozen martinis in her, Nicky had certainly done some growing up in the last two years. She'd always had a weakness for football players. In fact, the adolescent sports hero had starred in a few of her fantasies in the past year. There'd been a few mornings last fall when, after dropping the kids at school, she'd returned home, made herself a Stoli martini and retired to her bedroom with her drink, her trusty Hitachi Magic Wand, and memories of that rock hard body on the beach the year before.

"Mom."

"Mom."

"What?" She sighs, exasperated. Her reverie broken. She turns, looking back into the living room.

"Mom, can we go shopping in Lahaina tomorrow?"

"And then can we go to Snorkel Bob's and pick up a mask and fins?"

"Please, Mom. Can we?"

"I'll discuss it with your father." Her husband drops a big bag of Doritos in front of the kids to pacify them. He comes out onto the lanai with a fresh Bud for himself and a light beer in an icy tumbler for her, closing the sliding door to block out the aggravating sound of the TV.

"Babe, did you notice that there's an oriental family staying in the Carter's condo?"

"I know. I was talking to Patsy at the pool bar this afternoon. She says that Pete lost a bundle in tech stocks. Poor fool. He never did take your advice and see our broker, and look where it got him? If only he'd listened to you, Hon."

She fumbles with her cigarettes lighting another one. "Of course, Pete and Janelle are saying they couldn't make it this year because her mom's sick, but Patsy assures me it's because Pete almost lost his shirt. Janelle won't let him sell the condo either. It was her dad's, and she refuses to sell it no matter how dire their predicament. So they compromised and are renting it out."

She pauses and blows almost perfect smoke rings into the sweet night air. "Apparently, the stress of it all got to Janelle. It seems she's turned into quite the little lush. From what I hear, there was a messy incident at the country club back home. The bartender tried to cut her off and she caused a huge scene. I can only imagine. Anyway, Pete had to kiss some serious ass to get back in the manager's good books. So long story short, Janelle is at a 'spa' in Arizona 'unwinding'."

Snorting unflatteringly, she hands what's left of her smoke to her husband. He lets it hang from the corner of his mouth as he flips the steaks. "It doesn't take Dionne Warwick's psychic network to know that divorce is on the horizon for those two."

The sliding door opens. Bobby comes outside holding up a piece of skin the size of his hand like a prize. "Look, mom. I peeled this off my back," he says with a wicked grin.

"That's disgusting Bobby. Get that out of my face this instant." Pleased with his mom's reaction, he skips around holding it above his head proudly like a banner. She picks up the latest copy of Cosmo magazine, which she left on the table earlier, and starts flipping through it, blatantly ignoring her son's obnoxious behaviour. She tries to concentrate on an article entitled, *How to get rid of Cellulite: Once and for all*.

Realizing his mother won't rise to the bait, he goes in search of a new target. The shock value having worn off, the skin is chucked over the edge of the balcony to join the cigarette ash among the hibiscus. "What're you doin' dad?"

"I'm busy cooking dinner, Bobby. Why don't you go inside and play with your sister?"

"She's boring. All she wants to do is watch that stupid Justin Timberlake special on TV. He sucks."

Bobby spots a lone gecko trying to hide along the balcony railing. Stalking his prey, he tiptoes as quietly as possible in an effort to catch it. With uncharacteristic agility, he catches the poor creature. With a sly grin, he heads back over to his dad. "Dad, I don't think I want steak for dinner."

"Well, I've already started cooking you one, bud. So that's what you're havin'."

"I'd rather have this," he says with a devilish grin, and throws the poor gecko onto the grill, to its inevitable demise. He promptly runs back into the condo, shutting the sliding door behind him.

"That kid can be such a pain in the ass."

"What was that you said earlier, Hon? 'Boys will be boys.'" She looks up for a split second at her obviously frustrated husband, as he attempts to extract the charred gecko remains from under the grill.

"Dinner's almost ready. Will you see if the kids are ready to eat?"

"Sure. But don't get angry when they don't clean their plates. I wasn't the one who let them fill up on chips and pop before dinner."

Opening the sliding door, she is assaulted by arctic cold air. "Holy shit! Susie, how high do you have the a/c cranked? Turn it down and come set the table for dinner."

Her daughter remains motionless. "Susie, did you hear me? Susie?"

"She won't answer you mom."

"She will if she doesn't want to spend the rest of the vacation grounded."

"She's decided to change her name to Christina. She thinks she's Christina Aguilera."

"Well, daughter of mine. I don't care what your name is. You have until the count of three to get off your butt and set the table. One, two..." Susie gets up in a huff and stomps to the kitchen. Bobby sits on the floor with a pleased smirk on his face. "Don't just sit there. Go help your sister. Go get the potato salad out of the fridge."

"But Mom..."

"No but moms. Just do it." Turning to her husband, "Whoever coined the phrase 'the joys of motherhood' must have been drunk."

With the table finally set, the Smiths sit down to dinner. Mr. Smith places the now well-done T-bone on his plate, a plain grilled chicken breast on his wife's plate, a hamburger on Susie's plate, and the charred remains of the gecko on Bobby's plate.

"Gross, dad. I'm not eating that."

"You said that's what you wanted for dinner."

"I was kidding."

"Too bad. It's that or nothing."

"I'm not eating it."

"Fine. Then go to your room."

"Mom," the boy whines.

"Bobby, listen to your father." The boy stomps off to his room.

Pleased that her gross little brother had been banished, Susie begins to devour her burger. "Mom..."

"Not with your mouth full. Do I have to tell you a thousand times?"

Swallowing, "Mom, can I go to Madison's house to watch a DVD later?"

"Not dressed like that you can't."

"What's wrong with it? This is what Christina wore in her last music video."

"You look like a slut. No daughter of mine is going out in public like that."

"Mom, that's so unfair. Dad..."

"Susie, you listen to your mother."

The Smiths watch their daughter storm from the table, and hear her bedroom door slam. Mrs. Smith sighs and takes a sip of beer. "Hon, this chicken is delicious. Really tender."

"I'm glad you like it, Babe."

END

The Voice buys fiction in all forms and genres. Contact voice@ausu.org for more information. Or, you may wish to submit your fiction for the Voice Writing Contest. See this issue for details and submission guidelines.

T-Shirts all in the wash?

Buy a new one, from AUSU



WORTH A SECOND LOOK – My personal experiences during the blackout of 2003.

By Teresa Neuman



Thursday, August 14. I was looking forward to the upcoming weekend. Not only was it my 40th birthday, but we were finally going to be moving into our new house. My new job had necessitated a move to Ottawa. Six long weeks had gone by and my husband and son were scheduled to arrive sometime the next day. It was my last night living in residence at Carleton University and I had a lot to do that day to get ready for the move.

4:10 p.m. Still at the office, I rushed to finish one last job at the end of the day. Barely noticeable, the office lights flicked once, twice, three times. I wondered if I had imagined it. Then it went dark. We waited. The power had gone out in our building the week before; we assumed that this time would be no different.

