

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 41
October 8, 2003

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21st Century Pope

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THE VOICE

Oct 8, 2003

Volume 11, Issue 41

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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.

RE: The Voice Editorial, September 24th.

As President of AUSU Council, I'd like to comment on the Voice editorial of September 24th, regarding AUSU Council's process to add new council members. First I'd like to say that I greatly respect the opinion of the Voice editor, even if we do not always agree. I appreciate T. Ross Low's comments about this particular meeting, and I think she has brought up some issues worthy of consideration. I'd like to add some information to clarify what occurred.

The whole process of adding new council members to fill the three empty spots was one that was actively debated amongst council. Not everyone was in agreement, but regardless of personal opinions, the majority prevailed and a consensus was reached. Some felt that, given the short time between now and the 2004 election, it was not necessary to add new members. It was argued that this could be counter-productive given that there is a steep learning curve involved, and that the group of six council members had developed a strong and productive working relationship that new members might inadvertently disrupt. Others argued that we should be functioning as a complete group of nine no matter how close the election is. It was finally agreed that new members should be added, in accordance with policy, but that it would be preferable that any new council member elected should have already demonstrated an interest and willingness to be involved. There was also extensive discussion on just how the selection process should occur, and although there was disagreement here as well, a consensus was reached based on the majority opinion.

We had five excellent candidates come forward for the three empty spots. Some councillors felt strongly that only one or two spots at the most should be filled, others wanted all three. A yes/no voting process was decided upon, with the decision that a successful candidate would have to receive at least three "yes" votes (based on six people voting). I asked Council to consider a number of factors in choosing how to vote. These included location (keeping in mind the goal of having greater cross-Canada representation), and relevant experience. However, the choice of what criteria to use was left up to each individual, since given the difference of opinions that had been expressed, I did not want to influence anyone's decision in any way. For some on council, location was the primary consideration. Others felt location did not matter, and

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they chose different criteria when voting. The results of the vote reflected the diverse opinions of council members.

With regards to the issue of holding the vote at the beginning of the meeting and allowing these new council members to subsequently vote - I've always scheduled council meetings to ensure that the majority of council can attend and I try to keep things as flexible as possible to accommodate everyone. This meeting was no different. One councillor had a family event that took precedence, and although he initially advised me that he would join the meeting later, he arranged his affairs to come in at the start instead. So with the agreement of Council we adjusted the agenda to allow all six council members to vote on the addition of new councillors at the start of the meeting. Once these new council members had been appointed as active members there is really no provision in our policies to prevent them from voting for the rest of the meeting. As editor T. Ross Low has pointed out, there were no really "important" issues up for vote, so I saw no problem with allowing this. All five potential council members had already made themselves familiar with council activities, and I'm sure that the three newest council members would not have voted for an issue had they felt they lacked sufficient background or information.

Regardless of any perceived flaws in the process, I'm confident that the three new council members will be a positive contribution to Council and I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Ryan, Teresa and Stacey. I'd also like to say a sincere thank you to Huma and Shannon for putting their names forward. Your willingness to expend yourselves to improve the student experience for others is greatly appreciated!

**Debbie Jabbour, President
AUSU**



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EDITORIAL PAGES

THIS WEEK

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER VOICE WRITING CONTEST

There is just one week left to get your entry in for the first Voice writing contest. Entries will be accepted up until midnight MST on October 15, 2003. Our judging panel - which so far contains two confirmed AU English tutors - will then take over, to select a winner in each of the two categories.

We've also arranged for some great consolation prizes for the top entries, so how you've got more reasons to try out! Write voice@ausu.org if you have any questions.

NATURE NOTES - Zoe Dalton describes how natural disasters lead to rejuvenated ecosystems

21st CENTURY POPE - Stephen Murgatroyd reveals the modern selection process for a new pontiff.

FAMILY HEIRLOOM, NOT FOR SALE - Teresa Neuman knows that treasure is measured by the heart, not the wallet

BIG WEEK FOR CANADIAN SPORTS - Soccer and cycling and hockey, oh my! Shannon Maguire tells you who's playing, and how Canada fares in international competition

LEARNING ENGLISH: Jana Thurova explains how foreign students are unknowingly short-changed by under qualified English teachers.

NEW FEATURE

This week look for the new, brief column - "Taking Notes: Eye on Education." Here you will find information on current happenings in the education world, AU course alerts [pitfalls that you will want to avoid], and more. Look for Taking Notes each week, and keep informed!

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

As mentioned last week, and in Debbie Jabbour's letter in this issue, AUSU Council now has three more members. To help you get to know them a little better, I asked them if they would grant me a short interview or send a brief bio statement so that I could introduce them to their student members.

The three new council members are:

Teresa Neuman: Ottawa Ontario
Stacey Steele: Redcliff Alberta
Ryan Wagner: Edmonton Alberta

Teresa is enrolled in AU's Bachelor of Professional Arts program with a concentration in Communication Studies. She is a new resident of Ottawa, having moved quite recently across country from Saskatchewan. Voice readers will recognize her name as the author of the monthly "Worth a Second Look" column, which she has written since 2001 on topics including health care, education, the environment, and food. She is also working to set up an AUSU coffee group in the Ottawa area, where fellow AU students can meet and socialize or talk about issues affecting distance education. Teresa has been a hard-working member of the AUSU Handbook/Planner committee

since its inception, and she has also taken on the task of chairing the new committee on AUSU Newsletters. For more information on Teresa, you can check out her bio on the AUSU website, at: <http://www.ausu.org/council/council8.php>. Photos will be posted shortly.

Stacey has just recently become an AU student. A 28 year old mother of two, she is pleased to have this opportunity to continue her studies, which were suspended when she moved to the small town of Redcliff, where there is no university. She is also excited about being on council, and having an opportunity to work and advocate for AU students. Stacey is currently enrolled in an AU psychology/women's studies program, and like Teresa, she is working to set up a coffee group in her own local area. Also, she has been a member of the AUSU academic committee for several months, and has recently become a frequent Voice writer, debuting on August 13th with "A Day In The Park."

I was not able to catch up with Ryan, but I do know that his Edmonton coffee group will be having its second meeting on October 8th, and that he has volunteered to be a part of the AUSU legislative committee.

For more information on AUSU coffee groups, see the Coffee Groups page under Groups and Clubs on the AUSU Website. Bios and photos of the new councillors should be posted shortly.

The Voice would like to congratulate all of the new council members, and looks forward to the fresh ideas that they will surely bring to the organization.

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.



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THE FIRST VOICE MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST!

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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 non-fiction 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 fiction 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, or may use excerpts from these entries at any time. 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.



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NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

When a Tree Falls in the Backyard...

What are we on now – our fifth hurricane of the season? Or is it the seventh? It's hard to keep track; right now we seem to be hearing of a new severe storm each week. Sitting pretty in Southern Ontario, I hardly have to consider the gale-force winds and nasty weather that has so strongly affected others' lives. Still, hearkening back to a week ago, when Isabel rather than Juan was occupying everyone's minds, I recall that I was in reality touched by the storm, and was reminded, although very gently, of the potential force of those seemingly benign and delicate substances we call air and water.

It was the middle of the month, and I awoke to the sound of a loud crack, a crash, and a pounding heart. Leaping from bed and pulling back the curtains, I found myself gaping at the remains of what was once my grand little apple tree. Now so ungraciously positioned with bottom up and rustic swing poking unbecomingly from between its branches, the tree was a sorry sight indeed. What had once given my as yet aesthetically-lacking new yard a touch of country charm and a dose of much-needed beauty was now little more than a mass of twisted branches lying on a squashed fence. Or so I thought at the time...

But as we worked to saw and tug, sort and pile, I began to think of the tree's falling as not just a loss of my favourite vegetation, but as an addition of an element to the ecological cycle of birth, death, decay, and regeneration - a lot of philosophical thoughts to be having while I mourned the passing of my yard's most lovely attribute. But in the life of a tree, its demise really is as important as its upright existence. And though the ecological impact of my backyard apple tree's end will likely be minimal compared to the effect that such an event would have in a forest, I began to think of my tree's falling as representing a microcosm of what all windblown vegetation really is.

So what is the importance of a fallen tree? Well, there are two angles from which this question must be answered. The first is related to the tree's absence: the opportunities its departure provides for other ecosystem elements. The second is related to what the tree itself, in its new form, provides for surrounding organisms.

When a tree falls, it does not just leave space, a void and useless hole in the forest canopy. On the contrary, its loss actually allows for the infusion of an all-important and oft-limited factor into the ecological equation: light. When strong gusts blow a tree to the ground, the whole forest floor, which was once blocked from the sun by the canopy above, is now drenched in sunlight. Feeble seedlings, grasses and even wildflowers jump at the opportunity to grow as though life were a heavenly meadow; the plant diversity and productivity in forest gaps often far surpasses that of the typical shaded understory.

And what of the physical legacy of the tree itself? A fallen tree does not just disappear, but rather ends up in its entirety on the forest floor. It is still very much a tree, just in horizontal form, with branches askance and leaves strewn all about. While the utilitarian among us may see a freshly fallen log as a waste of usable wood resources, this huge mass of vegetation in fact acts as a very important and very significant soil fertiliser. And though its full decomposition takes years, a fallen tree provides for all that time a variety of resources for small forest critters, acting as home, shelter, food and protection for

everything from insects to reptiles to mammals. The fallen tree can also act as what is known as a nurse log for the establishment of seeds raining down from the canopy above.

Have a look at a yellow birch next time you're walking through the woods. These trees very often have high, arched stilt-like roots. Landing in the perfect growth medium of a rotting log, the seeds of the yellow birch will sprout, grow, and flourish as the log decays beneath it. The strange stilt-like legs of the birch are a testament to the tree's first home in an old log that has now become fully assimilated into the forest floor.

