

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 42
October 15, 2003

THE ABSURDITY OF CAMPING

Fall brings an end to summer adventures

KARA-OK-ING

Revisiting the past

FIRST YEAR LAW BANQUET

Adventures in formal wear

ANNUAL READER SURVEY

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THE VOICE

Oct 15, 2003

Volume 11, Issue 42

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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.

It is not sufficient to see and to know the beauty of a work. We must feel and be affected by it.

-- Voltaire

THE VOICE

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

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ANNUAL READER SURVEY

This week The Voice launches its first Annual Reader Survey in years!

Your input is vital to help the Voice maintain relevance to its diverse audience, and it is also necessary in order to show that The Voice is read and enjoyed by AU students.

At this time, we have no demographics on Voice readers. In order to ensure that the Voice continues to be funded as a priority project of the students' union, we need to show that reader interest is high, and that The Voice is a valuable use of your students' union fees.

And if you happen to feel that this magazine is not money well spent, tell us why!

I am hoping that every Voice reader - be they AU students, staff or faculty - will take a moment to at least fill out the first page of the survey, so that we can establish our reader numbers and demographics. I have not made any field on the survey required, so you can skip items if you like (though you have to go through to the last page in order to submit your form, and you must fill out the first page to be entered in the contest). Please feel free to be as verbose as you like - there is no such thing as too much feedback! The survey will run until November 30th.

Because there are many questions on this survey, I've arranged for some terrific prizes to be given to the first 12 entrants drawn from the names of all respondents.

The first two names drawn will win a fabulous Voice fleece jacket, and the next 10 will receive Voice logo mugs. These soft, thick fleece zip jackets are special Voice purchases, and they only come in the moss-green/navy combination, with a navy embroidered Voice logo. They come in roomy small, medium and large sizes. The mugs are dishwasher safe white ceramic, with the Voice logo on both sides. Sorry, Voice writers are not eligible for prizes, and only AU students may win the jackets.

Click here to fill out the survey: <http://www.ausu.org/voice/annualsurvey/>



EDITORIAL PAGES

VOICE WRITING CONTEST CLOSES MIDNIGHT, OCTOBER 15, MST

Thank you to the many AU students who took the time to enter their works into the first Voice Writing Contest. The entries will be sent to the judging panel this week, and winners should be announced by The 10th of November. The quality of submissions has been very high, and I'm as excited as anyone to find out who will win! Good luck to all those who entered!

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!

THIS TIME IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHARE

Hey Voice readers. You'll have noticed from the cover of The Voice that are running an Annual Reader Survey for the next several weeks. I want to take this time to urge you all to fill the survey out, if you ever read The Voice at all.

Print publications know what their circulation is, because they know how many copies they print. With an online publication, it is almost impossible to tell how many readers we have! This makes it difficult to obtain advertising, and even to negotiate funding for the paper. Our only ongoing indicator is the Voice subscription list, and I know we have a lot of readers who do not subscribe!

So, it is vital that all of our readers fill out this survey. It is quite long, but it's also easy to fill out. One person who tested the survey for me indicated that it only took her about 6 minutes. But if you simply do not have the time, then at least fill out the first page, and then cycle through the rest so you can submit your survey and have your name entered as a Voice reader. You do not have to divulge any personal information beyond your name and email address, if you so choose.

As long as you fill out the first page, you will be entered in the contest - though I would prefer if you filled out the whole thing! AU staff and faculty, as well as Voice writers, are also asked to fill out the survey, but I must inform you that the Voice jackets can only be given away to AU students. Anyone can win a mug though! These items will also be available for sale, shortly, through the Voice website.

If anyone has any trouble at all with the survey, please contact me at voice@ausu.org. I can't wait to hear what you all think! Please give as much information as you can. Click here to fill out the survey: <http://www.ausu.org/voice/annualsurvey/>

FICTION WANTED

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

ATTENTION BUDDING WRITERS

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

The absurdity of camping

Barbara Godin

As the camping season draws to a close for another year, I feel somewhat saddened. I will miss those days spent getting in touch with nature. I will definitely miss those hot humid days with no air conditioning, watching the bugs swarming around my food and ultimately dropping into my cool glass of wine. I will yearn for those morning lineups at the shower, waiting to get into a stall that will be peppered with unknown items, which I am glad I don't have to clean.

"Camping breakfasts" are the best. Nothing compares to greasy fried eggs and bacon, done over a propane stove. Morning coffee is a necessity - fresh brewed, with water from a questionable source. I will undeniably miss those mornings.

Moreover, during the long winter I will yearn for those leisurely days spent, biking, hiking, swimming all the while trying wholeheartedly to keep ahead of the bugs. Slathers of greasy sun screen is a necessity, thus attracting additional swarms of deer flies, regular flies and any other variety of winged varmint. Therefore requiring a further coating of bug repellent, containing deet, which however, can only safely be applied every six hours, but the varmints are back within three. Oh well.

What can be more enjoyable than a barbeque? Camping and barbeques go together - juicy red sirloin steaks grilling on an open flame. So what if they've found carcinogens in the smoke from barbeques. If the flames get too high, we just lift the steaks off the grill and wave them around until the blaze subsides - or simply beat them down with a wooden spatula. Even charred black meat tastes good after a day outdoors.

Camping is a family affair, so of course we have to take our dog and cat. Ahhh, nothing like the smell of a wet dog inside a hot, stifling tent trailer. Of course Boots, being the attack cat that she is, spends her days batting at bugs, and throwing cat litter all over the trailer. Her evenings include running from one end of the trailer to the other chasing bugs that only she can see and jumping on whatever or whoever is in her pathway. Our evenings are joyously spent coughing and gagging as the smoke from neighbouring campfires fills our trailer.

Sadly I guess I'll just have to adapt to spending my evenings in front of the warm cozy fireplace, sipping wine and munching on crackers and cheese, until camping seasons begins again.

Barbara is working towards her B.A. in English. She enjoys writing in her spare time. Barbara is located in London Ontario and can be reached at barbgodin@sympatico.ca.

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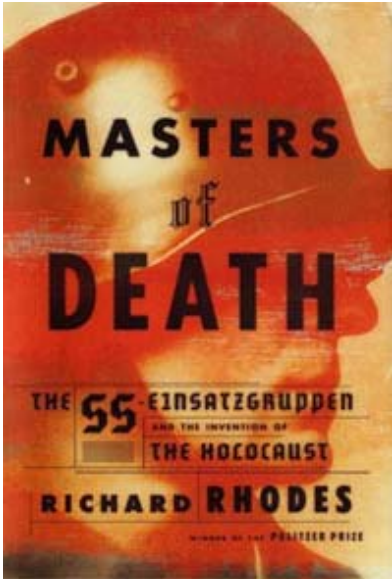
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MASTERS OF DEATH: The SS-Einsatzgruppen and the Invention of the Holocaust

Reviewed by John Buhler



by Richard Rhodes
Vintage Books
335 pp., \$22.95

While most people do not dispute Adolf Hitler's involvement in the Holocaust, historians have yet to discover his signature on any document authorizing "the Final Solution." It is, therefore, very significant that in *Masters of Death: The SS-Einsatzgruppen and the Invention of the Holocaust*, Richard Rhodes suggests approximate dates around which Hitler would have ordered the elimination of Jews in Eastern Europe, and later in Western Europe. The path that eventually led to the Holocaust, however, took many twists and turns.