We were wrong. We soon found out that we were experiencing the largest power blackout ever to hit the eastern seaboard. Most of Ontario, and eight American states including the cities of New York City, Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland had been affected by a failure somewhere in the power grid. An estimated 50 million people were plunged into darkness in a matter of nine seconds.

We patiently waited for the lights to come on. Some people in the building had access to battery operated radios. As the scope of the blackout became known, rumours began to spread; a blackout of this magnitude could only be the work of terrorists. My thoughts flashed to my parents. They would want to know that I was safe. I tried to call but neither my cell phone nor the office phone was working. I would just have to wait to get word to the outside that I was OK.

I looked out the office window and saw the growing traffic jam. Traffic control lights were out as well. I sat in the car and listened to the radio as the government assured Ontarians that the blackout was not caused by acts of terror. It was caused by a fault in the power grid at an undetermined location. Immediately, both the American and Canadian leaders began pointing fingers at each other, as if assigning blame would somehow reassure the people and restore the power. As I sat in snarled traffic, I realized that I had to get my room packed while there was still daylight.

Our recent move to Ottawa created some logistical problems, one of them being housing. Although I arrived in Ottawa on July 7, our townhouse was not ready until August 15. The residence at Carleton University had been a perfect short-term solution for my accommodation problem. I had planned to move out Friday morning, go to work as usual, and pick up the keys to our house at 5:00 p.m. Of course, I had not planned for a power blackout of such a massive scale. Luckily, when I arrived at the university, a back-up generator was functioning. The residence store stayed open long enough to sell basic emergency supplies to the residents, and I was fortunate to purchase a battery for my radio. The power still had not returned, and seeing no other option; I packed my room and loaded the car while there was still daylight. As night came, the residence hallways were lit by emergency power but there was no power in the rooms so the residents sat in the common areas under the emergency lights socializing, reading or doing homework. Needing to find some dinner, I ventured out into the streets. Ottawa's skyline was completely dark; the lights from Gatineau across the river beckoned seductively. Any thoughts I had of going to Quebec quickly vanished. The bridges crossing the river were packed solid with traffic as Ontario citizens flooded to Quebec in search of a hot meal and a tank of gas. Instead, I listened to CBC radio on my battery operated radio and as the blackout continued, eventually went to bed.

I woke up early on Friday morning. Power had still not been restored. I was fairly hungry as supper the night before had consisted of Sun Chips from the residence store. Luckily, the university had used one of its generators to fire up what it could in the residence cafeteria. The staff had managed to cook hash brown potatoes and had a toaster working. They also had made some coffee. While I am normally not a morning person, I figured that I had better eat as who knew what the day might bring or when my next meal might be.

I checked out of the residence and considered my options for the day. The university had closed the classrooms, library and all other non-essential buildings to conserve power. All non-essential workers were advised to stay home.

Now homeless, I went to work to see if I could find a working phone. I thought that perhaps, given the circumstances, I could move into our townhouse early. I managed to get a call into the rental company, who said that as long as I didn't need an elevator, I should be able to move in as scheduled. I just had to wait and see.

Not knowing where else to go, I stayed at the office. I took advantage of the quiet to do some PHIL 333 homework. About 12:10 p.m. the phone rang. The power had come back, 20 hours after it went out. We had been warned to expect rolling blackouts all day; I hurried to make a cup of tea and microwave some lunch before I was plunged into the dark again. Luckily, the power stayed on. It seemed anti-climatic at the end of the day, when I was able to pick up my keys and move into my new place. I was extremely lucky that the blackout of 2003 had ended for me without one bit of drama.

Ultimately, I was reasonably unaffected by the blackout. Through sheer luck I had enough fuel and was able to have a meal. I did not have an emergency kit, but there was a flashlight in the car, I had access to clean water and I was able to buy a battery for my radio. It took a few days for cellular service to be restored, but I was eventually able to let my parents know that I was safe.

This experience reminded me that a blackout can happen at any time and that I should be prepared. There are probably 50 million other people like me who learned the exact same thing.

Tips on how to prepare for the next blackout and energy conservation tips can be found online at the Toronto Star www.torontostar.ca. Under Special Reports, click on Blackout.

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FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

The job hunt continues...

By Debbie Jabbour



Several weeks ago I wrote about some of my initial experiences in job hunting now that I am a "degree holding graduate." The job hunt continues, and there have been a few developments, both positive and negative, and all highly educational.

While writing that article, I was still debating my options, one of which was remaining at my Addictions Help Line employment. Before the article was published, however, I made the rather abrupt decision to quit. The negative atmosphere and lack of management support had become intolerable; but the final straw was when they changed my shift without consultation to permanent nights for the whole summer, then reposted the complete shift rotation with only a week's notice, in

violation of our union agreement. Because so many had quit already, there were no longer any fellow employees to make shift mutual trades with, so I was left with three months of shifts no one else wanted or would trade! I considered grieving the matter with the union, but had concerns that doing so would probably make working conditions even more intolerable. In addition, since the Alberta government has passed a bill requiring all health care employees to be represented by the same union, we were in transition with union representation. Although we were with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), we were advised that we now had to choose between CUPE and AUPE. The vote had already occurred mid-July, but we had heard nothing about the results. After attempting unsuccessfully to contact IUOE about the matter, I came to the conclusion that to all intents and purposes we really had no effective employee union I could go to, and decided my only option was to quit.

The moment I put in my notice I felt a huge sense of freedom, and realized just how discouraging the job had become. I immediately went to the Government of Canada employment insurance website to determine my eligibility for unemployment. According to my understanding of the rules, if an employee is forced to quit because of difficult or harmful employment conditions, they can apply for EI as long as the reasons for quitting are detailed and considered valid. The whole process of applying online was quite complex and time-consuming, with all kinds of options that would take you off into another window in an attempt to cover every contingency. It was complicated by the fact that I'm still in university full-time, and the online program didn't understand how to fit distance learning into being ready and available for work every day. Although I answered all the questions to the best of my ability, I had to follow it up by mailing a detailed report to "fill in the blanks." I expected to find new employment before I'd have to worry about EI benefits, but the way the EI system is set up, if you wait too long before applying, you can lose your eligibility - so I wanted to be on the safe side.

Finding new employment, however, has been a challenge of its own. I had already been actively monitoring all the options even before graduation, and once I had my degree in hand, started sending in applications. As the weeks went by, and after I had written what felt like my hundredth cover letter, I was starting to get really tired of the whole process. There seemed to be lots of jobs that fit my experience and qualifications - I would read the job description and think, "wow, I'd love to do this, it would be a great job, just right for me!" - but I wasn't getting any responses. This was particularly discouraging in the case of Alberta government jobs, and after I had applied for one government position after another that I thought I was perfect for, I began to wonder if all these jobs are automatically filled with internal applicants, and only advertised to meet union agreements. Or perhaps there are huge numbers of more highly qualified job seekers out there? Maybe I was doing something wrong?

Finally I got a call back for my first interview - with the Elizabeth Fry Society, an organization that helps women who have had difficulties with the law or been incarcerated. The position involved counselling and assisting women in this situation to be integrated back into society, helping with employment and other matters. I did my research in advance, to ensure I knew as much about the organization as possible, and tried to be calm and cool at the interview.