And so I close with a nod of respect to Isabel and her family of hurricanes. As all good storms should, she acts as a reminder that in the seeming chaos of roaring winds and torrential rains, there lie some very important, very logical, and very ordered ecological necessities. A gap is as important as a tree in the life of a forest, and it is those gales and gusts that help that little patiently-waiting gap ecosystem to have its day in the sun. Dear Isabel, I miss my tree. But may my log pile and yard gap provide an opportunity for new life.

Zoe Dalton is a graduate of York University's environmental science program, and is currently enjoying working towards a Master of Arts in Integrated Studies with Athabasca U. She can be reached for comments or questions at zk_dalton@hotmail.com.



Debbie Jabbour

Statistics Canada has released a “new” study, which has revealed the “surprising” news that middle class families are being shut out from post secondary education. University participation among low income families increased due to the expansion of the student loans program, but rates among the middle class (\$25,000 to \$100,000) dropped. Why? The government is finally recognizing the issue student groups have been pointing out for years...middle class families are expected to contribute an unrealistic amount of money towards their children’s education.

Students in these families are ineligible for student loans, since their parents are expected to come up with a minimum amount of money. What is this minimum?

In Alberta, parents who earn \$50,000 a year, with one child, are expected to contribute \$6200 a year. This works out to \$516 a month!! In Ontario parents earning \$78,000 must contribute \$7873 a year - \$656 a month!! In BC, a family of four with two children in university, with parental earnings of \$65,000 must contribute \$4017 yearly for EACH child - a total of \$669 a month!!

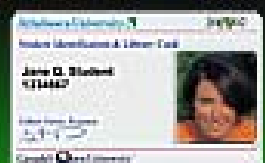
It’s a no-brainer. How on earth can parents come up with this kind of money each month to send their children to university? They can’t. Low income families can access loans and bursaries. Middle-income families cannot. Traditionally low income families don’t tend to pursue post secondary education, simply because they are focused on basic survival. Now middle income families are in the same boat.

Edmonton Journal: *Tuition squeezes middle class.* October 4, 2003.

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21st Century Pope

The Challenge of the Coming Conclave

Stephen Murgatroyd, PhD FBPSS



Introduction

John Paul II had been Bishop of Rome and 262nd Pope - Leader of the Catholic Church - for twenty five years. One of the most radical, strategic and dominant figures in the history of the modern church and a major figure in the last quarter of the twentieth century for a variety of reasons, not least his contributions to the development of Poland and to the fall of communism and his focus on peace.

But he is frail as a result of a broken hip, ill with what appears to be Parkinson's disease [1] and suffering from an acknowledged irritable bowel syndrome[2] . He is also carrying the scar and consequences of an assassination attempt from May 1981 and the scars of six surgical procedures. His physical frailty should not mask his intellectual clarity, which until recently has remained perspicacious, or his determination – everyone close to him confidently expects him to be present and active at the forthcoming beatification of Mother Teresa and the ceremony to recognise the new cardinals. After all, the Vatican proverb is clear – "a Pope is only sick *after* he has died"

Some commentators have suggested that his illness may lead to abdication, which two Popes have done in the past [3]. However, John Paul himself has ruled out this option, making clear that it is the burden of a Pontiff to live out his life in the truth of the word and in the eyes of the world [4]. Indeed, his personal determination to see through the celebration of his twenty five years as Pontiff is evident in comments he has made to close friends. He is reported to have said that "if the Lord chooses to take me now, he will have one angry Pontiff at his gates."

John Paul's Contribution

John Paul II (formerly Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, Archbishop of Krakow in Poland) was elected on 16th October 1978 at the age of 58 – the first non Italian Pope for 455 years and the youngest for 130 years. The election followed the sudden and unexpected death of John Paul I, who died of natural causes [5] thirty three days after his election earlier in the same year.

Since his election John Paul II has:

- Travelled and said mass in 140 countries in over 100 separate foreign trips
- Issued 19 Papal encyclicals, documents which establish the authoritative teaching of the church
- Appointed all but 5 of the 120 cardinals who could elect his successor [6]
- Appointed app. 3,000 of the 4,200 bishops within the global church
- Massively encouraged church attendance, which has increased dramatically during his pontificate, mainly in the developing world
- Focused recruitment in Latin America, which now accounts for 50% of church membership; when we add Africa and Asia to Latin America we can account for two thirds of all churchgoers – this is the primary base for the modern church
- Become the longest serving Pope of the last century, having served for twice the average of twentieth century Popes (average = 10.5 years) and three times the average of all Popes (average = 7.3 years)
- Spent app. 15% of his time outside of the Vatican

- Read over 20,000 addresses
- His general audiences in the Vatican have involved more than 20 million persons
- Beatified some 1000 persons and canonized 350 saints
- Had talks with over 800 Heads of State or Government Ministers

His teaching has been conservative – no women in the priesthood, against abortion and contraception, against homosexuality and against changes in the basic dogma's of the church. This has angered liberals, who seek to "modernise" the Church. His position is that Catholicism is Catholicism and not some liberal moderate religion – of you don't like it, pray for guidance or leave. As Margaret Thatcher would say, "this Pope is not for turning" – nothing will shift his position.

The Process of electing a Pope – the Conclave

One of John Paul's most important contributions to the future is his modernisation of the process for electing his successor – the Papal conclave (from the Latin, meaning "with the key"), the first of which was held in 1378. Most modern Popes rewrite the rules of the conclave, but none have done so with so much attention to detail.

On the death of a Pope, the cardinals gather in Rome to celebrate the life of the late Pope and to elect his successor. They do so in secret in a Papal conclave. The process is shrouded with mystique, with secrecy being required under ecclesiastical law – the punishment for breaking the vows of silence associated with the conclave is excommunication.

Historically, all living cardinals were locked in the Sistine Chapel, using camp beds and "brought in" and basic meals, and, after a period of reflection on the state of the church and the development of a profile of the character of the Pope needed, the process of election begins. Candidates are nominated, but do not canvas or solicit the position. Ballots are secret and they continue until the new Pope is chosen. To be chosen, the successful candidates have needed to secure two thirds of the votes in the conclave.

Under the new rules, published in 1996, there are a number of key changes:

- No cardinal over 80 may participate in the conclave
- The conclave should begin no sooner than 15 days after the death of the Pontiff and no later than 20 days
- If no candidate secures a two third majority in the first 12 days of secret balloting or the first thirty ballots (there are 4 votes a day, separated by prayer) then the cardinals may invoke a rule requiring no more than a 50% +1 majority for election
- The cardinals will continue to vote in the Sistine Chapel, but will now stay in executive accommodation (St Martha's House) with bathrooms en suite and comfortable beds – a major change from the primitive and unsanitary conditions which have prevailed for several centuries
- No communication devices of any kind will be permitted in the conclave and the process and discussions must remain secret before, during and forever after on pain of excommunication [7]
- Whatever is said during the conclave is not binding on the successful candidate – once elected, they are their own man
- The conclave may elect any catholic to the office of Pope, though in reality it will elect one of its own number
- Black smoke signaling a failure to elect and white smoke signaling election will continue to be used – straw and chemicals ensure that the right "smoke signals" are sent.

The combination of these factors will likely lead, according to several commentators, to a longer election process than we have become used to in this century. In fact, there are few incentives for a quick election when waiting may open the field for a change in voting procedures which could favour patient candidates.

The Candidates for Succession – The "Papabili"

It is said that "he who enters the conclave as Pope, leaves it as a cardinal" – making clear that active candidacies are frowned upon in the church. Yet several have been named as likely candidates and some are pursuing their networks and connections relentlessly.

Using the world press to identify recognised candidates, it is possible to develop a list of those who look likely to succeed. At this stage it is a long list of twelve persons, though some can be easily ruled out. This list includes:

- **Cardinal Godfried Danneels, *Belgium*.** A brilliant and widely-respected theologian, Cardinal Danneels is seen as a unifying figure acceptable to both conservatives and progressives within the College of Cardinals.
- **Cardinal Claudio Hummes, *Brazil*.** Theologically conservative, but engaged in confronting poverty and other social problems, the Franciscan archbishop of San Paulo is considered one of the strongest Latin American candidates.
- **Cardinal Jaime Lucas Ortega Y Alamino, *Cuba*.** The Archbishop of Havana, Cardinal Ortega has kept the church alive in defiance of Cuba's communist regime. Many see parallels with John Paul II, whom he has closely supported.
- **Cardinal Francis Arinze, *Nigeria*.** The head of the Vatican Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, Cardinal Arinze is the strongest African candidate. Personable and theologically conservative, Arinze has shown great loyalty to the current pope. But many cardinals are sceptical of a pontiff from Africa, where Catholicism has relatively shallow roots.
- **Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga, *Honduras*.** The personable archbishop of Tegucigalpa has long been seen as a rising star. His youth and a recent outburst against US press coverage of the Catholic sex scandals probably weakened his candidacy.
- **Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, *Colombia*.** Favourite of archconservatives, Cardinal Castrillon is the head of the Vatican office of the clergy. A defender of traditional doctrine, he's taken a bold stance against his country's powerful drug lords.
- **Cardinal Walter Kasper, *Germany*.** Favourite of progressives, Cardinal Kasper is an intellectual heavyweight who's advocated decentralization of the church, reform of the Vatican bureaucracy, and a more lenient stance towards divorced Catholics. Kasper, currently head of ecumenical affairs for the Vatican, may not fit the profile of a "transitional" pope.
- **Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, *Italy*.** A theological moderate with unparalleled skills as an administrator, Cardinal Re is regarded in some quarters as a perfect transitional figure. But his experience has been entirely within the Vatican, which may hurt his candidacy. His chances would improve if he serves as an archbishop before the next conclave.

It is interesting to note that John Paul was 58 when he became Pope, in part seen as a reaction to the election and sudden death of his much older predecessor[8]. Many of the candidates listed here are significantly older. Few Popes live beyond 80 years of age.

The African Cardinal Arinze is favoured by some liberals on the grounds of being black, representative of the developing world and a role model for the modern church. However, he is in fact a right wing cardinal and would pursue similar theological and operational positions to John Paul II. He is also unlikely to secure enough votes in early rounds, with less than 45% of cardinals in the conclave being from the developing world.