In the book, Rhodes gives the *Einsatzgruppen* - the mobile firing squads that followed the Nazi invasion of Eastern Europe - the central role in the Nazi plan to annihilate Germany's "enemies." These killing units were meant to help realize the Nazi dream of *Lebensraum*, in which the east would be depopulated of *Untermenschen* ("subhumans"), and colonized by Germans. By tracking the operations of the *SS-Einsatzgruppen*, Rhodes presents the evolution of the Holocaust in brutal detail. With systematized shootings and burials on a massive scale, the *Einsatzgruppen* (or "task forces") murdered with ruthless efficiency. "The primary means of mass murder the Nazis deployed during the Second World War was firearms and lethal privation," according to Rhodes, who gives the shooting squads more importance than the gas chambers in implementing Nazi racial policy.

In July 1941, Rhodes suggests, Hitler enacted the initial phase of the Nazi's most notorious racial program, the Final Solution. Stalin had made a radio broadcast in which he ordered the formation of partisan units to fight the invading Germans. Hitler used the announcement as a pretense for acting upon Nazism's ideological anti-Semitism: branding the Jews as partisans, Hitler authorized the genocide of Eastern Europe's Jews.

What follows, then, are disturbing descriptions of mass executions perpetrated by the *Einsatzgruppen*. Although these horrors illustrate the scope of this organized program of mass murder, the systematic violence and the overwhelming number of victims eventually become numbing.

At the outset of its murderous program, however, "the SS was not yet ready to risk killing women and children" (p.45), but within a very short time, even Jewish babies would not be spared. Eventually, facilities were needed to treat SS members "who have broken down while executing women and children" (p.167). Since Nazi researchers were already experimenting with carbon monoxide gas in the killing of handicapped Germans, in an effort to reduce the stress on the firing squads, Heinrich Himmler began to consider how this gassing technology could be applied to the genocide of Eastern Europe's Jews. Gas vans were used for this purpose, but in September 1941, a powdered insecticide called *Zyklon* was tested on Soviet prisoners of war at Auschwitz.

According to Rhodes, Hitler's authorization of the second phase of the Final Solution occurred sometime between the 7th and 14th of December 1941, after the United States declared war on Germany. For, as Hitler had stated in 1939, "If the Jewish international financiers inside and outside Europe succeed in plunging the nations into another world war the result will be . . . the extermination of the Jewish race" (p.230). To Hitler, Rhodes argues, the entry of the United States into the conflict represented the beginning of a "world war" and provided the catalyst for the elimination of Western Europe's Jews. Afterward, large-scale transports from the west carried Jews to death camps in Nazi-occupied Poland to be executed and disposed of with industrial efficiency.

Rhodes also enters into the debate between historians Christopher Browning and Daniel Goldhagen. Both Browning's *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, and Goldhagen's *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* deal with the history of the *SS-Einsatzgruppen*. These two books aroused controversy over the question of ordinary Germans' willingness to participate in the mass killings, the issue of German anti-Semitism, and the scholarly use and misuse of historical documents. Although historians have largely discredited Goldhagen's work, Rhodes seems to favour some of the latter's arguments, leading one to wonder if Rhodes is simply uncomfortable with Browning's disturbing suggestion that "ordinary men" could have been induced to commit horrific crimes on the scale perpetrated by the *Einsatzgruppen*.

Masters of Death includes a short biography of the main personality behind the Holocaust, Adolf Hitler. According to the author, the brutal physical abuse that the young Adolf received from his father had a profoundly damaging effect upon the future dictator's character. This explains the violence perpetrated by the Nazi regime, Rhodes seems to suggest, and to support his argument, he presents a theoretical model that describes "violent socialization" to illustrate how a violent personality develops (pp. 21-27). There is, however, a lack of "evidence that Hitler was personally violent" (p.28), so it is not clear that he actually completed the process of violent socialization described in the book. Similarly, when Rhodes applies the same model to members of the *Einsatzgruppen*, he relies upon generalizations about violence in German society in the first half of the twentieth century and about the brutality in various militant organizations. Yet, to prove his argument, it would have been more relevant to present detailed evidence from individual biographies. As a result, the psychological motivations of the individual *SS-Einsatzgruppen* members appear to be overly simplified, and the application of violent socialization theory seems to offer, at best, only an incomplete explanation for the Holocaust.

Finally, although Richard Rhodes' apparent support for Daniel Goldhagen, and the inclusion of the violent socialization model to explain how the Holocaust happened, may be disappointing aspects of this book, they do not outweigh its overall value. In *Masters of Death*, Rhodes presents a clear synopsis of the Holocaust, and in particular, the operations of the *Einsatzgruppen*. Even though the graphic descriptions of events may be unpleasant to read, the lessons of the Holocaust should make us all uncomfortable. Indeed, Canada's own history of racism served as a model for Nazi *Lebensraum*. As Hitler stated: "I don't see why a German who eats a piece of bread should torment himself with the idea that the soil that produces this bread has been won by the sword. When we eat wheat from Canada, we don't think about the despoiled Indians" (p.93).

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The Mozart Scholar

Stephen Murgatroyd

THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE

In the end, it didn't take long, after all. Just a few still minutes. Then it was all over. The game was ended and the masquerade exposed.

He always knew it would be. Six years was a good run to pretend to be an intellectual. A person with a mind, a passion and an understanding. Writing, speaking, conferring, engaging, debating, questioning, gossiping, presenting. All of the tricks of the trade.

For a time he was the doyen of the trade. The "man" of the moment. The guru of musicology. The man who had discovered not just one, but two Mozart symphonies in an attic in Vienna. The man who had restored, nurtured and authenticated them. The man who had all of the world's attention as the greatest Mozart scholar and detective of all time. His account of the find, his story of the reconstruction of the decaying manuscripts, his portrayal of the diligence and depth of research to ensure that they were real had reached every music student in the world - all was still possible, provided we engaged in scholarship and study.

The first performance of the symphonies - both in one day, each with a different orchestra and a different conductor - had been variously described as "the greatest musical event of the century", "a triumph of music, research and rehearsal" and as "one of the most intriguing days in the life of any musician". Two Mozart symphonies yet unread, unplayed and unknown, all played on one day.

The recordings sold well, and a small percentage of the revenues had accrued to him. But his big return came from the film rights for a manuscript he had written which fictionalised both the writing of the symphonies in the last six months of Mozart's life and his discovery of the manuscripts and then his work to bring them to life. Not only did the sale of this film script make him wealthy, it made him a celebrity and a person in demand.