Employment interviews are an education in themselves. I was interviewed by three people over the course of an hour, and the questions were detailed. A lot of them presented hypothetical situations that I needed to respond to, or were geared towards determining my attitude and opinions of women's issues. By the end of the hour, I knew a lot more about the organization (and about some of my own attitudes!). I came to the conclusion that, as interesting and challenging as the position seemed, it might not be a good fit for me, so I was relieved when I received a call a few days later advising me that although I was a strong candidate, another applicant had been successful.

It was an encouraging experience, nonetheless, and it gave me renewed hope. I sent in more applications, including several temporary employment agencies. I realized that part of the problem with many of the jobs was that the competitions remained open for a fairly long period of time, even up to a month. This meant that many of the jobs I had applied for weeks previously were still open and not even in the interview stage, so I reminded myself to be patient. I also realized, from a comment made at the interview, that potential employers might have been put off by my stating on my application that I was entering the Master of Counselling program at AU in January. Many people don't understand that the flexible distance learning model allows students to work full time while attending university, leading them to think I was unavailable after January.

It also didn't help that two of my daughters were also job searching - one who had graduated with an honours BSc in chemistry, and my youngest, who had graduated from high school. Who was the first one to be successful? You guessed it - my youngest! She immediately found work through a temp agency with a pharmaceutical company, and after several weeks of temporary employment, they offered her a permanent position at a wage comparable to what I had been earning in my employment with Capital Health! Her sister and I were pleased for her, but somewhat chagrined that we, with our expensive university degrees, were as yet unemployed. This was compounded when my youngest daughter told me about her boss. She had been telling me what a great job he has, how he runs this huge pharmaceutical company and goes golfing every afternoon. My response was that he must have an MBA or the equivalent. Imagine my surprise when she advised me that the position she had been offered was the same one her boss had started with and subsequently worked his way to the top - with a grade ten education!

Finally my patience began to pay off, as the phone started to ring with more interviews. One of the strangest was a position with Alberta learning. I was told that I met their qualifications, but that I needed to first come and take a three hour test. The test would simulate the nature of the job itself, and would include a "deductive reasoning" question. If I passed the test I would be called for an interview. I really debated this one, particularly when I had to pay \$8.00 to park downtown while taking the test. But I figured it would be good experience so I went through with it. Another candidate and myself were sent into a conference room and told that we had until 11:45 to complete the task, which involved using a complex set of criteria to determine funding allocations for high school programs, along with one of those reasoning "logic" questions that places six people in a boat with eight seats and asks you to deduce who is sitting where. The other candidate commented that it felt like being back in the exam room at university, and I agreed. I apparently passed the test, because I did get called for an interview, but never heard anything further about the job after that.

Several weeks ago, I was invited to an interview with a non-profit organization that works with dysfunctional families, in situations where the well-being of the children in the home is in question. The position involves working with these families to improve their parenting skills. The interview itself was extremely interesting, with questions that gave all kinds of difficult social and family situations, asking how I would solve them. It

felt very much like one of my psychology exams, and the whole interview was educational and challenging. The two persons interviewing me kept saying that I was giving great answers, but then they started skipping questions. Although they said they would give me two scenarios, they suddenly decided only to give me one. I had felt like the interview was going well, but this seemed like a bad sign - maybe they had heard enough and decided I was not suitable for the position so no more questions needed to be asked?

At the end of the interview, I discovered that the reverse was true. They had, in fact, decided that I was perfect for the position and wanted to hire me - so no more questions needed to be asked! The position has many positives, and seems like it is exactly what I've trained for throughout the course of my degree. The work environment appears very supportive and positive. There are, however, some drawbacks, so I've had to give the matter serious thought. One requirement that I've really had to wrap my head around is that I would need to carry a pager and be on call for clients 24 hours a day - a fairly heavy responsibility that would affect every aspect of my lifestyle. I've also just received notice that I've been accepted into the Masters of Counselling program, so I need to weigh the time commitment carefully.

In some ways, as difficult as the job hunt part is, having found the "perfect" job can be a bit overwhelming too. My daughter commented that for her, it feels strange to move outside the protective cocoon of the university, to leave the familiar stress of coursework and exams, and the familiarity of work in the university laboratory, for the stresses of an unknown workplace. Holding a university degree brings a higher level of responsibility, and I find myself wondering whether I will be able to live up to my own expectations, and able to meet the challenges of moving into a new, "professional" position. I've always had confidence in my own abilities to do whatever job I set my mind to. As strange as it may seem, now that I have a piece of paper that certifies that I'm supposed to have these abilities, I'm feeling just a tad intimidated by myself!

It's an interesting emotion, and not particularly logical, so I'm sure it will pass soon. Only time will tell if I will be successful at the profession I've worked to achieve with my degree, and I know I face a very steep learning curve. At last, however, I'm experiencing the feeling that my university degree is opening doors of opportunity - and it's very satisfying.

"A college degree is not a sign that one is a finished product but an indication a person is prepared for life."

-- Reverend Edward A. Malloy, Monk's Reflections



Are you an artist?

**AUSU supports
the arts!**

AUSU is interested in purchasing original works of art from students for promotional purposes. These promotions may include: gifts from AUSU to graduates at convocation, tokens of appreciation for volunteers, special presentations, etc.

The works of art must:

- be created by an AU student
- have a value range \$0-\$500
- be accessible or easily transportable to Alberta

If you are an artist of any kind who creates a product you feel we would be able to use for such a purpose, contact:

Debbie Jabbour
[djabbour@ausu.org].

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



Tuition Troubles

Statistics Canada released its annual study on tuition fees earlier this month, and the results will come as no surprise to most post-secondary students. The study determined that the average student will be paying 7.4% more in tuition this year than last, the largest increase over the past four years.

A good portion of this rise is actually made up in British Columbia, where tuition rose more than 30% for students there, but Alberta is no slouch either, with an increase of 7.7%, more than any province or territory with the exceptions of BC and Saskatchewan.

Things aren't much better on the graduate side of the picture, where tuition rose 6.8%, with Alberta having the highest increase of 13.1%, almost double the national average.

For comparison's sake, the CPI or inflation rate was only 4.3% over the past year.

Now, to bring this all together, consider that the fastest that grants and total provincial student finance tends to increase is at the rate of inflation. This means that, regardless of the government's stated intentions, poor people are actually going to have a harder time affording a post-secondary education.

So your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find your MP's address and write them a brief letter asking them why they do not want poor people to be able to afford a post-secondary education. For extra credit, find your MLA's address from your provincial government's website and write them a letter asking the same question.

Students living in Newfoundland, Manitoba, or Quebec are not eligible for extra credit. Apparently your MLA's have some sense and tuition increased less than the inflation rate. In fact, those of you in Newfoundland & Labrador should actually write a thank you letter. Your provincial government has managed to lower tuition by 4.5 percent this year.