Despite the dominance of the Latin American church in terms of congregation, there are no substantial candidates from the region, Cardinal Neves ruling himself out on the grounds of health. More importantly, candidates from the US, Canada and Britain are regarded as simply unelectable. The only way in which a Latin American candidate would emerge is if the cardinals from the region voted en bloc, which is unlikely.

The process within the conclave is simple. After a day of prayer and reflection, nominations begin. An initial ballot is taken and then the substantial politics of election begin with reflection, prayer and discussion in small groups occurring as needed. Four ballots a day, with smoke signals after each one, continue until the Pope is elected. Each cardinal then individually takes a vow of allegiance to the new Pope and the Pope's vestments are tailored for his appearance on the balcony of St Peter's. The process can take anything from two days to nine months, with the election more probably over in 8-9 days at most.

The Key Issues Facing a New Pope

When the cardinals develop a profile of the new Pope, they will identify at least five critical issues.

The first is *style*. One word sums up the approach of John Paul II and several of his predecessors in this century: *authoritarian*. Like Margaret Thatcher, it is "my way or the highway". The Pope has used both his centralized Power and the modern doctrine of Papal infallibility to stamp his authority on the practices of the Church as well as on its theology. There are growing desires amongst some of the Cardinals for a more consultative and participative process.

The second issue, linked to the first, is *decentralization*. Given the authoritarian style of most of the Popes of this century (the exception is John XXIII), bishops are seeking more control over their diocese and more say in the affairs of the Church. A spirit of democracy is breaking out amongst these senior clergy. They want to be able to interpret canon law, established teaching and the rules of the Church through their own offices as Bishops, with the guidance of their Archbishop, and not have to wait for Rome. This issue also touches on how bishops are chosen – the liberals seek election from the clergy and lay communities within the diocese as opposed to appointment by Rome. The fear in Rome amongst the curia is that this thrust for decentralization could fragment the church and fracture its theology.

The third issue is the *place of women in the Church*. It is clear in the teachings of the Church, which John Paul II has simply reinforced, that women will not be Priests (though they have been in the past [9]), that women should not be permitted to sanction abortion of their own fetus or permit artificial insemination, nor marry a Priest. While these positions are consistent over a considerable time, women are seeking a place in the Church which is more than that of handmaiden.

The fourth issue is *ecumenicism*. What kind of reconciliations are possible with other religions and faiths? It is a major thrust of the papacy of John Paul II to seek reconciliation and accommodation with other faiths, especially the Christian community and the orthodox church. The cardinals will need to determine, through their choice of Vicar of Rome, just how far they wish this ecumenical movement to go and its implications for the future church.

The final issue is the *operational church and money*. There have been ongoing problems in the way in which the Vatican operates, both as a Church and as a Papal State. While we hear little at this time about the financial health of the Church and its burgeoning bureaucracy, it is a growing issue for some of the more administrative

minded curia. They will look for someone to sort out the way in which the curia operates and is managed. Some also wish to see a reform of the Church's financial institutions.

There will also be many "local" issues, but these five will dominate the considerations. Most of cardinals will be conservative with respect to all of these issues – John Paul II has appointed over 90% of them and has done so with great care to ensure that his legacy will live well beyond his years. He has shaped this agenda.

Conclusion

When the pundits offered predictions concerning the style and character of the Pope and who it would be prior to and during the second 1978 conclave, almost no one predicted that Karol Wojtyla would be elected [10] or that he would have reigned for more than 25 years or that his strategy would be what it has been. This should be a caution to us in our endeavour to look ahead.

We should also remember just how quickly Pope John XXIII changed the agenda of the church by summoning the Second Vatican Council and issuing two critical encyclicals in rapid succession. Much to the surprise of those who elected him, John XXIII changed the agenda of the Church and began to take it down a new road. This road was one of decentralization, major change in the practices of the Church (e.g. abandoning the Latin mass) and a new view of the role of the lay person and women in the Church. He did this, despite only living five years after his election to the Holy Sea. To some extent, the election of John Paul II was intended by the cardinals to reign in the change process John XXIII had begun and to regain control over the growing liberalism of the Church: the cardinals knew what they were doing.

In the situation they now face, the balances of power between the "old church" (white, Western and wealthy) and the "new church" (burgeoning, poor and developing its muscle) will determine the outcome of the conclave and the direction of the Church. It is not clear who will be elected, but it seems clear that the signal will be one of "more of the same".

[1] The Vatican have not confirmed or denied this diagnosis.

[2] On July 15th 1992, John Paul had part of his colon surgically removed.

[3] Silvester III in 1045 and St Celestine V in 1295

[4] Which is not the view taken by some of his predecessors. Both Pious XII (d. 1958 aged 82) and Paul VI (d. 1978, aged 80) both lived out their final months in relative seclusion, shielding the world from their illness. However, Paul Johnson reports that he has written a resignation letter in case he falls into a coma which doctors then certify he will not recover from – see Paul Johnson *The Papacy* Phoenix Illustrated, 1997.

[5] There are claims that John Paul I was murdered, but the general opinion is against such an assumption.

[6] He has expanded the number of Cardinals who can participate in the conclave from 155 to 122, though with recent deaths and advancing years, only 120 would be in the conclave it were held today. In total, there are 135 living cardinals.

[7] We will find out, however, since the conclave cardinals may tell the non conclave cardinals (those over 80) what happened and these in turn are free to talk to the press.

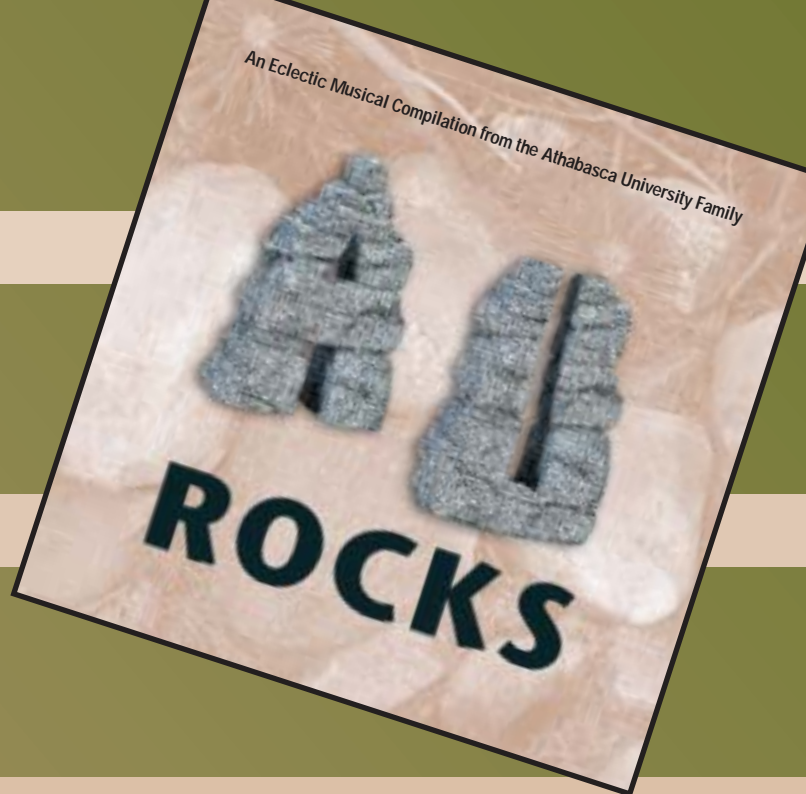
[8] The youngest Pope ever elected was Benedict IX, who was 15 at the time of his appointment (1032 – 1048).

[9] There is also convincing evidence that a woman was once elected Pope – Pope Joan in the 9th century.

[10] The exception was Andrew Greeley of the University of Chicago ad Jesuit sociologist ad author/journalist.



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AU staffer, Andy, writes and performs gentle folk ballads accented by subtle harmonies and intricate harmonica lines.
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Erin, an AU Student, provides vocals for the group, *The George Bushes*. This group is noted for its innovative songwriting, crisp harmonies and high-energy performances. *Contact: thegeorgebushes@yahoo.com*

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Steve Boddington

History Coordinator, Steve Boddington contributes lead guitar, songwriting, and vocal talent to *Hot Cottage* - one of Edmonton's oldest and best-loved blues and boogie bands.
Contact: cottage@powersurfr.com

Dean Foster

Teacher, singer, musician and songwriter, Dean contributes two polished country rock ballads to this collection. Dean is a student in the MDDE program and is the husband to AU Public Affairs staff Omella Foster. *Contact: omellaf@athabascau.ca*



Terry Taylor

Terry writes, performs and records music as a hobby. He plays guitar, resophonic guitar, mandolin, bass, and keyboards and is joined by his wife on vocals. Terry tutors for the Centre for Computing and Information Systems and the School of Business. *Contact: budby@shaw.ca*

Dirk Heydemann

Dirk contributes as a songwriter and guitarist to this Nanaimo-based group, *Amoral Minority*, whose sound is reminiscent of the Doors, The Tragically Hip, and Tea Party. He is the brother of AU Learning Services Outreach Coordinator Angela Heydemann.
Contact: dirk@heydemannphoto.com



Sean Fulton

Sean has been studying, performing and composing music for many years, and currently applies his talents as a composer and piano/keyboard player to a variety of projects including traditional Jazz, Latin, and Hip Hop. Sean is the son of AU English tutor, Seaneen O'Rourke.
Contact: seanfultone@yahoo.ca

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FAMILY HEIRLOOM NOT FOR SALE

"Worth another Look"

Teresa Neuman



This week, I inherited a family heirloom. Not silver or a tea service, but my grandmother's cookbook, *Meta Given's Modern Encyclopedia of Cooking, Volume II*, printed in 1949. To most people, a cookbook would not be as valuable as silver; to my mother and I, the book is priceless.

My grandmother, Emma, loved to cook. My mother says that of the four grandchildren, I am most like Emma, not only in appearance and manner, but in culinary skills as well. My mother jokes that this talent has skipped a generation, but mum got her use out of the cookbook, before passing it on to me.