In a single year, he made seven documentary program appearances, including three full length accounts of his work. He was variously portrayed as a scholar who stumbled on an amazing find; an entrepreneur-academic who was always searching for the "big chance", who finally found what he was looking for; and even as someone with a mystical connection to a mysterious voice of Mozart, the voice directing him to the manuscripts.

One of these documentaries, shown on the SouthBank Show in Britain and repeated in Canada and the US on PBS, portrayed him as a brilliant scholar, relentlessly pursuing a hunch and then rigorously researching a find. It was a powerful portrayal of scholarship at its best - a documentary which needed to be made about the funding of the arts within Universities, then as now massively under threat. "His work was proof", the interlocutor intoned, "that investment in scholarship in the arts produced results that benefited community, culture and common understanding".

Whatever the truth of the claim, this documentary was one of the factors that led to the offer of his tenured Professorship at Kings College, Cambridge - a considerable step up from his junior lectureship at Keele. Named the Lord Stevas Chair of Music, after a recent peer who took to drink, music and vitriol, his tenure began with a triumphant lecture *on Bach, Mozart and Britten and Other Popular Music - Themes Across an Age* in which he showed how six common tunes, that were also to be found in the music of Pearl Jam, Led Zeppelin, Blue Rodeo and k.d.lang, were also found across the great masters and used extensively by Bach, Mozart and Benjamin Britten. The BBC carried the lecture live, while several other broadcasters bought rights. Again he made money.

What surprised him about Cambridge was the absence of suspicion and the pursuit of glee. As he remarked to one of the women who attached herself to him almost as soon as his Gladstone bag had been deposited with the proctors for delivery to his room, "its as if the Cambridge glee club is delighted to have found a new performer for their weekly ritual glee club meeting!". For performer he was expected to be.

The Master of Kings College, Lord McLeith, invited him to dinners, buffets, soirée's, chats and other meetings with worthies, donors, significant alumni and others. So frequent were these invitations they affected his ability to meet with students. He was listed as available for no more than two hours each week for student time, and only for students with exceptional abilities in musicology. There were few such students, and even fewer specializing in his own areas of expertise.

It was at one of these meetings arranged by the Master that seeds of doubt about the Mozart symphonies began to be planted. Michael Meckmore, once a leading programmer at from a well known company, and now a self made billionaire who had developed expert systems which run on computers and solve problems faster than human experts can, suggested that it would not be difficult to program an expert system with all the works of Mozart now on compact disc and ask the expert computer system to use the patterns of musical writing it discerns to develop new Mozart music - string quartets, symphonies, chamber music, overtures - provided that a basic theme for a tune or set of tunes were provided. Meckmore called it "neural networking" - a kind of systematic look for how Mozart created patterns within his scores and then an attempt to replicate this way of thinking for a new melody. The Master looked sceptically at Meckmore and said dryly "I wonder if the machine could do the same with the performance of certain horses at Redcar, in which case we would all be better off.." - a line which secured the dismissal, for the time being at least, of Meckmore's more serious proposal.

Unfortunately for the newly inaugurated Stevas Professor of Music, the billionaire software developer did not leave his idle thought at the dinner table. In fact, he began work on the idea almost immediately, sensing commercial success in providing millions with the ability to compose like Mozart, Bach, Britten, Pearl Jam or anyone, provided they rigorously followed the requirements of entering all known work by the chosen composer into the system. Within a week of the ill-fortuned dinner, sixteen people were working on prototypic software, aiming at a release of "Just Like Mozart" and "Just Like Brahms" and "Just Like Purcell" in time for Christmas.

Eight weeks after the Masters dinner with Meckmore, the Stevas Professor of Music was invited to attend a performance of Mozart's most recent symphony, written just a week before hand. The Orchestra Romantique under the baton of Maestro Bernard Hublik was to perform. All the press had been invited. One from *The Guardian* in particular had started to detect a theme - the idea that computer technology may help look at the similarity and dissimilarity between well-known Mozart works and the two new symphonies recently unearthed by the doyen of Cambridge music circles and well known profiteer of culture. The hawk was off the sleeve and searching for prey.

The performance of Meckmore's Mozart symphony was a gala. Everyone who was everyone, and some who were no one but knew one, was there. Minor royals mixed with major scholars; reporters with debutantes; movie stars with maharaja's. The music was well performed and stylishly conducted, but most important, at least for the future of our Professor, was the short lecture given at the end of the performance by Meckmore.

The gist of the lecture was simple. Expert systems were now so sophisticated that they could take a melody and "Mozart" it but, more intriguingly, they could take a Mozart piece and locate it in the cannon of Mozart's work. By looking at the underlying patterns of the music - how its counterpoint was written, the styling of the orchestration, the phrasing of the instrumentation and so on - the "expert system" could tell which piece of Mozart's was written with the same or similar patterns and which were "most like" and "least like" the particular work.

No one paid much attention, except our hawk from the Guardian. As questions were asked, he stood, poised and erect, and began.

"Is what you are saying, Mr. Meckmore, that we could take the two recently found symphonies of Mozart and work out just where they came from in terms of the sequence of Mozart's work?"

"Yes, that is what I am saying..we could accurately link the three symphonies to works he composed at roughly the same time."

"Would this also confirm that the works are Mozart's own and not written by a student of his or a profiteer?", asked the reporter.

"My understanding," offered Meckmore, "is that the works have already been authenticated by scholarship unmatched in the history of musicology and that the issue is not whether Mozart wrote these symphonies, but when and under what circumstances, is that not correct Professor?" he asked, turning the attention of some six hundred people towards our scholar.

"I believe that Mr. Meckmore is essentially right, except for one thing. The Mozart manuscripts from Vienna are dated. We know exactly when the scores were written - June 1733 through to October of that same year."

"I only observe, Professor, that dates are one source of information...most burdens of proof require confirmation by at least two other sources", said Meckmore.

"So, its not yet established when these were written, or even by whom ?" asked our hawk, swirling above his prey.

"Look. We will run the new symphonies through our system and report on our findings, will that satisfy you ?" asked Meckmore of the journalist, who simply nodded without smiling, though those around him suggested later that his eyes shone and teeth glistened.

The Professor was troubled. Deeply troubled. This simple interchange - which took less than a minute - was the beginning of an unravelling which would damage him and one other. Damage that would be irreparable. Damage that would challenge many, leave scars and burn at the heart of academic integrity.

First thoughts were of refusing to co-operate. Then he realised that his co-operation was not being requested - the symphonies were publicly available, all that had to happen was that the recordings were fed into a computer. His second thought was to prepare his escape. He ensured that funds were moved into accounts abroad that were not subject to scrutiny, he hired one of the most expert lawyers on fraud and contract law he could find and briefed her to expect his urgent need of her services. He purchased a retreat home in Mexico and waited for the storm.

He did not have to wait long. Seven weeks later, a story appeared in The Guardian outlining the findings of the Meckmore project. The truth was out - the symphonies were actually pieced together sequences of existing Mozart music, orchestrated in the style of the last two known and well played symphonies. Not a single sequence of ten bars or more of the symphonies were new, they were directly taken from existing string quartets, oboe concerto's, harpsichord works and opera's and patched together with sophisticated linkages. The author of the piece, who cited "informed sources", observed that "while clever, the fraudulent claims about these works will raise questions about the legality of certain claims made with respect to the symphonies and may lead to serious questions about the legitimacy of the appointment of the Stevas Professor of Music".