If Newfoundland & Labrador can manage to do that, how come the province with the "Alberta Advantage" seems so far behind?

University of Alberta takes Innovative Approach

Not willing to sit on its laurels, and realizing that funding problems can not simply be handled by looking wistfully at tuition regulations, the University of Alberta has managed to acquire four and a half million dollars of additional funding from the Alberta Government.

How did they manage to do this? By taking some initiative. The University of Alberta worked out a deal with the Department of Paediatrics, the Calgary Health Region, Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Learning, and the Alberta Medical Association to set up a better compensation program for academic physicians – that is, to pay doctors to teach medical courses to students. Since Athabasca University has a rather large contingent of nursing students, it seems that there is nothing really preventing AU from pursuing this same type of deal – except that they didn't, and now somebody else already has.

It seems strange that it is the traditional universities that are increasingly taking a non-traditional approach to funding, while our non-traditional university seems unwilling or unable to come up with anything beyond the traditional sources of seeking funding from graduates (which they know they do not have many of) or from current students (who they know can not afford it).

I'm not even asking that AU be successful in their attempts to seek out funding in unusual or unique ways, I'd just like to see some evidence that they're trying to do so. Just take a look at AU's [press release page](#), and see if you can find anything about AU setting up partnerships to gain extra funding. The closest that we have is a national research chair awarded to Dr. Martin Connors almost a year ago. If that's the best that AU can come up with, there's little wonder that it's having a difficult time dealing with tuition issues, the tuition regulation imposes a cap on tuition based on the total amount of revenue a university generates. AU generates practically no revenue outside of tuition and government grants, yet do not understand why they seem to be so badly penalized by the system.

Unfortunately, under Premier Klein's unstated privatization mandate, it is obvious that he expects every university to go beyond those two sources of income. AU has failed to do this, but instead of dealing with the consequences, is looking for a way out. Let's hope that if they find it, they also do not give Klein the excuse to fully privatize AU.

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.



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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

AU Profiles:

These final two graduate profiles are of students who completed Master's Programs at AU.

AU GRADUATE PROFILE OF JAN PHILLIPS

AGE: "Not on your life!" (I'll just guess 29 and holding then :))

LIVES IN: AB

PROGRAM COMPLETED: Bachelor of Arts - Psychology 2001 (with distinction); Masters of Distance Education, 2003

YEARS IT TOOK TO COMPLETE: Just under 6 years for both

FAVORITE COURSE: MDDE 602

FAVORITE TUTOR: Too many to count



I met Jan at the AU Alumni Association event hosted after the June 13, 2003 convocation of AU Masters students. This was Jan's second time down the AU red carpet, and she may yet have a third trip as she is hoping to complete a Masters of Counselling degree through AU's affiliation with Campus Alberta. Jan also hopes to one day give back to AU, by becoming an employee. Six years to get both an undergraduate degree and a Masters (all the while working proudly as an Alberta Beef producer) is quite an accomplishment for an AU student, since the average finish date for an undergraduate program seems to be 6-10 years! Jan encourages graduating students to stay involved in their Alumni Association and advises students that "Knowledge is Power".

Congratulations Jan Phillips, BA, MDE

AU GRADUATE PROFILE OF TANYA CRAWFORD

AGE: 37

LIVES IN: Halifax, Nova Scotia

PROGRAM COMPLETED: Masters of Distance Education

YEARS IT TOOK TO COMPLETE: 4 1/2

FAVORITE COURSE: Loved them all

FAVORITE TUTOR/PROFESSOR: Loved them all



Tanya and her partner Dan made the cross-Canada journey to AU to witness Tanya's stroll down the infamous AU red carpet as she received her Masters in Distance Education. While completing her degree, Tanya worked in Adult Education; she is currently self-employed as an on-line training consultant for the insurance industry, but plans to look for other employment. Convocation was such a great and memorable experience for Tanya, and she appreciates the opportunity it gave her to network with other distance education graduates. She encourages current AU students to persevere and enjoy their studies – "it's worth it".

Congratulations Tanya Crawford, MDE

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



As dangerous bacterial and viral illnesses become more of a threat, people are increasingly relying on antibiotics and other drugs to keep them safe. After the September 11th attacks in America, when there was a real threat of the massive use of biological warfare agents, people went so far as to obtain and even hoard the antibiotic Cipro, as a pre-infection safety measure.

Now, with West Nile Virus and SARS posing a growing threat to the health of North Americans, we are once again placing our hopes in the effectiveness of the available drug interventions. However, many fear that due to the overuse of these drugs - often prescribed for colds, flus, and other illnesses against which they are mostly ineffective - many who need them may be immune to the drugs' effects. Another danger lies in the abundance of antibiotic-resistant super bugs, which have largely been created by the indiscriminate use of antibiotic drugs, or by patients who do not use the drugs correctly.

Because antibiotics are often prescribed at the demand of patients, it is more important than ever that laypersons be aware of what these medicines are, and when they are appropriate.

What are antibiotics?

Antibiotics are drugs specifically targeted to kill bacteria or germs (but not viruses). In the 1930s, when antibiotics were first discovered, they helped doctors fight dangerous diseases like tuberculosis and meningitis. Lately, however, scientists have realized that germs are fighting back by becoming resistant to the drugs.

At one point, antibiotics were considered a boon to mankind and did indeed save millions of lives but recently they are falling short of this title. So what happened? Mother nature gave us an instinct to fight for our survival and germs, viruses and bacteria are no different from us in this respect (<http://www.lung.ca/antibiotics/>).

How do antibiotics work?

Our body has a fantastic defence mechanism to fight germs or foreign bodies by making antibodies. Our white blood cells are always looking for germs and diseases in our bloodstream, and when they are found, the white cells produce antibodies to kill the attackers. Once a germ has been detected and killed, our immune system learns how to target that particular germ and can kill it much more easily if we are exposed to it again.

Antibiotics are the artificial form of antibodies that we introduce into human bodies to fight germs until our body's natural mechanism can take over. The key to maintaining health should be to foster a healthy immune system, rather than total antibiotic dependency. One thing to keep in mind is that antibiotics do not ease the pain or kill the germs themselves. In the end it's our immune system or antibodies that finish the job. Antibiotics hold the germs or they stop germs from multiplying so that our bodies can combat them more effectively.

What cause the virus mutation?

In addition to viruses own struggle to survive, we contribute a huge part to their mutation into antibiotic and antibody resistant forms. How? According to experts, over sanitizing of our environment can be very damaging for us, as our bodies are robbed of the chance to build up natural defences against germs and bacteria. An environment with zero germs [which is virtually impossible to maintain] means we never have a chance of exposure.

Most of the germs that can be found in our daily life don't need to be treated with the 99% effective germ-killers that are so popular now. Just maintaining basic hygiene - for example; washing your hands with mild soap - will do just fine. Hospitals, of course, must maintain stricter sanitary measures as they are, after all, occupied by patients who may carry a vast variety of germs. Hospital grade cleaners are not necessary for home use, however (<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/home/articles/0607ev5fill07.html>).