The book, my grandmother's favorite, is worn and stained. Unfortunately, volume 1 of the two-book set is missing. Out of print, I was able to find used copies of the set for sale on Amazon.com. But I was more interested in the

reviews by people who still rely on their copy of the book. LO from Arkansas exclaims, *"I couldn't even boil water when I married. I purchased this cook book in about 1952 and learned how to cook from it. It was my cooking bible. ... I used this book to teach my children the proper way to set a table. I've used the menus. I used it to find out how to dress out ducks that my husband brought home from hunting."* RO from Minnesota gushes, *"My wife and I received Meta Given's cook books, volumes I and II, as a wedding gift 35 years ago. ... When we are stuck with a cooking question we go to 'Meta' and there is the answer."*

These enthusiastic reviews are from people who aren't even considering selling their copy of the book. I couldn't wait to join their ranks.

The cover page of the cookbook promises to make the home cook's day easier. *"A modern cookbook, complete in every detail, brings the latest developments in home economics into your kitchen for a simpler, better and richer life."* Beginning with the very basics of cooking, Volume II starts with simple egg dishes and progresses to more complicated egg recipes like "Spaghetti ring soufflé with creamed Ham" (Page 880).

Once the skills required to cook eggs have been mastered, more complicated dishes follow. "Fish" includes a recipe for Pan Fried Frogs Legs (Page 919). "Game" provides recipes for muskrat, elk, opossum, raccoon, and turtle; "Meat" features recipes like Jellied Veal Loaf (Page 1085). "Variety Meats" details how to clean and prepare brains (Scrambled brains, Brains a la Newburg), sweetbreads, heart, kidney, and liver. All sections are complete with instructions and how-to photographs. This obviously was the most complete cookbook of its day.

This book is not geared to the "light" diets of today. Given suggests using chicken fat as a "delicious substitute for butter in cakes or cookies or wherever small amounts of fat are used for cooking" (Page 1546). "Larding" or inserting strips of fat salt pork or bacon into lean meat is recommended to retain meat's natural juices during roasting. A section titled "Deep Fat Frying" has 10 pages of recipes. Unfortunately, my health conscience brain has put the brakes on deep-fried "Sour Cream Doughnuts" (Page 1534) or I would be in the kitchen making them right now, instead of finishing this column.

Most importantly, as a home economist, Meta Given understood the importance placed on family life, especially post-WWII. Cooking styles and preparation methods have changed since 1949, but emphasis on family remains. While it seems outdated to me, Given's "Family Hostess' Creed" (page 1551) reflects my Grandmother's attitude towards her kitchen:

Happy family relationships are part of my responsibility; therefore I will save enough energy to do the job of being a happy and helpful hostess to my family day after day.

My family's satisfaction with my table setting and service is my responsibility; therefore I will manage my linens and other equipment, my method of work, and enlist the assistance of my family to the end that the table shall be clean and beautiful and the service is easy and dignified.

My family's satisfaction with their food is my responsibility; therefore I will manage so that foods shall come to the table in their prime condition developed by previous care in selection, preparation, and cooking.

Enjoyment of each other and of their food is an important part of successful family life; therefore I shall use intelligence, skill and love in serving food to my family.

The Thanksgiving holiday is approaching. Along with the turkey, I plan to make my Grandmother's favorite recipe, Pork Chop Suey (Page 1073). I wish that she was still alive to see my mother and I use her cookbook. If I was to review this cookbook on Amazon.com, my review might read: Owned by Emma Jones, now in use by its third generation, this cookbook will remind Teresa of her grandmother for years to come. A must own, never to be sold." Emma would be pleased.

I can smell the chop suey already.

Photo of Teresa and her grandmother, courtesy the author.

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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.



Big Week in Canadian Sports

Shannon Maguire

This week is very exciting for Canadian sports because of three events. First, the Canadian Women's World Cup team has become the first Canadian soccer team to advance past the opening round of a World Cup. Second, the World Road Cycling Championships is being held in Canada for the second time in 29 years, and finally Hockey Night in Canada will be returning to CBC with the start of the regular season this week.

Canada's Women's World Cup team has done what no other Canadian soccer team has ever done. Not only are they the first Canadian team to make it past the opening round in a World Cup tournament, they also beat China 1-0 in their quarter-final game, which put them through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, Canada's winning streak ended on Sunday Oct 5 when they lost their semi-final game against Sweden. It definitely was not an easy game for Sweden to win, however. Canada's Kara Lang actually scored the first goal and Canada took the lead at the 64th minute. With only 26 minutes remaining Canada went into a defensive mode to guard their lead and it looked like they were going to win. Their luck turned when Malin Mostroem scored the equalizing goal in the 79th minute. Seven minutes later Sweden's Josefine Oqvist scored the final goal, which gave Sweden a 2-1 win over Canada. Sweden will be advancing to the final against Germany, who beat the United States 3-0 to progress, on Sunday Oct 12 in Carson, California. Although, Canada did not make it to the final they have done better than any Canadian team in this tournament and will play the United States in the consolation game on Saturday Oct 11 in Carson, California. If you would like to know more about the Women's team or the World Cup visit www.canadasoccer.com.

The World Road Cycling Championships started on Monday Oct 6 in Hamilton, Ontario and they will be ending on Sunday Oct 12. The last time this event was in Canada was in 1974 when it was hosted by Montreal. In order to celebrate the event the city of Hamilton is having a World Cycling Festival, which began with an official opening ceremony on Sunday Oct 5, and will continue for the length of the Championships. The focus of the festival will be on cycling and Canadian culture. Many events of interest to cycling fans and non-cyclists will be taking place this week, including:

- Tastes of Canada Gala Dinner: Oct 10 at 6:30 p.m. Official Gala Dinner of the World Road Cycling Championships. Live music and comedy performances.
- Bikes, Bands and Beer: Oct 9 at 7 p.m. A party with live entertainment and beer.
- A Celebration of Indigenous People: Oct 9-12 from 10 a.m.–8 p.m. A Six Nations festival featuring demonstrations of aboriginal song and dance, cuisine, artisan and crafters market and interactive learning centres.
- Rooftop Festival: Oct 9-Oct 12 from 12 p.m.-9 p.m. Art displays, live music and dancing.

These are just a few of the many exciting events taking place during the festival. For more information about the World Road Cycling Championships and the World Cycling Festival visit www.hamilton2003.com.

Finally, this week is the week that the regular NHL season begins again, kicking off tonight, October 8, with the Mighty Ducks playing the Stars, the Wilds playing the Blackhawks, and the Devils playing the Bruins at 8 p.m. ET. Coverage of all of these games will be on ESPN. TSN will also be covering the Mighty Ducks vs. the Stars. More important to Canadians, though, is the return of Hockey Night in Canada on CBC which will be on October 9 with the Canadiens playing the Senators in Ottawa at 7 p.m. ET and the Flames playing the Canucks in Vancouver at 10:30 p.m. ET. For more information on the NHL visit www.nhl.com, and for more information on Hockey Night in Canada visit www.cbc.ca.

This is indeed a very exciting week for Canadian sports with the occurrence of two notable events and the return of a regular Canadian favorite. I am sure that many Canadians will be enjoying this week's festivities and games.



Dear Sandra,

I have fallen in love with a married man. Problem is, he keeps telling me he can't leave his wife because of their children (ages 5 and 9). How can I convince him that I will be a good mother to his children and an excellent wife to him?

Hopelessly in Love in Ontario

Dear Hopelessly,

I pondered how to answer this question for days and I wondered if I would have answered it differently had I not been married. No, even if I wasn't married, I'd still address this question the same way: Are you freaking crazy???

It is never appropriate to date a married man because:

1. He's cheating on her; he'll cheat on you.
2. You only think you are seeing his true personality.
3. He's a big liar and is ethically flawed.
4. You'll be the dreaded other woman.
5. He'll have a plethora of excuses, but no excuse for why he's married to another woman is ever actually correct. He's married to someone else because HE WANTS TO BE!

As a wife and a mother myself, I will not give you advice on how to convince another woman's man that you will be a better wife and mother. Put yourself in that woman's shoes. She probably has no idea that you even exist and assumes that her marriage is ok; would you want that to be you in a few years? What about the children? Do you really think that if you break up their parent's marriage that they will have any respect or kindness for you? The children, along with this man's family and friends, are always going to see you as the home wrecker. There are millions of single men out there; leave this one alone and go find one who is unattached.

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

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Primetime Update

Week of October 3, 2003

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

Missed your favorite shows? No problem. Primetime updated gives you the rundown on what happened on TV this week.

Friends

Last week we left the show with Joey and Rachel sharing a "goodnight kiss" with Ross looking on from the doorway. This week's episode centers on Ross's inability to deal with this newfound relationship. In an attempt not to show his disapproval, Ross becomes overly accepting and goes so far as to invite the new couple to have dinner with him and Charlie. The dinner turns into a drunken disaster, with Ross having more than his share of the margaritas, and then carrying a hot pot without oven mitts.

After Charlie leaves the "party" Rachel and Joey share a moment where they verbalize the possibility that Ross may never be OK with their dating. Rachel leaves as well, and Ross and Joey fall asleep on the couch. In the morning Ross's true feelings are revealed that he wants to be OK with the new love, and that after 6 years of not being a couple with Rachel, his feelings shouldn't stand in the way of Joey and Rachel's happiness. In the end, Ross decides that, since he's with Charlie, it's time to move on.

Speaking of moving on, since being married Monica and Chandler discovered that they couldn't bear their own children. This episode begins their journey into the adoption process. Monica isn't getting any answers from the paperwork the agency gave her, and so Phoebe sets the couple up with another couple she knows, who've been through the process and are willing to answer any questions they have. Upon meeting them, Monica is in awe at the wife's organizational skills while Chandler leaves for the bathroom.