At a press conference later that day, Meckmore confirmed the story in the Guardian and went further - he produced the scores for each symphony showing exactly where the elements had come from and used this as proof of the veracity of his expert systems.

His departure from Cambridge took place quietly on the same day the story first appeared in the press. By the time Lord McLeith called upon his rooms, he was flying at 37,000 feet en route to Mexico. His lawyer, briefed on the story in an early morning phone call, made clear that her client "had nothing to say about allegations and innuendo contained in press speculation based on unnamed sources about something that happened two hundred years ago" - it was a spirited statement, which showed her at her best. She was buying time. Two days later, she quietly settled his

affairs with the University, from which he had now resigned, and began discussions with the record companies and others.

Record sales soared. In the month after the revelation sales exceeded those of any CD in any of the charts - it actually was the number one best selling CD in the world for six weeks. His royalties soared, and the record companies approached him with a suggestion for doing a similar project on Bach or Beethoven or indeed, anyone he would care to chose. But he had had enough. He made another TV documentary, this time in America, on how easy it was to fool the establishment, both academic and musical, and how his lectures were also pieced together from various lectures published by other people. "It is interesting to note," he states, "that one can rise to the top of a profession on the basis of saying or doing nothing new, but doing nothing new well". It was a phrase that earned him the praise of the right wing critics of Universities, scholarship, arts institutions and grant giving agencies and led to his new career as a critic of fraud in University research and academic employment and promotion.

Five years after these events, at a meeting of the Council of the Universities of Britain, Lord McLeith, the retiring Master of Kings College Cambraidge, said this:

"Some of you may recall an incident some years ago concerning the misrepresentation of an individual's own musical tapestry as the work of Mozart - an incident that caused some embarrassment to my own College at the time. I am happy to report to you today that, while we continue to have grave concerns over the incident, a new Centre for the Study of Music and History has been established, following the grant of money and other supports, from the late Lord Meckmore's Trust."

In the end, there were no losers. Mozart's works were more widely listened to and his music more extensively purchased than before. Despite a temporary issue of credibility, the College gained a new Department and five endowed Chairs. The record companies secured record level sales for a classical CD, and the two symphonies are now part of the repertoire of some orchestras, who run a fund raising competition to see how many works the audience can spot. Our hero is now a Professor of Sociology at the University of South Carolina, where he teaches on the sociology of fraud within Universities - a position he holds, despite never having obtained any qualifications in sociology, which, in a sense, makes his point.

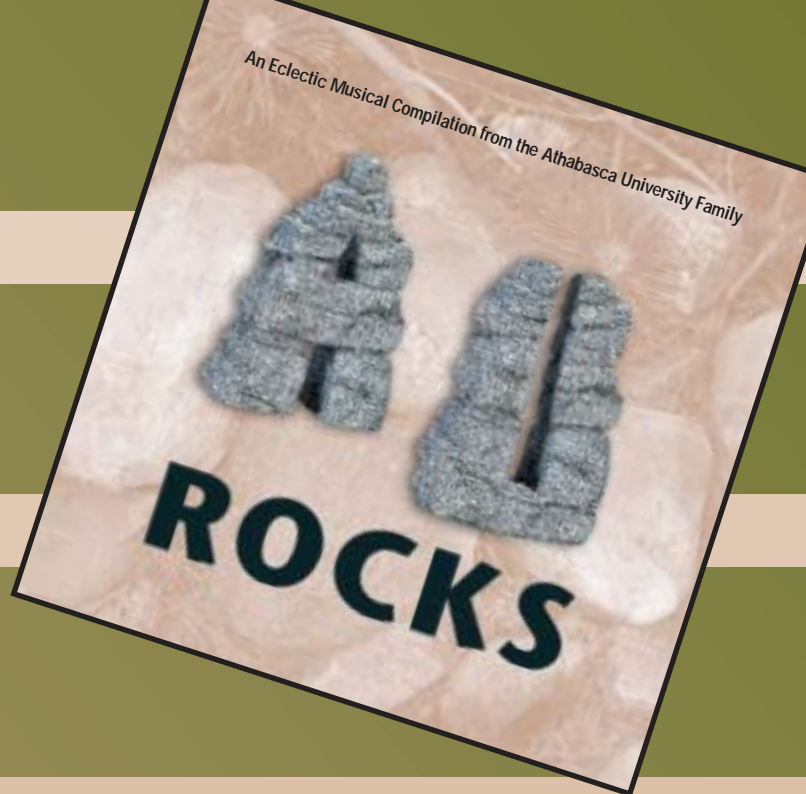
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Andy deLorme

AU staffer, Andy, writes and performs gentle folk ballads accented by subtle harmonies and intricate harmonica lines.
Contact: andyd@athabascau.ca



Erin Sullivan

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*

Dave Brundage

Confluence, the versatile Edmonton-based group builds upon the guitar, songwriting and singing talent of English department stalwart Dave Brundage.
Contact: hall4@telusplanet.net, http://www.confluencemusic.ca



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

Thank you to the Athabasca University musicians who conceived and developed this project.

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FIRST-YEAR LAW BANQUET

Wayne E. Benedict



On October 4th I went shopping for some clothes in which I would more readily fit in with a law school crowd. After decades of wearing work boots and coveralls there is no way that I could jump right into a three-piece suit and feel even moderately comfortable. So, my wife led me to Work Wear World and had me try on "casual" wear. Although the corduroy shirt felt as though it would slowly strangle me, it was otherwise comfortable; as were the pants and shoes. I didn't complain about the tie, but inwardly I was scrunching up my nose...

Thursday October 9th was the first-year law students' banquet. It is an annual function with over eighty years of history behind it at the University Of Saskatchewan College Of Law. After briefing cases all day, I swung by to

pick up the baby-sitter and headed home to get into my new duds—Linda was already looking beautiful in her new dress. I was feeling great as I donned the apparel until the point I was ready to put on the tie. I'm embarrassed to admit that in 38 years of life, I have never learned to tie a tie. In my youthful career as a door-to-door vacuum salesman I wore a suit and tie, but I had my father tie it for me and would repeatedly loosen and tighten the same knot day after day. On the day of the banquet, that option was not open to me, as my father now lives two provinces away. Not knowing anyone else in Saskatoon who could tie my tie, I realized that the task would fall to me. It's not as if I didn't have any foresight with regard to the dilemma, as I had picked up a small tie-tying direction card from a suit-store days before; unfortunately I hadn't set aside the time to practice before the big night.