We also contribute to the creation of super bugs by using antibiotics when they are not necessary, for example for viral infections such as the flu, or by stopping the course of treatment before our prescription runs out.

Precautions

So how do you avoid unnecessary germ killing while still keeping your environment safe and clean? Here are some common procedures to keep in mind.

If you don't need a sanitizer don't use it; just use a disinfectant. Use only the manufacturer's suggested amount, and mix according to directions. Try to find environmentally friendly products, such as those that do not break down into dangerous by-products. Again, in our homes we don't have dangerous germs like streptococcus (which causes respiratory problems) so you don't need to use products that have the potency to kill streptococcus. (<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/home/articles/0607ev5fill07.html>).

Medication Management

One of the biggest problems health professionals are facing is regarding over the counter medication abuse. Amoxicillin and penicillin are starting to lose their strength against germs as we keep munching on medications we don't need. To avoid the overuse of antibiotic medication, keep the following in mind:

First, if you have the flu the best medication is rest and keeping your body hydrated by drinking lots of water or other fluids. Viruses have a life cycle, and will proceed through that cycle no matter what you do. In this case, taking antibiotics can force the virus to be stronger next time.

Second, take medication only for the symptoms you actually have. If you have a fever, take medication just for fever, not a combo for fever, nausea and vomiting. Treating symptoms you don't have can send a false alarm to our body's immune system. Allergic reactions are nothing but a crashed immune system, exhibiting an excessive production of antibodies.

It is very important to ask your pharmacist the following questions about your prescribed medication:

What will this medication do? Is it for curing an illness or to control symptoms?

Also ask when the medication will start working and if you need to take some precautions. It is very important to follow the full course of treatment. Often people will quite taking antibiotics once their symptoms begin to clear up, without realizing that there is still a small amount of the germ still left in their system. Stopping medication too soon can allow those remaining bacteria to multiply, and the second wave will be much stronger than the first. A second course of antibiotics may not be able to effectively combat the relapse (http://mediresource.sympatico.ca/features_detail.asp?news_id=222&subject_id=48).

Conclusion

Now days everyone wants to be healthy and active but like our cars our bodies need to be overhauled when we get sick. Taking medicine responsibly is very important because an overdose can make you feel better in the short term but in the future it will cause problems. Also, taking medication is not always the answer. If you are feeling tired, just stop and take rest that will give your body a chance to catch up. So be healthy and have fun. (<http://www.pub.umich.edu/daily/2000/jan/01-21-2000/news/22.html>).



Dear Sandra,

I'll soon be completing my degree and since it's been a few years (well, 20 to be honest), since I've had to look for a job, I'm wondering where to start looking on my own. As I'm single and without kids at home, I don't care where I go, though I'd prefer to stay in Canada. Are there internet sites specific to Canadians that one can go to? Thanks.

Joblessly Confused in Dauphin.

Dear Joblessly Confused,

Since I don't know what field of work you are looking for, I'll give you some generic advice, and hopefully it helps other students as well.

First of all, job sites. There are tons of them! Here are just a few:

- <http://jobs.gc.ca> Here you'll find job postings with the federal government. If you are interested in provincial government employment just search your local provincial web page. For most provinces there is a link on the home page to jobs currently available. There is also a section for recent (or upcoming) post-secondary graduate students.
- <http://jb-ge.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca> The National Job Bank is free for employers and employees to use. It lists opportunities provided by employers across Canada. They also have current links to various major newspapers' career and classified sections across Canada.
- <http://careerclick.com> This site has a job bank as well as the ability to post your resume for employers to see, and you can register to receive a weekly email updating you about job postings relevant to you.
- <http://workopolis.com> Claims to be Canada's biggest job site, though I don't know how to go about proving that! Includes job listings, articles about job and career planning, and a resource center to help you locate information about job training and job-targeted post-secondary education.
- <http://monster.ca> Here you'll find job listings as well as career advice. You can also post your resume for employers across the country to browse. Be careful if you are employed and fishing for a better job, your current employer might find your listing!
- <http://actualjobs.com> A simple site with an estimated 20,000 + job vacancies posted daily from across Canada. You can search by location, or by company.

Second, I'd suggest surfing the websites of large corporations or institutions that relate to your field, as most of these sites have a current job postings page and/or human resources contact information. I'd also suggest checking out the websites of cities/towns you might be interested in locating to; current job vacancies are usually also linked off the home page. And, if you don't want to go on-line, go to your local library and browse through career advertisements in various newspapers across Canada. With modern technology, there are so many ways for employers to advertise positions with their company that it becomes impossible sometimes for employees to find these ads. Prepare yourself for days of endless surfing, GOOD LUCK!

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



It has been several years since my arrival in the United States from Slovakia. Despite leaving my beloved at home, I have assimilated pretty quickly and without any emotional problems. After all, I didn't have a reason for not being satisfied with the conditions awaiting me. I was eager to get to know the Americans, or at least take a peek inside their world.

Back in Europe, the media sends people messages about Americans, though not all of them are true. For example, America is often depicted as a fat nation. There's even that gossip that there is a very small number of pretty girls in America. So, before packing my suitcase I had lost several pounds to catch someone's eye and to become some kind of rarity among the American girls.

Well, how surprised was I when I discovered thin, pretty girls and tanned bodies in tight jeans? It suddenly reversed the image I had about those girls and women. Certainly the fact that Americans have quite a number of overweight people cannot

be denied, and obesity is clearly a special concern, particularly among the youngest. Still, there are overweight people all around the world. So, why point a finger at Americans?

Watching American TV shows about losing weight, exercising and low fat diets, however, makes you think that being overweight is a very common problem in America. Yet I wouldn't join those who claim that one of the significant features of Americans is obesity.

The other gossip running around says that studying in America is not a big deal. The school system is, in fact, one of the easiest, and it all results in the conclusion that American students are lacking in intelligence. Some European students even believe that college graduates from America have less knowledge than those from other countries, and would have troubles succeeding in competition with European students. Also, from the Slovak perspective, the most important factor in education is money. Americans pay for their educations, so it is assumed that every student will surely be granted a degree, whereas students in countries with free education must work very hard to pass.

Now that I have lived in America for a while, and experienced both the American and Canadian school systems, I have an opportunity to support or refute these stereotypes.

My attitude has been clear and now even more evident since I have decided to complete my degree here. I agree that money means freedom, even in the school system, but I don't believe that money can buy teachers, answers to exam questions or make a difference in evaluating students.

After the communist regime was over, Slovak television deluged the audience with commercials, TV shows and sitcoms from the western countries. We saw the American life as one single image – cars, parties, money and freedom. It served as propaganda. We used it to assure ourselves about carefree life on the American continent. I am not afraid to say that some gossip about American people is just a matter of jealousy and grudge.