On his trip to the bathroom he runs into the little boy that the couple had adopted and not knowing the boy doesn't know, Chandler reveals the "secret" to the boy, who doesn't react well and confronts his parents about it. Monica and Chandler leave.

Phoebe's boyfriend Mike isn't in this episode, but remember her little brother Frank, and his triplets, which Phoebe gave birth to? They're back and the babies are older now, and time has taken its toll on the young father. It becomes the subject of discussion that Frank may need to get rid of one of the triplets, and Phoebe inquires which one and why. In discussing each child, Frank remembers the positive aspects and in the end decides that he couldn't possibly give any of them to Phoebe. However, since she is his sister and loves the triplets more than anything, Phoebe offers to baby-sit anytime Frank and Alice need it.

The end clip of the show involves Phoebe and the triplets at Central Perk, and Monica and Chandler arrive, and tell Phoebe how they injured the family home of her friends. Chandler then, jokingly, reveals to the triplets that Phoebe gave birth to them, and then discusses how he's going to tell Emma that she was an accident.

Friends airs on Thursdays at 8:00pm Alberta Time, on Global (channel 7 in Calgary)

SURVIVOR: Pearl Islands

At the conclusion of last week's episode, the Morgan tribe had suffered 3 consecutive losses and no wins, and had gone to tribal council to vote out Skinny Ryan. This week's episode was not much different.

We see the drastic contrast between the two tribes especially through the topics of conversation they choose. On the one hand, we have Drake, who laugh merrily and stuff their faces with fish and other foods. They make one small attempt to search for their treasure, however give up as they only have one piece of their map. There is even a fight between Jon and Sandra about who is the better, stronger, swimmer. The fight includes yelling and swearing but is easily ended by Jon giving Sandra the last word. It's funny as well, to see Jon sitting out of the next challenge. On the other hand, the Morgan tribe are continuously discussing game strategy and wearing out all possibilities in their minds before any decisions are made. They still have no food and are complaining of the sleeping conditions. Lill goes so far as to whine about missing her husband and cry about the thought of her possible departure from the island. Interesting too is the producer's choice of musical accompaniments for each segment. Those involving the Drake tribe are accompanied by merry pirate music, which emphasizes the excitement of the festivities, whereas Morgan's activities are accompanied by soft mourning music. This pitiful tribe better pull themselves together before they disintegrate into nothing.

The reward challenge involves the sinking of boats, as each tribe has two. Tools to be used are a hook to pull corks out, a bucket to either bail one's own water or splash water into the opposition's craft, and paddles, to steer around the enclosure. The reward: an air mattress, four blankets, four pillows, a piece of the treasure map, and the chance to steal any item from the opposite team's camp. Drake takes an easy victory as Osten's choice to stand up on his own boat easily submerges it and shortly following that Rupert uses brute strength to push one end of the Morgan's second boat underwater and it too is easily submerged. This fourth loss leaves the Morgan tribe doubting themselves.

Drake, again, must decide what kind of item they want to pirate from their foe. The discussion surrounds the idea of a water pot. Some people look at it as a smart move, since they only have one and if they have two, and Morgan wins the right to steal, they will always have at least one. However, remember from last week, it seemed Morgan only had one, which they used to boil water, and so taking their water source seemed a cruel idea. However, it is wonderful Rupert who reminds us that they are pirates, and so the tribe sends Christa, the 24-year-old engaged computer programmer from Los Angeles California, to loot Morgan's pot. It is made known, however, that they do have another one to use as a source of water, so they are not yet decimated.

In the middle of their pity party, Morgan's scout leader, Lill, takes off to go fishing alone and ends up losing their last hook. Ryan O, and Andrew spend time complaining that if she had waited for one of them to go, (since the presence of any arrogant man can prevent bad things from happening) it never would have happened. As a back up, Ryan O tries to make a fishing tool out of an old decrepit piece of netting. Andrew, who you may remember is the tribe leader, explains to viewers that Drake's success comes only from the Euphoria of their winning streak, and not from actual skill, determination, and teamwork. He predicts that if Morgan wins one event, they too will enjoy a winning streak.

This leaves us at the immunity challenge which is a test of pure strength and will. Each team's smallest member is suspended above the water using a rope and pulley which runs to the beach, where the rest of the tribe must hold on as long as they can. Every 5 minutes one tribe member must let go until finally it is a battle between Osten and Rupert. After over two hours, Osten is the first to give in, and he lets go of the rope. Morgan suffers their 5th consecutive loss and must again go to tribal council.

Since we have a core alliance of Andrew, Tijuana, Osten, and Ryan O, the options for the vote are Darrah and Lillian. We haven't seen much of Darrah so far this season, but as a refresher she is the 22 year old single mortician from Liberty, MS. Lillian on the other hand, has been the mother hen of the group. We've seen her start the fires, rat out Nicole (the first chick kicked out) and befriend the skinny guy (Ryan, who was the second kicked out). In this episode we've seen her disobey the men (who happen to form the core alliance) and lose the tribe's only food source. Although her loyal puppy dog attitude would seem more important than Darrah's strength, we know Morgan needs to win some challenges soon, or perish as the pirates did. Their choice...to vote out Lillian, whose final comments include saying her mistake was not going farther in the game and representing her scouts and her husband for a longer period of time. You go, mum!

In the preview for the next episode we see Drake contemplate losing immunity on purpose as an attempt to get rid of a pest, as well as Osten yelling for help at one of the challenges. Andrew and Ryan go in search of a good fishing spot, but instead they find themselves in a dangerous situation: lost in the jungle without water. One tribe recovers a buried treasure. But will it have been worth the search? The Immunity Challenge shocks the tribes with an unexpected reward. Lubricated by whiskey, one Survivor creates a spectacle at a Tribal Council that is not to be missed. Will Drake throw immunity and will Osten put aside his pride? Find out next week, on Survivor.

Survivor airs on Thursdays at 9:00pm Alberta time on Global (channel 7 in Calgary)

The Bachelor

Well, funny story this one. I've been on vacation for the last 8 days, and I asked my step dad to tape the Bachelor. Instead, he taped Survivor and Friends, as well as CSI, which I watched while I was away. To make matters worse, I couldn't even find a website half decent enough to allow myself to BS my way through this blurb. Some chicks got kicked off, that all I know. If there's anyone out there who did watch it, please email me and let me know if anything interesting happened. =)

If you're not familiar with the show, the progress is as follows: In an effort to find a bride, Bob Guiney searches for his dream girl, as he is introduced to 25 single women. On the first episode, Bob will narrow it down to 15 women. On the second episode, he will take five women at a time on three different dates. Then, he will choose to keep eight. After introducing the women to two of his friends, they helped him narrow the field to four. Then, with the remaining four, he will meet their families and they met his. Finally, Bob will narrow it to three, and he will go on a fantasy date with each. For the last show, there were only two remaining, and he will select THE ONE.

The Bachelor airs Wednesdays at 9:00pm (E/P)

If there are any other shows you want updates on, or any comments you wish to make, , please email me at abaldwin@shaw.ca!



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I moved this fall into a new house - new to me at least. As you likely know, one of the many perks of being an Athabasca University student is the ability to move cities without changing schools. I have moved several times, twice to different cities, traveled Europe and done classes in at least four different time zones. Moving, or traveling of any kind, epitomizes possibility at its greatest. It presents to us a chance for experiencing new things-- a chance for fresh starts and broadened perspectives.

My new house, along with experiences and perspectives, has new appliances. Gratitude overwhelms me, honestly. Here I am, with a new home and great appliances, so I won't complain. The problem is, that I think the appliances are better than me, especially the oven. I don't deserve it.

I actually just learned how to cook and I spend time hoping people will forget that I ever did. I would rather be known for other attributes. I'm sure this is a modern feeling. Generations past cooked whether they wanted to or not. There were no easy prepared pre-packaged dinners or fast food alternatives to choose from. Indeed, cooking was and still is a life skill, as well as an economic asset (Eating out is expensive!). There is a certain

pressure to be able to cook good meals. I fear my new appliances have made alliances with this growing pressure and if I don't learn how to cook better, my oven will make me look like fraud.

I see the value in cooking, I really do. I see the value in someone taking time to prepare a meal in which your family sits down to and spends time with one another. I almost believe that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. I am secretly flattered by someone complimenting my cooking and am impressed by other's gourmet meals.

The bottom line, however, resides in the fact, that cooking never interested me.

The first time I cooked a meal for my family was for a junior high Home Economics assignment. It seemed to take so long to get everything washed and chopped and prepared that I skipped a few steps. My mother diplomatically reminds me that my family only ate the meal to encourage me to try again. I didn't try cooking again for a few years. I started with something easy-- homemade pizza. When it caught fire in the bottom of my oven due to neglect, I called a friend to ask her if it was baking soda or powder that put out fires and made myself a sandwich.

Ergo, it became part of my reputation, part of what was expected out of me, that I didn't cook. I did other household chores pretty well and it's not as if I am incapable of cooking, I just get distracted.

And isn't that the tune of today's world? Opportunities are relentless. It's hard to narrow down what we will be good at, when we want to be good at everything and have more opportunities than ever to try things. The trick with cooking is that when practicing one cannot do these 'everything's' all at once. This is how things burn. Of course, as I moved out and tired of sandwiches, there came a point one day when I looked down at the meal I was serving with surprise. I had learned how to cook. I didn't even mean to. Emeril, Martha or that Naked guy would not be impressed, but nothing caught fire and my meal was, if I may say so, delightfully edible.

The new appliances, however, put things on a whole new level. Now, when someone walks into my kitchen,

instead of commenting on the paint color or family pictures, they eye up my oven with interest. The oven raises the standards. The oven sets certain expectations. One who uses the oven must be able to cook well. It has settings I need definitions for. In short, I am intimidated.

The first few times that I have used it have gone smoothly, but it took twice as long to roast my potatoes so I'm sure I don't have it on the right setting. Every ounce of my common sense tells me to read the manual. I am a University Student, surely I can understand some appliance jargon-- a little harmless oven banter. That's when I remind myself, that as long as I don't know how to work the oven properly, I have a temporarily valid excuse not to.