It wasn't long before the confidence that I had initially felt when pulling the tie from its hanger was long gone. While grasping the two ends of the tie and staring at the cardboard cartoon directions I soon felt the blood rushing to my head in that familiar explosion of frustration. Until that day, I didn't know that anyone could actually draw pictures in a foreign language, but there it was. The progressive cartoons looked easy enough until I tried to emulate them. One time I would end up wrestling with a silk snake, coiled at my throat and ready to strike; the next time I would fashion a perfect noose with which I felt more and more like hanging myself from the towel-rack. Soon Linda got into the act, but she had no success either. After about twenty minutes, and just before I gave up and went without it, I managed to twist it into something resembling the picture on the card. The knot was the size of a baseball, but with much manipulation I managed to minimize, shape, and configure it into a passable accoutrement.

We had a great time at the first-year banquet. The food was great. There were lots of toasts: from the upper-years to the first-years; from the first-years to the upper-years; from the upper-years to the faculty; from the faculty to the first-years... Well you get the picture. There were legal guest speakers and the Dean of the College of Law announced and presented entrance scholarships to numerous first-year students. The best part of the evening was spending quality time with my wife, and talking to fellow students and their partners about issues other than the law. I couldn't help but notice that the knot in my tie was markedly larger than those of my classmates; I guess I have a way to go in learning to dress like a lawyer. Then again, before I left BC my good friend Dave Veniot predicted that I would come back from law school in Saskatchewan looking like Matlock in my rumpled, ill-fitting suit. He may be right in that regard, but I won't be arriving in the crop-duster biplane that he described!



Dear Sandra,

My fiancé wants to have our wedding at a lake resort and have the ceremony at a nearby botanical gardens, with about 75 guests. My parents are pressuring us to have the wedding in my home town, at the church and complete with 500 guests. I am torn between both pleasing my fiancé and my parents. I can see both their points of views, but don't know how to get them to compromise. Help me before I call the whole thing off and run to Vegas!!

Saskatchewan Bride

Dear Saskatchewan Bride,

Weddings never really turn out to be “yours”, do they? You don't mention what YOU want! It's your wedding so it really should be a little of what you both want, not what your parents want, even though they are probably paying for it.

Option #1 – Do what you want. You only get married once (usually) and you should make it yours. Your wedding day is supposed to be one of the most memorable days in your life so take charge and tell your parents YOU TWO will choose the location, date and time because it's YOUR day. Give your parents other “decisions” such as catering, entertainment (if you really trust them and don't mind doing the polka), or decorations. Ask them to work with you and support your decision.

Option #2 – Give in to your parents and have them plan the whole wedding and then spend the rest of your life regretting that you never got married your way. THEN, when your daughter gets married you can guilt her into the dream wedding of your choosing, years later the cycle will continue as she does the same to your granddaughter.

Option #3 – Run away to Vegas. Use the money you had allotted for your wedding to have a really awesome honeymoon and put a down payment on a house.

Ok, 2 & 3 aren't sounding as great as Option #1 are they? If you go with #2 you start a horrible chain of unhappiness and if you go with #3 you won't get to show off the best dress you've ever worn and comb out a hairdo that takes at least 2 to 3 hours to put in AND take out. Option #1 is my suggestion.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

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

Primetime Update

Week of October 17, 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, Chandler ruined a little boy's life, Phoebe didn't take any of her brother's triplets, and Ross finally broke down and was honest with Joey. This week...well...

Ross admires his sister's spray-on tan so much that he chooses to get one himself, only it goes all wrong and by the end of the show he's 10 shades darker on the front but white as snow on the back. The image is so funny that Chandler has to trick Ross into taking a picture of himself.

Monica and Phoebe pair up in this episode in an attempt to avoid one of their old neighbors, Amanda, played by Jennifer Coolidge (also known as Stiffler's Mom), who is a fake British blonde who's dumber than a post and more arrogant than all get out. This disruption in life divulges to Monica that back when Phoebe was living with her, Phoebe tried to "cut her out," or have her far from friendship. In an angry moment, and in opposition to the duo's previous plan, Monica leaves Phoebe along at the coffee house with Amanda. When she follows her, Monica and Phoebe are forced to reconcile their differences and both agree that they're much happier with the other in their life. In the meantime, they've left Chandler alone in the apartment with Amanda, who claims she can dance, and shows him.

With the Rachel/Joey romance, they've gone on their first date and had a great time. So great in fact, it seems they can't stop kissing each other. When the next batter's up and Joey's trying to round the bases, we find that they can't comfortably go beyond the kissing. In an attempt to escape Amanda, Chandler visits the couple and after an honest discussion of Monica and Chandler's relationship, Rachel and Joey reveal that maybe, just maybe not for sure =), they're too good of friends to indulge in a sexual type of relationship.

Next week's episode is titled, "The one with the cake," and I can't imagine what fun that could bring.

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

Survivor: Pearl Islands

Last week we said goodbye to our loyal scout leader Lillian, as Darrah and her physical strength (not to mention nice body...(=...)) was spared. Drake remained in the lead, and Morgan remained far behind. This week, well, not so much.

The tide on Morgan's beach has been getting higher and higher, and this week it threatens breaking the barricade and flooding their camp. Luckily for them, it's an easy fix...this time. Andrew and Ryan O attempt to go fishing, but end up in the wrong spot, on the other side of the island.

At Drake's camp, we're finally exposed to the tribal divisions they've been experiencing. The line splits between Burton, Shawn, and Michelle on one side, and Christa, Trish, Sandra, and Rupert on the other, with Jon in the middle, however I'd tend to stick Jon with Rupert's bunch, just from some comments he's made and the point that the episode starts with an argument between he and Burton (or Shawn) over who does more work around the camp. We also see conflict between Christa and Burton/Shawn/Michelle, and provocative comments from Burton and Shawn, directed at Rupert (mostly regarding the dress, which he is still wearing). However, despite their rudeness, they have the nerve to ask Rupert to lose the next challenge and join them in voting out Christa, to which Rupert blatantly lies in agreement.

The reward challenge brings another (or first, in Morgan's case) piece of the tribe's treasure map, as well as the right to loot from the other tribe, and a sewing machine complete with supplies and materials for some new clothes. In order to win the tribe must retrieve 16 pieces of a puzzle (8 from under water and 8 from under sand) and complete the puzzle (skulls and bones) first. With an early lead due to Osten and Tijuana's struggling in the water, Drake wins their 6th challenge, and takes a lantern from the Morgan tribe.

In their seemingly endless search for their treasure, Drake finally discovers that they're standing on it and digs down to reveal an old chest filled with chocolate, canned food, a hammock, blankets, and a mosquito net, which all smell rotten. Some rejoice over the new additions to their supplies, however, the party poopers, like Jon, complain about how much it sucks. As if.

The immunity challenge brings a twist. A chess/checkers type game involving physical battles between the two tribes is one obviously dependant on strength. The Drake tribe, in an obvious attempt to lose, sits out Rupert and Burton, the strongest men on the island. They're easily overtaken, and Morgan finally wins a challenge, for immunity. AND, they've won the chance to steal on of the other tribe's members, until after the next challenge. Who? Rupert.