The East and West differ in so many things that before visiting America, Slovak travelers turn to travel agencies for advice on American life and customs. The agencies inform people about distinctions in using proper words, rules applied in restaurants and stores, and other social norms. Some of these teachings cover the most basic aspects of life. For example, one agency teaches that American store customers don't have to leave a shopping cart in the store, but are allowed to take their groceries in the shopping cart outside the store and leave the cart there. They also tell us that there are assistants at the cashiers helping people load their groceries. By learning

these things, it is assumed that immigrants can avoid misunderstandings in communication with Americans. We are also taught how to properly communicate in conversational English. For example, we are taught that "chips" don't stand for "french fries", or that "cola" is not going to be understood as "coke."

From my experience, however, I have to say that Americans understand everything just fine. They don't need a specifically American phrase to serve their customers.

Here in America I live around nice people, I feel comfortable talking to them, whether it's in a store, on the street or in church. I do admit, though, that the magic pronoun "you" makes interaction much easier. In the Slovak language - and indeed in many European languages - when you talk to an older person and you use "you", it is not the same "you" as you use while talking to a teenager, your friend or any child. Here in America, there is only one "you" and all people are addressed in the same manner.

At first I was shocked by the American way of greeting people and introducing themselves. They are not afraid to show their feelings and interests. Americans greet people without knowing each other. When they feel comfortable and sympathetic they just express themselves. In Slovakia, strangers usually don't come forward to people they've never seen. The Slovaks don't trust as much as the Americans do. They always suspect something bad.

From my perspective, Americans exaggerate a lot. But still, I like their sense of unity and togetherness, and I believe the precautions they take are in the right place. What makes me speak of exaggeration is how they celebrate birthdays, weddings, etc., which are bit over the edge. It's all too grand.

On the other hand, they don't pay attention to useless issues as the Slovaks do. For example, how others dress up. The first time I really participated in an American Sunday mass, by listening and understanding I realized I paid no attention to people as I used to back in Slovakia. People here in America aren't so concerned about dressing up and looking good in places like church. I like it a lot.

I never feel humiliated because of my language handicap or my country of origin. After all, America is the country with no limits. It's well known for the mix of cultures and races and it all gives people the message that whoever wants to admire and love America has a right to do so.

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WORK REFORM: PART TWO

Wayne E. Benedict



Last week we looked at North American (managerialist) work reform initiatives. This week, we continue our discussion of work reform with an examination of various European models of work reform—those that can actually deliver true industrial democracy to workers; both intra-organizationally and societally.

Work reform doesn't have to be based on the managerialist principles of the North American/Japanese model(s). There are other models from which practitioners of industrial relations can learn, for example European Works Councils (joint-sovereignty based industrial democracy), and worker cooperatives. Both of these examples of work reform operate within advanced capitalist societies and actually deliver the democratic

worker participation that new HRM initiatives only promise. Organized labour would undoubtedly embrace work reforms based on the European industrial democracy models, but the same is unlikely with regard to worker cooperatives—the later model has no need of worker representational organizations, as the workers themselves own and operate the enterprise.

Both German and Swedish governments have institutionalized industrial democracy into their respective societies. The German system is one of "*co-determination*", it is a "*dual representation system* of industrial democracy—industry-wide unions and local works councils" (Krahn & Lowe, 1998, p. 300-301). Germany's centralized bargaining structure is in marked contrast to the North American decentralized bargaining structure and the former vastly increases the power of labour, bringing the two sides closer to an orthodox pluralist equalization of strength. According to Wergin (2002), German Work Councils, not unions, negotiate with management in accordance with labour law. Work councillors are elected by all employees of an organization but, *de facto*, work councils are union-organizations, with approximately four out of five councillors elected being DGB union members. Wergin states that "by law, Works Councilors are obliged to act in the interest of the firm, [there is] no right to strike. In fact, relations between works councils and management are usually rather good and constructive [because collective bargaining] at [the] sectoral level has kept conflict out of plants." Systematic German governmental industrial relations intervention has constructed democratic social relations of production which North American workers and their organizations can only view with envy.

According to Krahn & Lowe (1998, p. 302-304), the "hallmark of Swedish democracy [is] tripartite cooperation and consultation among large and centralized unions (representing over 85 percent of the workforce), the employers' federation, and the state." Swedish legislation promotes a full employment policy utilizing three key elements: a wage policy; selective employment policies; and mandatory employee representation on corporate boards of directors. In marked contrast to the North American "work now, grieve later" principles which support managerial prerogative in the social relations of production, Swedish law obliges employers to "inform and consult with workers on major decisions [and they must] negotiate with unions prior to making such decisions. Unions must also be given complete access to information on the economic status of the firm, its personnel policies, and so forth" (Krahn & Lowe, 1998, p. 304). While differing somewhat from the German model, Swedish workers enjoy a true measure of industrial democracy, which is glaringly absent in North America.

Worker ownership and control of the means of production is the ultimate example of industrial democracy. Work reform based on this premise provides workers with true emancipation from capitalist exploitation. This subject usually evokes images of Communism; however, there is at least one very successful example of a worker owned and operated organization which functions within industrial capitalist societies and competes in open markets against conventionally-organized corporations—the Mondragon Corporacion Cooperativa.

Mondragon Cooperatives originated in Spain, but are international in scale, with plants operating in North, South and Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia (34 production plants in 12 different countries). They operate through a system of representational democracy and on ten basic principles: open admission, sovereignty of labour, participatory management, inter-cooperation, universality, democratic organization, instrumental and subordinate nature of capital, payment solidarity, social transformation, and education (Mondragon Corporacion Cooperativa, n.d.). Mondragon operates intra-organizational systems of banking, insurance and social welfare for its members; as well as its own research and development, and training centers—the Mondragon Unibertsitatea, *et al.* In December 2002, Mondragon provided 66, 558 jobs to its members and showed a year-end surplus of 370 million euros.

Mondragon proves that worker ownership and control of the social relations and means of production can, and does, prosper within advanced capitalist societies; however, this kind of radical work reform is practically unheard of in North American industrial relations. Neither are government legislated joint-sovereignty models like the European Works Councils seen in Canada or the US. To the contrary, governments across North America are withdrawing from the interventionist industrial relations policies of the New Deal/post-war compromise era and are returning to the free-market de-regulation of employment conditions inherent to the pre-war era. Therefore, what we see in North America are the unilaterally implemented, management controlled and designed, forms of pseudo-work reform based on Japanese models of human resource management. It is little wonder, then, that organized labour has not bought into so-called work reform in North America and that it continues to resist these management-imposed initiatives in most cases. Unorganized workers, on the other hand, have little strength to resist HRM and have little choice but to acquiesce under whatever forms of work organization management imposes.

In conclusion, compared to various forms of true industrial democracy, North American work reform initiatives are neither truly democratic nor participatory. Rather, they are new forms of worker-control utilized by management to exact higher production out of workers by providing the illusion of industrial democracy and participative management. These facts do not bode well for either the longevity or viability of North American work reforms (i.e. HRM initiatives) to deliver their promised results to workers or management (greater firm performance).

Wayne E. Benedict has a varied career history and strong links to the Canadian labour movement. He is working toward his Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations at Athabasca University. For a more detailed writer bio, see The Voice writers' feature page, at: <http://www.ausu.org/voice/authors/authorfull.php?ID=7>. If you would like to send article-feedback to Wayne, he can be reached at wayneben@telus.net.