Of course, it is only a temporary excuse. You could say that the oven has broadened my perspective. Last week, I experimented with twice baked potatoes and tonight I will serve sea bass in a honey-lime glaze. In spite of myself, I admit this cooking thing isn't so bad. Like moving and traveling, with cooking you benefit the most by trying new things and having fresh starts.

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THANKSGIVING DAY 2003

Wayne E Benedict



A few days ago I was sitting at my kitchen table working out my study schedule for the next few weeks. In planning for Monday October 13th I commented off-handedly about my classes. My wife looked at me oddly and said that I didn't have any classes that day because of Thanksgiving. I told her that no one had mentioned anything of the like at the university and that I was pretty sure that classes would be held. As happens more often than not, she was proven correct when I checked the university schedule over the Internet.

To some it might seem odd that I didn't know that educational institutions are automatically closed on statutory holidays. But after over twenty years in the workforce, the last fifteen in the railway industry, the fact seems odd to me. The railway, like many other industries in our contemporary world, maintains twenty-four-hours-per-day, seven-days-per-week operations. Trains don't stop running on holidays (except possibly Christmas/New Years days, if management so chooses), so statutory holidays became as any other day to me—ones upon which I was subject to work, and for which I would receive premium pay. The thought of actually having a statutory holiday off as a day of rest didn't often enter my mind.

I have a brain that tends to chew over facts that others might think insignificant and ever since the conversation with my spouse, I have been bothered by the fact that I never really knew or understood the nascent locus of the Thanksgiving holiday—who adopted it, where, and why. Although pressures on my time are immense due to study-load, I knew my mind would not let the subject rest until I had looked into it. Here is what I discovered in my necessarily brief exploration into Thanksgiving Day:

Thanksgiving was first officially celebrated in seventeenth century New England. The Pilgrims (early English settlers; the founders of Plymouth Colony) and local Native Americans annually came together in celebration of the autumn harvest. It is likely that the roots of the celebration predate English North Americans and evolved from ancient European harvest festivals. In any case, contemporary Thanksgiving celebrations are only loosely related to agrarian harvests and are more familial-centered; focusing on the family, home, and of course food. The victuals around which the family gathering is centered make up the bulk of my childhood memories of Thanksgiving—the Thanksgiving "feast".

Traditional fare might include turkey and its stuffing, cranberry sauce, squash, sweet-potatoes, mashed potatoes, gravy, and pumpkin pie for dessert. It is not surprising that traditional thanksgiving edibles represent local foods that the Pilgrims would have found in plenty upon their arrival to the "new world". I find it odd that Americans celebrate thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November, while Canadians celebrate it on the second Tuesday in October. Could it be that Canada, being north of the U.S., experiences autumn, and by extension its harvest, earlier in the year...?

In any case, my limited research into the holiday has enlightened me and my ever-churning mind can now move onto its next inquiries. However, the mere fact that the university is closed on October 13th does not ensure that I will experience thanksgiving as most other North Americans do. I expect that I'll be partaking of a cornucopia, but it won't be one overflowing with the edible bounty of a successful fall harvest; rather, it will consist of the never-ending evolutionary litany of the Canadian common law—cases, cases, and more cases...

Wayne E. Benedict has a varied career history and strong links to the Canadian labour movement. He is working part-time toward his Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations at Athabasca University. He is a fulltime first-year student of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. For a more detailed writer bio, see The Voice writers' feature page in "about the Voice". If you would like to send article-feedback to Wayne, he can be reached at wayneben@sasktel.net

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Pickles!

By Debbie Jabbour



This fall I engaged in an activity I've neglected for the last few years. I made pickles! I had wanted to do it every time I went to the farmer's market and saw the piles of small cucumbers and sheaves of dillweed, but just couldn't seem to make the time. However, this one particular Saturday afternoon I just could not help myself. Before I knew it I was back home with 20 pounds of pickling cucumbers, several litres of vinegar, bagfuls of coarse salt, onions, pickling spice, and dozens of heads of garlic. I then spent the rest of the weekend hauling my gem and mason jars out of retirement, then sterilizing jars, scrubbing cucumbers, peeling garlic, concocting the brine and processing the final product. For good measure I did a dozen jars of pickled carrots too.

At the end of it all, I had almost 30 jars of finished product. Surrounded by the aroma of vinegar and spice, feeling the warm hiss from the steam of the canner, I admired my creations on my table, beautiful bright green soldiers all in a row. The sense of satisfaction was overwhelming, and it took me back years to when I used to help my grandmother and mother with canning. My grandmother canned everything from chicken to green beans to saskatoons. I loved sitting in her warm kitchen on the farm, helping sort and

clean and prepare. And of course I loved eating the finished product too!

I took this love of canning with me as an adult. From the time my babies were born, I would can peaches, pears, blueberries and strawberries for their enjoyment, blending this fruit into homemade baby food. Although I never made "regular pickles" back then, I made beet pickles, mustard pickles, and pickled carrots. One year I developed my own special recipe of hot pickles, combining silverskin onions, carrots, and cauliflower with jalepeno and serrano peppers to create a spicy concoction that received rave reviews from everyone. I learned a valuable lesson the first year, when I washed and handled dozens of the peppers with my bare hands. A few hours later I discovered why this was not a good idea. I spent the rest of the night in agony, feeling like I had first-degree burns on my skin! I use gloves now when handling peppers. Everyone always tells me I should market my hot pickles, but I never got around to investigating how this could be done. I have also experimented with several versions of canned salsa.

Canning, for me, is always a big project. I'm not satisfied with making just a dozen of anything - the last time I made hot pickles we counted 120 litre jars full at the end of the day! I've taught my daughters how to can, and they all chip in - even if somewhat reluctantly. We all sit around the table, each one with a task: peeling garlic, washing carrots, chopping tomatoes, scalding & peeling onions, filling jars. It's a wonderful family moment, a way to work together to create something all of us will enjoy later.

Of course, as a student, I haven't had time to make hot pickles or salsa in a long time, nor do I can fruit anymore. But a few years ago I decided to try regular pickles, since I remembered them as being a canning project that was relatively low in time demands. They turned out so well that my family has been asking when I was going to do another batch. This time around, I managed the project alone, and did it on a very small scale so that I could get the job done quickly.

As I worked, I thought about the lost art of preserving and canning, wondering how many of my daughters' generation even have the necessary know-how, let alone the desire. It's all too easy to go and buy canned fruit

or pickles at the local supermarket. If you are really into home-made, there are plenty of farmer's markets where you can purchase canned produce of all kinds. It's hard to justify spending the time to can your own, in this busy life we lead. Yet, its such a wonderful sense of satisfaction, a feeling of creative accomplishment, and nothing matches the flavour of pickles or fruit you have canned yourself. There is an indescribable beauty to those jars of floating treasure. Strawberries are like red jewels in rich syrup, carrots are bright orange sticks standing at attention, hot pickles a multi-coloured variety display, peaches a warm orange treat.

It's sad to see this skill and tradition lost. My daughters are fortunate to have this knowledge, and I know they will continue the tradition, although not necessarily on the scale I have.

Already we have consumed a half dozen jars of the pickles...delicious!

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.

ATTENTION PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS



Every Monday from 9:30 - 10:30 AM MST and Wednesday from 7-8 PM MST the Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society gets together to chat about issues pertaining to the world of psychology at AU.

To Join the chat, go to the AUPSS website, accessible through: <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/index.php> [you must be logged in to AUSU] and select the discussion forum link, from there click on Psychology at the top written in blue and choose the General Psychology Chat. NOTE: You need to be registered in a psychology course to access the AU psych discussions.

Hope to see you there!

Sandra Moore

Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society

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

THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE

POETRY BY SARA KINNINMONT

left behind

like the hockey jerseys
and books
long forgotten
in your parents' basement

collecting dust

a relic
of a past life
a memory
a stepping stone

onto bigger
better
newer

me, not so much

same old
same old
same old

i know i've
begun to fade
from colour to grey to

a vague memory

once in a while
tugging your
lips into a smile

finally,
whatever
happened to that girl?

you know the one
I
left behind

poor thing

she stayed there
and never

moved
on

cul-de-sac

the houses themselves
remain
virtually unchanged

progress
seemingly kept at bay
for now

at first glance
there's a semblance
of suburban normalcy

look closer

if
you were to stand

with your nose
pressed against the window
of the blue house
on the end

your feet among the rhododendrons

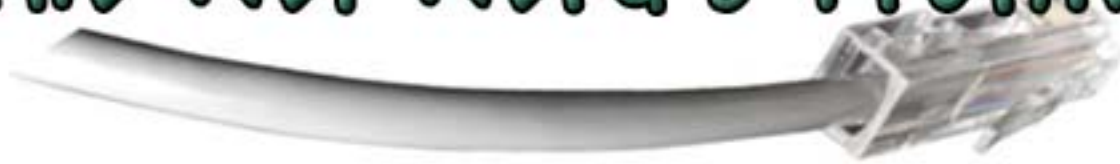
thriving
despite bad weather
of late

you'd see

the same
cannot be said
of those inside

The Voice accepts fiction in all formats and genres. Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.

The Net Nerd's Profiles



Wondering what's going on in the Distance Ed world? Seek out <http://ccism.pc.athabascau.ca/html/ccism/deresrce/de.htm>

This website is found within the dusty, dark corridors of the Athabasca University web site. If any of you are like me, navigating the AU website is a time consuming process, so for the next few columns I'll be reviewing some of the sites within AU.

This site is from our friends in the Centre for Computing and Information Systems. RIDE (Resources In Distance Education) is a good starting point if you want to find out more about distance ed, which you can delve into at many different levels.

At the most basic level is a tutorial about how to use the internet and how to search the web. Here you will find topics such as Internet 101, Listserv, Usenet, and where to find software. Even the most seasoned net surfers will find new information here. You can sign up to different newsgroups from this page too. The "searching the web" page has everything you need to begin your internet search. You can choose from search engines, virtual libraries, subject indices, databases, a list of electronic journals and magazines. I really liked the www virtual library.