So on Drake we're left with Burton, Shawn and Michelle and possibly Jon, against Sandra, Trish, and Christa, also with the possibility of Jon. Rupert convinced his group they'd need to get rid of Burton, and Burton's group wants to get rid of Christa. So in a vote of 4 to 2 with one more unread, Burton was voted off the island. His comments divulged his arrogant attitude as he warned the challenges would no longer be guaranteed as they were when his was involved. Good riddance!

The highlights from next week involve a possible Morgan wiggling streak (as foretold by Andrew), Rupert's unknown betrayal of his tribe through the telling of tales, one castaway failing to follow through with the tribal strategy for an immunity challenge to which we'll see an anguishing finish, and an unveiling of the Burton voting betrayal.

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

The Bachelor

Ten women left, so let's meet them:

Meredith – Model and make-up artist from California - 29

Jenny - Director of marketing for a financial firm in Texas - 30

Kelly Jo – Marketing analyst from Michigan - 24

Antoinette – Senior account manager at a telecommunications firm in Pennsylvania - 30

Mary – Sales manager from Florida - 35

Brooke – Teacher from Tennessee - 24

Karin – Mortgage consultant from Minnesota - 32

Misty – Radio promotions assistant from Texas - 23

Estella – Mortgage broker from California - 28
Lee-Ann – Second grade teacher from Georgia - 25

At the ladies' house, Chris (the host) calls the bachelorettes together to inform them of the next twist in the show. It's time for two group dates and two one-on-one dates, with the bachelorettes themselves deciding who will get the one-on-one dates. A private booth is set up, where each bachelorette will reveal who they think is the most compatible and least compatible with Bob — and they can't vote for themselves. While the picks are taking place, the women start crying over the stress of choosing. After the voting is over, the ladies are told that both the most-compatible and least-compatible will be receiving the one-on-one dates.

The first date box arrives, and reveals who was voted most-compatible: Meredith. As she gets ready for her date, the phone rings, and she is called to answer. It's her mother with some bad news — her grandmother has just passed away. Her mother encourages her to stay in Los Angeles to continue on, and the cameras are turned off for a few minutes to allow her some privacy. When the cameras start rolling again, all of the other women are supportive of Meredith, heartbroken at her plight. The mood in the house turns down, but the girls all want her to have her date, and do their best to get her ready.

Bob is touched when he finds out that despite everything that's happened she still wanted to spend the day with him. In the limousine, he asks her if she likes horses, and she tells him she's terrified of them. He teases her, telling her that he was just wondering, but of course, they arrive at the beach where two horses are waiting for them. Despite her dislike of horses, she gives it a try and saddles up, and they take a ride down the beach.

After their ride, they roll up their pants and take a walk along the shore, where they find a giant sand castle set up just for them. They sit down and drink some wine, and then eat some oysters — another dislike of Meredith's, but she still gives them a try. Bob confesses that given the circumstances, with everything she's done, he thinks Meredith is amazing. The conversation turns deep as Bob talks about some of his family's struggles, and it becomes obvious that Bob has been affected emotionally, which surprises both of them.

After the sun sets, they go into the sand castle for dinner, where Bob tells her that his heart is with her — and they kiss passionately. They snuggle up on a lounge chair and continue to kiss. He confesses that kissing her made him feel like he was kissing someone for the first time.

Back at the house the second date box arrives, inviting Mary, Kelly Jo and Misty on a night of "jamming and jammies." Bob arrives to take his dates on a "Karaoke jam in their pajamas." They head into Hollywood to a private room, where they drink and start to sing. Bob first goes up to sing with Mary, and when he starts to sing, the women are shocked at how good he sounds. Remember, he used to be in a band. The party kicks into high-gear, and eventually Bob takes Misty away for some one-on-one time. They get to know each other even more, which seems to win Bob's heart, and eventually leads to their second passionate kiss. At this point, despite the situation he's in, I've lost some respect for Bob, as it seems he may have agreed to the show for the sexual stuff...

They return to the party for some more singing, and then Bob goes off with Kelly Jo for some alone time (imagine my surprise...). While they get to know each other (kiss heavily), Mary and Misty decide to interrupt them and get their man back — which frustrates Kelly Jo. Bob confesses he is falling for several women, and that he was just with three of them.

At the house, Lee-Ann tells the other girls that she thinks they are all treating her poorly because they saw her connect with Bob. Lee-Ann makes it clear that she's only there for Bob. She seems to be quite arrogant.

The final date box arrives at the house, and it is revealed that the content of the box is worth one million dollars.

The bachelorettes all meet in the living room, where the box is opened — and a dress is waiting for Lee-Ann, who has been chosen as the least-compatible with Bob.

Next Week: Bob goes on his remaining one-on-one date with Lee-Ann, chosen by the others to be the least-compatible, and the tensions grows when Bob has his remaining group date. Then, Bob must eliminate 4 girls. Who will it be? I've got no idea, but I hope Lee-Ann beats out all the girls...just to rub it in their face. :)

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 help 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!



Debbie Jabbour

This column will focus directly on educational issues that affect post-secondary students. It will address a wide range of topics. Students are encouraged to submit suggestions and educational topics they are concerned about, along with any personal experiences with courses or university situations they feel other students should know about.

AU students may already have a good idea of what our degree will end up costing, but have you ever wondered what it will cost you to send your own child to university? The Government of Canada has provided a helpful calculator at: http://www.hrdc.gc.ca/hrib/learnlit/cesg/013/001_e.shtml. This calculation uses the government's current Registered Educational Savings Plan combined with the Canada Education Savings Grant to give you an estimate of how much a parent would need to save every month to fund their child's future post secondary education. I used the expected birth date of my first grandchild next year to test it out. Here was the result:

The child will be 18 in 2022. In that year she/he will need \$58,200 for four years of university if living at home, \$87,000 if living away. In order to fund the whole amount of \$87,000, the child's parents will need to save \$195.34 every month from now until 2022. This will total \$42,000. The government's CESG program will contribute \$7200, and interest will account for \$30,998.

If we assume the child will be living at home, the figures are as follows: Parents must save \$138.51 a month for a total of \$29,919 in the RESP. The government will contribute a CESG grant of \$5984 and interest will add \$22,301, for a total of \$58,200.

As a middle-class wage earner, I live from paycheck to paycheck just to survive. I know that there is no way I could manage to sock away \$138.51 a month, let alone \$195.34. And keep in mind this is just for an undergrad degree. What if I have a second child? Try doubling those amounts!

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Kara-OK-ing!

By Debbie Jabbour



The other weekend I did something I have not done in a long time. I spent a Friday evening with my daughter at the neighbourhood pub, hanging out and singing karaoke. Perhaps I was in a bit of an introspective mood that night, but something about the whole thing took me back a lot of years.

As regular Voice readers know, I've been under considerable stress lately, feeling overwhelmed, overworked and underappreciated, with certain individuals in my life adding to my stress levels unnecessarily. The persons who bear the direct brunt of my stress, of course, are my daughters. They see me upset, irritated, exhausted to the point of tears, impatient with them and often angry or crying for no apparent reason. They worry, and are continually suggesting to me that

I need to take a break. But my current situation simply does not allow me to do that. AUSU is in the middle of several very important projects that require my active participation, I have another full time job I've just started, I'm struggling to finish three courses this month, and my orientation for my master's program begins this week. Add to that my family responsibilities and financial problems - well, my sense of responsibility simply will not allow me to take a break right now, no matter how desperately needed.