C A U S
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Athabasca • Calgary • Alberta • Lethbridge

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/>

AUSU THIS MONTH

AUSU IN PERSON DISCUSSION GROUPS



AUSU in-person discussion groups in Calgary, Edmonton, and Medicine Hat would like to invite students to join them in casual, coffee shop get togethers to discuss life as an AU student.

Getting together physically with fellow AU students adds to your university experience. Other students will be able to understand and relate to the joys and frustrations of distance learning. It's also a way to stay abreast of information relating to AU and the Athabasca University Students' Union.

To take part in the **Calgary** group please contact JODY at jwaddle@telusplanet.net.

To take part in the **Edmonton** areas discussion group, contact RYAN at nicepilotdude@yahoo.ca.

To take part in the **Medicine Hat** group, contact STACEY at jackenna96@telusplanet.net.

Anyone interested in starting up a group in your area (anywhere in Canada, from small towns to major centres) please contact SANDRA at smoore@ausu.org.

SURVEY ON AU's PROPOSED REMOVAL FROM THE TUITION CAP

How do you feel about AU being removed from the tuition cap?

Athabasca University, like other universities and colleges in the province, currently falls under Alberta's tuition fee policy that enforces a ceiling on allowable tuition increases. **AU has asked the Alberta government for exemption from the tuition fee policy.** If passed, tuition increases for undergraduate courses at AU will no longer be regulated by specific government controls.

To find out how students feel about this proposed change, AUSU has placed a short survey on the AUSU web site at: <http://www.ausu.org/tuitionsurvey/index.php>. More information can also be found on this page.

To learn more about this issue, students are encouraged to visit the AUSU discussion forums [accessible from the "Message Forums" link on the AUSU front page] and to browse the past several issues of The Voice.

Please take a minute to fill out this simple survey, to ensure that the students' union is representing you.

CHAT WITH AUSU ONLINE

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**

Sunday, August 31

3:00 PM

Sandra

Mondays at

8:00 PM

Councillor Karl Low

More chat times to be posted soon...

FEATURED TUTOR ON THE AUSU WEB SITE

Judi Malone
Psychology

Hmmm, what to say . . . I am very open but I do not usually write about myself. I do ask new students about themselves so I can see them as persons first, students second. Usually they do not ask for the same in return so I guess this is my chance...

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.

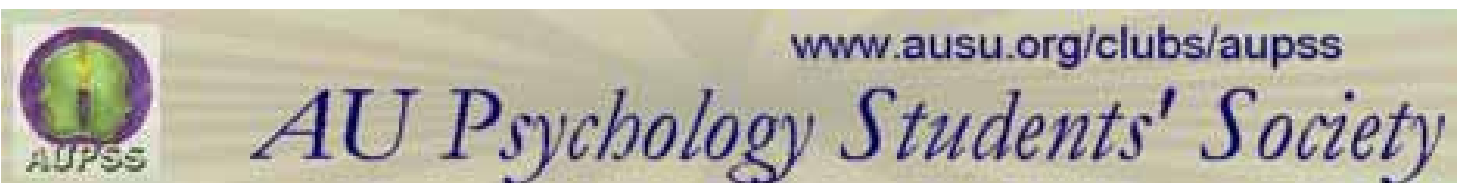
The External Committee, chaired by Shirley Barg, needs representatives from Atlantic Canada, Saskatchewan, and Northern Canada. Contact Shirley at sbarg@ausu.org if you would like to get involved, and help improve services to AU students in your area.

NEEDED – VOLUNTEER MENTORS FOR NEW STUDENTS

Do you remember your first few months at AU? Do you remember all the questions you had and the confusions you encountered? Every month at AU there are close to 1500 new registrations and these new students will be in the same boat you were once in. How about helping these students out by offering to be an AUSU mentor? AUSU mentors are “experienced” AU students who are willing to provide a little guidance and support to new AU students. If you are interested in participating in this new venture of AUSU's or if you'd like more information please contact Sandra Moore at smoore@ausu.org

STRATEGIC PLANNING WEEKEND

On the weekend of August 10th, AUSU convened in person for a strategic planning weekend, which coincided with the August 11th council meeting and the presentation of Dominique Abrioux. Over the weekend AUSU discussed the budget for the coming year, and other goals and plans of the union that will take it through the remainder of this council term and beyond.





THE DEEP Book Review

By Laura Seymour

The price on this pocketbook is \$2.25. That ought to give you a good idea of how old a story I've been reading. Indeed, the book by Peter Benchley (*Jaws*) hit the shelves in 1976. The cover promises that this is "the terrifying new novel by the author of *Jaws*." As a fan of *Beast*, another Benchley novel, I wish I could say I found the terror. I guess I missed it.

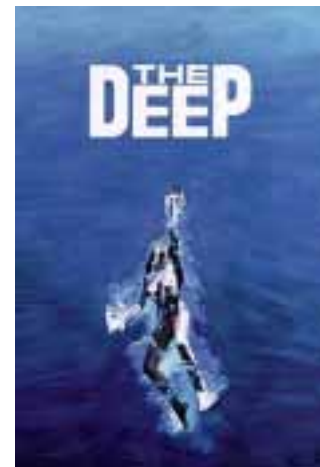
The book centres on a pair of cocky tourists who decide to go to the Bahamas for a vacation. Saunders and his ladylove, Gail, piddle around with scuba diving but have faked certification papers. They know virtually nothing about diving. While on a dive the couple find a small glass ampule and bring it up.

One of the local workers in their lodging, Slake, has an eye for the find, and suddenly the couple has an unwanted visitor. The finely dressed and well spoken man, Coffey, offers them a few dollars "for the glass." He also claims the contents are unknown but the glassmaker is famous. The couple is stupid but thank heaven not *that* stupid! They insist on drawing some of the fluid to have it identified. Coffey says it will not work because the glass must be broken to open it and then it will be useless for his collection. The couple refuses to sell the ampule and make some quiet enquiries to find a local authority.

Soon they meet local St. David's inhabitant, Treece. An angry man, Treece is in charge of his people. He is the local chief of the area and has been educated in England. He is well versed in the local dive sites and is considered a hero to his people. Other than his background with the island people we know little about this man, but eventually, an assistant to Treece clues Gail in about his life. The local island authorities shafted him years ago when he tried to turn in drug runners—these drug runners then murdered his wife. As a result Treece still hates what drugs can do to people. So, when Treece realizes the ampules contain morphine (heroin in the blood) he fine tunes the couple's diving techniques and gives them a history lesson they won't forget. Since Coffey has promised to cause even more problems for the couple if they don't bring up the estimated ten thousand ampules, they decide to work with Treece. They find incredible artifacts from an unknown Spanish ship along the way, and learn some pretty neat details about how coins were made and what happens to them underwater.