The other resource headings on the homepage are: Distance Ed & WWW Design, Educational Technology Resources, Theory and Practice, Distance Education Issues, Associations Conferences and Special Events, Distance Education Organizations and AU Staff and Student Papers and Projects. All of these headings have links for what you may be looking for. The bulk of information on this website is about the internet and web based learning.

Neat Stuff: RIDE has won two awards : "a Links2Go Key Resource Award in the distance learning category and was chosen as Site of the Month' by The Office of Learning Technologies (OLT), a federal government program within Human Resources Development Canada" (RIDE: About This Project). These people know what they're doing.

Not so neat stuff: Some of the links on this website no longer exist. Some of the information such as the info on conferences is outdated. The last update for this website was January 31, 2003, almost ten months ago.

Rating: **1/2 / 5 Hmmm.. not to insult the CCIS, but I had to give a 2.5 . Why, you ask? I based this rating from the perspective of the average AU student looking for educational resources. Way too much outdated information and dead links, make this site a bit frustrating when looking around. Though there was a great wealth of information here, most of it probably wouldn't apply to the average AU student (with the exception of "Searching the Web" and "Distance Education Issues"). All that aside, this site is a great tool for the distance educator and was extremely well organized, I had no trouble snooping around.

Are you lonesome tonight? Try <http://www.match.com>

Yes I am happily married, so I had to review this fast before my partner questioned a dating website on our bookmarks. There's nothing new about match.com, in fact almost since the conception of the world wide web, people have been using it to search for romance, sex (any one-handed typists out there?), and companionship. There are a variety of dating services out there for your hooking-up needs, but I choose www.match.com to review, well, because it was there.

In order to review this properly I made two profiles, one as a man and one as a woman (both hetero, but for all my alternative lifestyle friends out there feel free to look for a same sex partner). Yes I rampantly abused the "sign up free" feature, but only for educational purposes.

The first step is to create a user name, password etc. (Rusty Shackelford is taken), then you get to post your profile for others to see. Some of the questions are basic, like what do you look like, but others you have to think about like, "What do you do for fun" and "Favorite local hot spots and travel destinations" (I choose Tim Horton's and Tim Horton's respectively). Then you get to choose your turn-ons from a list they give you (sleeping didn't make the list so I had to do some thinking). After that, choose your ultimate date from yet another list (again, sleeping couldn't seem to make the cut - yes I wonder how I ever managed to get married too). Then there are basic lifestyle questions regarding issues such as smoking, exercise and of course the most important one "annual income" (who really looks at any other?). Relationship history is next followed by a short essay describing yourself and what you want in a partner.

After submitting your profile you can search for singles in your area. In fact, match.com does that for you. They gave me a list of my three top mutual matches based on my criteria. You can also do a search based on geographic location and other choices. Just based on location my search came up with fifty lucky people within 300 miles from me.

What you see when you click on a picture or name is the person's entire profile. After that you can add that person to your "favorites" list, send the profile to a friend or block them from contacting you. If you like them you can send them a "wink" for free. This site was fun and easy to use. Now excuse me while I delete my history and bookmarks.

Neat Stuff: The "Match Scene" tells you how to date, gives hints and tips and lets you read success stories from couples who met on their site. You can also take tests such as the "Astro Abby.com compatibility test." I especially liked the "5 Bad Breath Blunders to avoid on a First date." Remember to brush the spaces between your teeth!

Not so Neat Stuff: Alas, all good things must come to an end, well, if you're cheap like me they do. In order to e-mail other members and take full advantage of this service you must pay. A yearly rate is \$79US and a monthly fee is \$19.95US (why can't people just charge an even \$20??). But on the bright side you can pay with money order instead of credit card. You just need to ask yourself if the quest for true love is worth the cash.

Rating: **/5** Match.com was easy to use and maneuver. Searches were relevant and they gave a lot of helpful hints and tips to help you. So dim the lights, slip into something comfortable, put on a little Barry White (or Chef, whoever you prefer) and find the mate of your dreams. The only thing better than match.com may be a real live person.

AUSU THIS MONTH

Special Bylaw AGM to be held October 15 1800 MST. For details go to: www.ausu.org.

AUSU IN PERSON DISCUSSION GROUPS

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.

See the Coffee Groups web page on the AUSU site, at <http://www.ausu.org/coffee> for a list of groups.

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.

NEW CLUB COMING SOON

The AUSU Business Students' Club will be starting up soon. Watch the AUSU website for details, or contact rwagner@ausu.org if you would like to join.

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.] **Times are MST**

Mondays at 8:00 PM Councillor Karl Low

More chat times to be posted soon...

FEATURED TUTOR ON THE AUSU WEB SITE

Hartley Waldman
Computer Studies

By day I am employed as a high school computer technology and business education teacher. I have been a tutor with Athabasca University for the past 8 years, most recently with the Computer Studies department. I enjoy the contact with the adult learners...

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



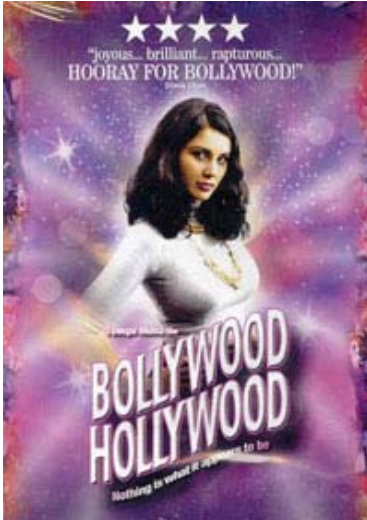
NEEDED – VOLUNTEER MENTORS FOR NEW STUDENTS

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



Bollywood Hollywood Film Review

By Laura Seymour



When I first saw this was a Canadian production I wondered if I was going to be looking at an "artsy" film with people staring out the window. I can't count how many times I've watched films like that and felt annoyed at my fellow Canadians and their idea of film making. My how times have changed! This film is a hoot! And it doesn't matter if you're not from an Indian background. Just cut loose and laugh!

Rahul Seth (Rahul Khanna) is a handsome millionaire who is very westernized, much to his mother, Moushumi Chatterjee's, chagrin. When the family meets his western pop star girlfriend, played by Jessica Pare, she gets frosted by these folks. Grandma-ji, played by Dina Pathak, loves to quote Shakespeare but refuses to speak English to her grandson's white girlfriend, and mum isn't much better. Dad is dead and there is a depressing shrine to him in mum's bedroom. Poor Jessica runs out the door after trying to please the family. Faster than lightning, the poor dear dies in a freak levitation accident. The scene of her death

is well done and everyone's reaction is just so perfect.

Since Rahul is older he is supposed to marry first, but his sister, Rishma Malik, is scheduled to marry. Mother decides to pull out all the stops and threatens to call off his sister's wedding unless Rahul finds himself a nice Indian girl.

Rahul talks it over with his sister who reveals she's pregnant! Not good.

So to keep disgrace from hitting the family Rahul starts meeting girls, but no one strikes his fancy.

One evening he goes out to a local bar playing some Bollywood films and gets picked up by a very pretty girl, Sue, played by Lisa Ray. Sue doesn't happen to look like her family is from India, so he assumes she's from Latin background. She comes from a poor family and isn't happy in her circumstances. She is being an escort for extra cash. She uses the classic lines on Rahul, "I can be anyone you want me to be."

He scolds her one-minute "You're not from India are you?" and confides his loss the next. The situation then becomes a bargaining tool. For the next little while she will be his "fiancé" and he will pay her. We soon find out that Sue is very good at getting what she wants. She gets more money; she gets nice clothes and even some pretty nice jewelry! Then comes meeting his family.

She strides up to his huge family home and we discover she has a heart to go with her tough negotiator's mind. Later, she tries to explain her background to Rahul, but he shuts her off.

Now comes some serious fun! She knows to call his mother Mama-ji, the common term of respect. Rahul is confused but he says nothing. Soon there is a request for more fun in the party. Sue starts to sing in Indian with a live band and this begins a great production number. Dancing and singing abound. The fun begins to rock and we can just about get up and boogie to the music. Rahul is of course stunned – Mama-ji is thrilled!

The whole family starts to fall for the new fiancé, and although we start to get the idea that although Sue dislikes the typical Indian male personality she is falling like a stone off a bridge for Rahul.

Throw in a cross-dressing chauffeur, played by (Ranjit Chowdhry) who is just hilarious and has his own musical numbers in the film and we start to watch the Indian world spoof itself to the nth degree! Hey, what a hoot! I don't remember Canadian films like THIS!!

When Rahul starts to question his love for Sue, the poop starts to fly into the fan. Will he be smart enough to win her back? She takes off and goes home, leaving everything he has bought for her and the money he gave her behind. What more does he want? It's the typical show of unending love! So he jumps in the limo and goes to her house... only to have the dad stop him. Eventually he finds her on the balcony and jumps up for a romantic, Pretty Woman-style proposal. She turns him down and disappears. We don't know what will happen but he gets in his limo for a while and then decides he has to go back for a second try. Except he finds out he's been hijacked by Sue and his chauffeur has disappeared!!

Mush and kisses all around. What a great laugh! Even if you've never seen any of the traditional films of Bollywood (India) that NEVER seem to change format, I believe you'll appreciate this film and the fun music and good performances. Direction and tempo are well done, nothing drags, and humour abounds!

You can also check out the website and listen to some of the music:
<http://www.bollywoodhollywoodmovie.com>

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

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Take A Hike

It's kind of a useless thing for AU students, but I thought you might like to know that today, October 8th, is International Walk to School Day. Probably most of us would have trouble walking to AU for the day, but it might be a good day to put the books down for a few minutes, throw on a light jacket and take a short walk around the neighbourhood if you can. After all, it can get easy to get too bogged down between studies, work, and just vegging out in front of the tube to remember that there's still a whole world going on outside as well.