So my daughters try other ways to make things better. They invite me to go out and have lunch or dinner with them, knowing that will force me to stop and take a break. They listen when I need to vent, and call and encourage me when I'm feeling down. They provide hugs and positive thoughts. These are things that are much more important than offering to wash dishes or do laundry or perform some other task. My daughters recognize that I need ways to alleviate my stress, ways that are far more than just offering to share my workload. They recognize that my coping skills are being tested and my self-esteem and confidence are under attack, so they try to find creative support.

It was for this reason that Amaya insisted I spend Friday night with her. Voice readers familiar with my *Popstars* articles already know what an unusual personality Amaya is, and can likely well imagine what spending an evening with her can be like. We had gone to a promotional event sponsored by a local radio station. I was a finalist in a contest and had to attend the event to see if I was the lucky person who would win tickets to go to California to see Kiss and Aerosmith. I didn't win (although I sure could have used a trip to California), but Amaya and I had such a good time hanging out, that she just would not let me go home at 10 P.M. when the event ended. I tried my standard arguments, "too tired", "too much work waiting at home", "have to get up early to study"...but she just would not take "no" for an answer.

At the radio station event, we had amused ourselves by making observations about people around us. The room was filled with middle-aged people who were obviously only there because they had to be - to win the prize. They were all playing the waiting game, watching the clock until they could leave. Radio station personnel kept coming around trying to make people feel happy and positive, and of course Amaya always had some interesting or off-beat thing to say. The bar itself was one that, in its heyday, was the most popular "hot spot" in Edmonton - Barry T's. It's become something else now, with no remnants of the night club it used to be. But it brought back memories of the time when I was younger and performing in the lounge/nightclub circuit. I never played Barry T's, but often went there to see fellow musicians late at night after my gig finished.

I was already feeling a bit nostalgic as we sat there, remembering my days as a musician and the night club it used to be. A lone guitar player is now the resident entertainment, and Amaya and I sang along as he performed a variety of songs. One of them was Paul Simon's "50 Ways to Leave your Lover", a song all my girls love for some reason (analyze that one, Freud!). Amaya announced that she was planning on doing a heavy metal version of the song with her new band.

At 10 P.M., knowing the trip to California was not mine, we left for home. But Amaya wouldn't let me go home, and we ended up at the bar down the street. Friday is Karaoke night, and she insisted that I needed to go and sing a few. She told me that the bar personality has changed in the past few months, since the regular Karaoke host had left. The notion of a "bar personality" stayed with me throughout the rest of the evening. As we entered, to Amaya's surprise, the former karaoke host, Amanda, was there celebrating her birthday. Unbeknownst to us, she had called our house earlier that evening to invite Amaya to join the party.

She immediately invited us to join her table, and Amaya introduced me to everyone. We were given song list books and we both began to search for tunes. Because I haven't sung in a long time, I was initially very hesitant. I would fill out the little karaoke forms, but not put my name on them, just tucking them under the song list binder. Amaya finally grabbed them all and took them to the host - giving me no choice.

Throughout the evening, we took turns singing. I chose up-tempo songs that I had performed a few years back when I had a duo with another daughter - stuff like Brian Setzer's "Stray Cat Strut", Cherry Poppin Daddy's "Zoot Suit Riot" and Sweet's "Ballroom Blitz". Later in the evening I gave in to popular request and sang "White Rabbit" and "Under the Boardwalk", songs I have not sung in far too long. Every time I performed, Amaya would yell "that's my mom!" to the audience. She and I even did a duet - although I am a more traditional performer and Amaya will do all kinds of crazy things during a song - so I wasn't sure what to expect from her. Amaya chose a wide selection of songs - from Tool to Evanescence to U2. She did an incredible version of "These Boots are made for Walking" that everyone loved...although they were taken aback when she finished it off with a heavy metal hard rock scream (her specialty). As always, I found myself in awe of her amazing vocal talent. At the end of the evening one of the regulars commented that he had told Amaya she should work to live up to her mother - I thanked him but responded that I felt I needed to work to live up to Amaya!

Throughout the whole process, I found myself observing the "bar personality". During the years when I was a house musician, I became very familiar with this personality. For students of social psychology, it's a fascinating study. Perhaps because I was already in a nostalgic state of mind, I found myself recognizing all the people I used to see on a nightly basis. There was the friendly bar regular of blended ethnicity who bought us a drink and seemed to know everyone. Also the "groupy" guy who gave us all a creepy feeling - a man who follows karaoke host Amanda around wherever she works. The blind guy at the next table with his friends - a wonderful singer, who obviously gets his opportunity to shine at karaoke. The bar owner, who entertained us by dancing around while sweeping under the VLT's. The sincere and friendly young man with a mild disability, who joined us at our table and talked my ear off. The couple out for a regular Friday evening together. The karaoke host who grits his teeth and smiles as he listens to two non-singers' tortured rendition of "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" for the umpteenth time. Amanda's boyfriend - a young man who had absolutely no singing ability whatsoever, but who kept insisting on singing karaoke songs for Amanda to prove his love...so very sweet.

These were all people I knew. People I had spent years of my life with during the time I played a house gig every Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Yet those people are long gone. What I was seeing was a new version of the community bar, with characters fitting the right description. And I fit right in. The ex-musician who used to be a well-known and respected presence in the city music scene - now just hanging out occasionally at the neighbourhood karaoke bar. As much fun as it was, I could not help but see the irony. I don't know that I would ever want to again be part of the bar culture, when I went to work at 9 PM and left at 3 AM, arriving

home wired and "high" on audience feedback. I always remained detached from the audience as a musician entertaining at the bar. It was a job, nothing more, and I never hung out with the "bar" people outside of work. But I understand very well how people develop those relationships.

Amaya knew that I was remembering, and I think that was her goal. To remind me of days before, when I used to have a job that I loved, where I told my children that I was going to "work." when in reality I was going to "play" (music).

I had the privilege, for so many years of my life, to do something I loved and get paid for it. I'm now pursuing something I love on a different level - but I'm not getting paid for it yet. I don't think I'll ever reach the same level of satisfaction and passion for my job that I did during my musician years. But I plan to try. Anything we do should be done with that passion - the goal being doing a job, for pay, that we would do anyway, for love.

Amaya and I closed down the bar at 2 A.M., then came home and drank tequila shots and listened to the new album by "A Perfect Circle" until the sun came up. I awoke refreshed (well OK, slightly hungover too) the next day. Spending an evening back in touch with my musician days - a part of my younger life that was rewarding and highly fulfilling, relatively happy and carefree - brought me back in tune with who I am inside, and helped me feel I can cope with the stress I'm under.