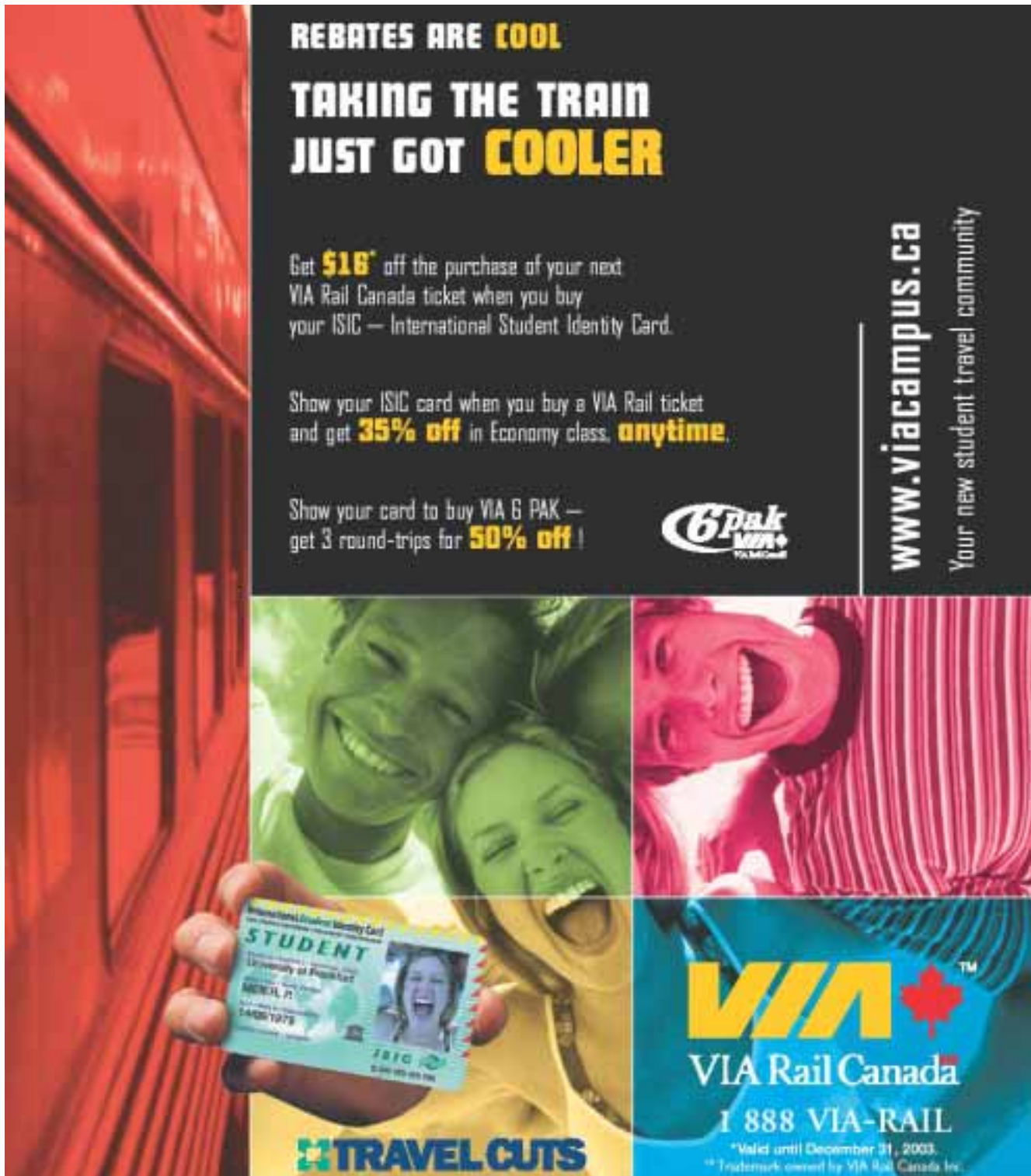
Along the way, Coffey's men viciously abuse Gail and Saunders. They scrape them up some and tell them that reporting Coffey to the local authorities will be a useless waste of time, as he doesn't officially exist. Gail gets angry about their treatment and makes an attempt to turn in Coffey anyhow. She soon finds that Treece isn't the only one being shafted by local government. The underwater adventures in this book mostly offer a great deal of information on how to deal with a relatively tame shark and an angry barracuda.

Benchley's information on treasure diving and underwater perils makes for interesting reading. The characters are fleshed out and believable. Where this book goes wrong is in its billing. The book isn't terrifying, it's suspenseful. The desperate need to cash in on Benchley's past writing technique reminds me of the Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt film *The Mexican*. Reviewers were unanimous in complaining that the film had no romance, which was what the audience expected the film studio build up. Likewise, I'm looking for a great underwater creature in this book but there's nothing. Even the artwork on the cover tries to imply the deep



aloneness and therefore vulnerability of the ocean floor. So it's a let down to find only a shark that shouldn't have been killed in the first place and a barracuda that ought to have his own book! So, is any of this plot starting to sound familiar? *The Deep* was made into a movie about the same time. Naturally the Columbia Pictures project was loaded with stars like, Nick Nolte, and Lou Gossett Jr. I only hope the film did better than the book did.

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. (Psysc).



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TRAVEL CUTS

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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



Athabasca University Awards and Scholarship Information

The Office of the Registrar would like to advise students of pending deadlines for scholarships and awards:

Award Name: Syncrude Aboriginal Scholarship

Value: \$2,500

Program: Various - see website

Basic Criteria: 1st year student preferred but other years may apply

Application Deadline: August 31

Award Name: Alberta Blue Cross 50th Anniversary Scholarship

Value: \$375

Program: Bachelor of Nursing

Basic Criteria: Highest GPA in last two courses

Application Deadline: September 30

Award Name: Persons Case Scholarship

Value: \$1,000 to \$5,000

Program: All programs are eligible

Basic Criteria: Female; Full-time; Resident of Alberta

Application Deadline: September 30

Award Name: Bursary Program for Indigenous Students

Value: \$Varies

Program: School of Business programs

Basic Criteria: Students of Indigenous Heritage

Application Deadline: On-going, contact Paulette Windsor at 1-800-788-9042, ext. 6149

For more information on the specific criteria for these awards, please visit the AU website at:
<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/registry/studawrd.htm>

Applications for these awards can be obtained by calling the Office of the Registrar at 1-780-675-6705 or by email at awardsinfo@athabascau.ca.

ESSAY CONTEST ON AYN RAND'S NOVEL

Value: \$5000

DEADLINE: September 16, 2003

Administrator: Ayn Rand Institute

Notes: Essay should be written on Ayn Rand's novel "Atlas Shrugged." There are three second prizes worth \$1000 each and five third prizes worth \$400 each. For more contest information, please visit the Web site.

Contact Information:

Anthem Essay Contest, Dept. W
The Ayn Rand Institute
P.O. Box 57044
Irvine, California
United States 92619-7044

Web Site: <http://www.aynrand.org/contests/atlas.html>
E-mail: essay@aynrand.org

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*



- **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. 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>

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 www.ualberta.ca/bioethics

Email Dossetor.Centre@ualberta.ca

Phone 780-492-6676

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.





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

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