Plus we should remember that there's a correlation between education and fitness. So since you're getting educated, you might as well get a start on the fitness side of things as well.

Take A Hike, Take Two

The Province of Ontario has decisively slapped down the conservative government of the province, with the provincial liberals doubling their number of seats in the legislature. Apparently, the conservatives' cut-everything-under-the-sun strategy just didn't pay off in the long run for them, and I can't say that I'm terribly surprised.

The new Premier, Dalton McGuinty, not only has the difficulty of a funny name (though perhaps no more so than Ernie Eves), lining him up for guest appearances on "*This Hour has 22 Minutes*", but also has to deal with a deficit the extent of which is still unknown. Some estimates place it as high as 4.5 billion dollars. That's a heck of a deficit to be looking at in a province that has legislated deficit budgets as being illegal.

On the bright side, one of the promises made by Premier McGuinty is a tuition freeze, thus halting the disastrous experiment of tuition deregulation in at least one of the provinces it has been tried in. Now if only the BC "Liberals" would follow suit.

The More Things Change

Alberta Learning has released a glowing report about its own achievements over the past three years. The highlights for post-secondary include the employment rate of post-graduates being at 93.6%, 53 million through the Alberta Heritage Scholarships and other bursaries, increasing grants to post-secondary institutions up to \$47 million, \$5 million for apprenticeship and technical training access funds, and \$31 million to a building for research.

In addition, they've provided 89 million in student loans, and 66 million in debt reduction. Now, let's take a look at these...

The employment rate of post-graduates at 93.6% sounds impressive, doesn't it? Of course, the unemployment rate of the province is only 5.1%, or a provincial wide employment rate of 94.9%.

\$53 million through the Alberta Heritage Scholarships foundation. Of course, these scholarships haven't gone up at all to keep up with tuition. No, the government has simply needed to put more money into them to handle the growing Alberta population.

Increasing grants to post-secondary institutions to \$47 million tells us nothing without us knowing what the grants were at before – and we know from university budget figures that the total funding for universities has gone up less than inflation.

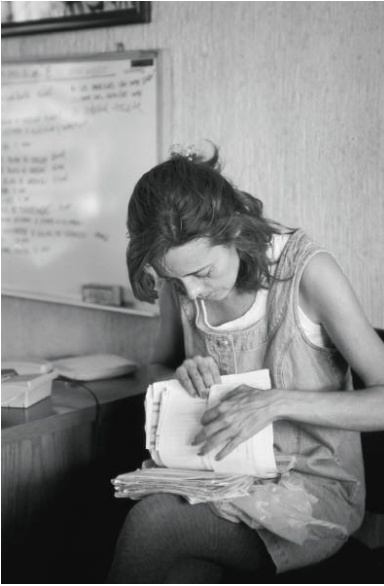
The five million for an access fund is a good thing, but since it is focussed on apprenticeship and technical training, university and college students – the ones who overwhelmingly become the entrepreneurs that create small business and drive the economy – don't see much benefit.

As for the \$31 million for a research facility, I still have difficulties understanding how spending money on a building can be called education. Especially with institutions like Athabasca University, which go a long way toward demonstrating how the building really isn't needed.

Which leaves us with more student debt, and more student debt relief. Unfortunately, the amounts aren't even equal, so do not cancel out and we're left with more student debt. However, even if they were equal, there's still the problem of all the overhead money that goes into processing both the applications for student loans and the processes by which debt relief is granted. It would seem a far more efficient use of the money to simply lower tuition for all students.

LEARNING ENGLISH: FOREIGN STUDENTS SHORTCHANGED BY UNDERQUALIFIED TEACHERS

Jana Thurova



Since my high school years in Slovakia, and throughout my university studies, I have been dreaming of becoming an English teacher. My objective is to educate children, adolescents and adults whose native language is not English.

Though there are many people in Slovakia who speak English – they are still in the minority. Often, expertise is lacking and those who have just a little knowledge about foreign languages and a little practice in speaking them are employed as teachers. The deficiency of teachers who are real professionals is due to a bad economic situation in the Slovak school system. Many schools are so under-funded that they close each year around November, because they do not have enough money to heat the classrooms.

Further, those who graduate from a college or university as high school or elementary school teachers are not willing to teach because their job is not appreciated and valued enough. The value of their salaries is not equal to their education. Even if a school had the funding to hire qualified language teachers, they would have a very difficult time finding a qualified teacher who is willing to take the job.

The school administrations have no other choice but to hire fresh high school graduates or college students who speak some English, German or any other language demanded by students. Many times these so-called teachers are ex-babysitters or ex-housekeepers who spent some time abroad. But still, principals assume their language skills are probably very good, which can produce an illusion of competence for students who have little familiarity with a second language.

These positions would be better described as a substitute for teachers, and one reason for these lay-personas being hired by the school system is money. Hiring helpers instead of trained professionals means that the school can operate at a profit, while students are unaware that they are not being instructed by experts.

These untrained language teachers are far from having the experience in using and teaching the language. Their contribution to educating children is short of knowledge in syntax, morphology and literature, not to mention their marginal pedagogical skills.

Parents may sometimes wonder how come their children demonstrate a poor level of skill in communicating in a foreign language. Those children have a hard time expressing themselves and it's difficult for them to compete with children educated by professionals.

Obviously teachers should be able to do a great job without any help in printed form, but better textbooks, dictionaries and magazines for illustrating a language represent no harm either for teachers or students. However, the textbooks and magazines available in Slovak elementary and high schools are based mostly on British English. Words, phrases, even grammar have specific features different from, for example, American English. There is also a significant difference in the pronunciation of British and American English. Students mainly in elementary and high schools are barely aware that the English language has various deviations. They are taught English one way. The differences between the American and British English, or even Australian English, are hardly presented at class.

I personally prefer American English. Americans speak more smoothly than the British do. This English is softer and I feel good listening to it. The British English sounds hard - it's more like the German language in

some ways, but both of them have the same basis and I grow every time I speak in English, read in English or listen anything that sounds like English.

In Slovakia, I was one of those lucky ones who had an opportunity to receive the basics in English even before the Velvet Revolution in 1989 - the fall of Communism. My teacher had been working with me and my classmates during our elementary school years and later we all appeared in his class at high school.

I enjoyed English a lot. A regular English class in Slovak schools doesn't differ much from any other class over the world. The textbooks help students and teachers to provide the best possible information about life in English speaking countries. Video and audio tapes introduce students to live speech between British students, people in public, in libraries, and stores, etc.

Slovak students learn about the biggest and the most famous cities in Great Britain and the USA. We are even wrapped up in facts about population, climate and the school systems in English speaking countries. College students have a better knowledge about phonetics, phonology, syntax and literature. They are also introduced into the depth of grammar.

From my perspective, too much "science" is not very practical for future teachers. Young college graduates know a lot about subjects and objects in sentences, so they can explain why and how to use some lexicology methods, but they are lacking in vocabulary. Before I left to come to the USA, I had completed three years of my university degree and I had earned over 90 credits in English.

Despite of that, I still have to admit that the level of my vocabulary could have been compared to that of a high school student. One important thing in teaching a foreign language in Slovakia that's missing is talking and expressing what you think and what you know.

I was pretty confident coming to America and talking to the Americans. But I experienced shock right away when I couldn't understand what the cashier said to me. I felt like a beginner.

Since then I have had many opportunities to improve my language skills. Television, radio, magazines, books not to mention communicating with the Americans and finally studying - all that means an inexpressible help in reaching my goal of becoming an English teacher.



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.

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: 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

Award Name: Athabasca University Distinguished Alumni Award

Value: \$500

Program: All AU Programs

Basic Criteria: Graduate of an AU Program

Application Deadline: October 31, 2003

Award Name: Athabasca University Access Fund for Students with Disabilities

Value: \$Varies

Program: All AU Programs

Basic Criteria: See web page

Application Deadline: October 31, 2003

Award Name: Athabasca University Mildred Rowe Weston Memorial Scholarship

Value: \$600

Program: All AU Programs

Basic Criteria: First time student to any post secondary program

Application Deadline: October 31, 2003

Award Name: Jason Lang Scholarship

Value: \$1,000

Program: All AU Diploma and Degree Programs

Basic Criteria: Full-time Resident of Alberta

Application Deadline: October 31, 2003

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.



CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **ADETA Fall Workshop** - "Keeping it Simple for the Learner" - October 1 - Olds, Alberta. Details: <http://www.adeta.org/>
- **AU Learning Services Conference** - October 3 & 4, 2003 - Edmonton, Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. Details: <http://intra.athabasca.ca/lso/LS.php?task=conference>
- **NAWeb 2003** - Ninth Annual Conference on Web-based Teaching and Learning - October 18-21 - Fredericton, New Brunswick. Details: <http://naweb.unb.ca>
- **EDUCAUSE 2003** - November 4-7 - Anaheim, California. Details: <http://www.educause.edu/conference/annual/2003/>.
- **ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2003** - December 3-5 - Berlin, Germany. Details: http://www.global-learning.de/g-learn/cgi-bin/gl_userpage.cgi?StructuredContent=m1301

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>

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

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.

AUSU SPORTS CLUB

I am thinking about starting an Athabasca University sports club where students interested in sports can talk with each other, keep up to date on what is going on in the world of sports, learn new things about sports and possibly organize groups of students across the country to play sports. The club will cover the sports that are of interest to its members, which could be any and all sports from gymnastics to hockey. If you would be interested in joining a sports club please let me know by e-mailing your name and the sport(s) you are interested in to studentsports@hotmail.com. In order to start a club I also need one more executive member. The duties to be performed by this person will be worked out between the two of us. If you are interested in this position please e-mail a short explanation of why you want to help run the club to studentsports@hotmail.com.

Shannon Maguire

EDMONTON COFFEE GROUP:

Hello fellow Edmonton AU students!

We will be holding our next coffee group at 7:30 PM on Wednesday October 8th at the (107th street 104th Ave) Tim Hortons. We hope to see you there! Contact rwagner@ausu.org for more information.

THE VOICE

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