So I would encourage all of you to take a few hours and do something a bit crazy and out of the ordinary - go hang out at your neighbourhood bar and sing karaoke. Or do the equivalent - whatever works for you. It's a "rest and regroup" that can do wonders to restore balance!

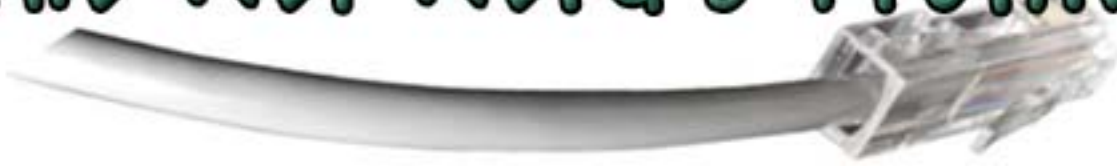
Debbie is a native Edmontonian, and a single parent with four daughters. She has worked as a professional musician for most of her life, and has enjoyed a rich variety of life experiences - with many more to come! Debbie is working towards an eventual doctorate in psychology, and currently serves as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



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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

The Net Nerd's Profiles



Not sure if zoology or stripping is the job for you? You want
www.athabascau.ca/html/services/counselling/careers or www.athabascau.ca/alumni/jobs.html

These two gems are the latest in my search for informative websites within the dusky passageways of the AU website. As distance education students our schedules are somewhat flexible (yes, I can make out the sound of laughter from all of you). More flexible anyway, than those at traditional universities. Often in this "flexible" schedule lies a job or job search. That's where these two sites come in.

www.athabascau.ca/html/services/counselling/careers is where to start if you need guidance in choosing a career. The website is brought to us by the AU counselling department and features a career assessment quiz which asks you to rate yourself on a bunch of topics such as interests, skills and values. From there you are given a score for your aptitude on social, commercial, administrative, analytical, creative and practical areas. Click on your highest score and it will take you to a list of careers suited to you. Click on the career and you'll see the corresponding AU degree. Interesting and fun, especially if you like self quizzes. The choices of careers are a bit limited but still gives a good overview of suitable career choices.

The next step is finding where to work. Courtesy of our friends at Athabasca University Alumni Relations is a list of employment resources. Click on this link - www.athabascau.ca/alumni/jobs.html - to see the employment listings. I'm assuming that this site was developed for new grads, but is a great place to check out the job market for your future profession. It consists of a ton of links to job search sites, employers and other universities. You can also check out links for career research, interview help, more career self assessment sites and resumes. Happy job hunting!

Neat Stuff: Both these sites are handy resources for career research and job hunting. The best thing about them is the wide variety of links to interesting and instructive websites. Nothing extraordinary, so I guess what is the foremost quality of these websites is their simplicity and easy maneuvering.

Not so Neat Stuff: For once I am at a loss for words. Like I said above, these sites were nothing remarkable, but are still essential to students and soon to be grads. I don't have any valuable criticism or witty remarks (come on.. I am witty, aren't I??), so you can fill in the blank: This site sucks because_____.

Rating: **/5** Please bookmark these sites if you want a job or will want one in the near future. Even if you don't want to work, at least it will look like you do!

Tired of the National Post? www.theonion.com

News flash: "Schwarzenegger Running Out Of Movie-Related Campaign Slogans", "Breakup Secretly Hilarious to Friends", and "Satan Depressed All Weekend After Man Opts Out Of Casino Trip."

Where can one find these "news" stories, you may ask? Why, at *The Onion* of course. You may have heard of it already. This satirical online newspaper originated in 1988 at Madison, Wisconsin as a printed publication. The website followed in 1996. The content you will find on The Onion ranges from outrageous celebrity stories (such as "Celine Dion secluded In Lab Developing New Perfume") to the mundane and trivial (I really enjoyed the "Teens 'Going to Town' With Restaurant Comment Cards") . I laughed out loud several times while viewing

this website. It is pure satire at its best (it does not compare to *MAD*, though nothing ever will). I would much rather read these news stories than my local paper (which seems to focus their headlines on anything cow - does beef have to come from Alberta to be loved?).

I stumbled into this website while looking for information on the new marijuana decriminalization bill. I clicked on a link in my search engine titled "Marijuana linked to..." The headline was "Marijuana Linked to Sitting Around and Getting High." I almost peed my pants. TheOnion.com also has an e-mail newsletter, contests and personal ads. This newspaper also comes in print form available at Chapters and you can access it from your handheld by going to mobile.theonion.com or mobile.theonionavclub.com. If you need a break from studying or you lost that Jar Jar Binks figurine auction on Ebay, check out The Onion. At the very least you'll roll your eyes.

Neat Stuff: If you like The Onion, try the Onion AV Club. This is a complete media information website. It is divided into features, reviews (very comprehensive - cinema, music, video, words, and films that time forgot), columns ("Justify your existence" - a short Q&A with up and coming bands; and "Savage Love" - A "Dear Sandra" for the Onion), and comics. I like that the stuff reviewed is a little off the beaten path.

Not so Neat Stuff: Loads and loads of advertising. Granted they are not in-your-face types of sponsorship, but nevertheless still there. Their list of sponsors is kind of tongue-in-cheek and goofy, but it's still advertising. Did I mention there is advertising?

Rating: *.5/5** To goof off, or not to goof off... what was the question again? Some of the humor may not delight everyone, but I liked it and I dare you to like it too. Check out this website, or pick up the print edition at your local corporate-takeover giant, profit grasping, friendly neighborhood bookstore. It's a fun place to waste time but like its vegetable namesake, The Onion is best in small doses.

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

Up late studying?
The Voice is

Open All Night

AUSU THIS MONTH

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

ATTENTION AU UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS!

Bill 43 Info Forum

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

6:30pm Mountain Standard Time

Alberta's proposed Post-Secondary Learning Act (Bill 43) will directly affect students of all post-secondary institutions in Alberta, including all Athabasca University undergraduate students living in Canada.

Come to the AUSU Bill 43 Forum to hear what's happening with Bill 43 and take part in the question and answer period. Students living in Edmonton and area are invited to attend in person at the AUSU office. All other students may attend via teleconference. Call or email the AUSU office to book a toll-free line.

Forum location - 2nd Floor, North Tower, 10030 - 107 Street, Edmonton

Office contact - ausu@ausu.org Edmonton local: 497-7000 Toll-free: 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413

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.

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...

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



Under the Tuscan Sun Film Review

By Laura Seymour



Many of you may remember that I'm a student of the Italian language and so I am attracted to projects with the subject of Italy or some Italian in them. Well this film, *Under the Tuscan Sun*, looked like a hoot so I smiled nicely at the husband and he agreed to use a couple of our passes to go out to the film. He chooses one film, I chose ten. That's the girl rule, isn't it?!

Diane Lane, as Frances Mayes, is so good in this film she can be the sole recommendation for going to see it. She pulls off such a solid performance that many reviewers are whispering "Oscar nomination" already. I hope they're right since I think she's that good in this film.

The story begins at a book signing party where Frances is established as the author's former writing instructor. He gushes about her help and how it led to his book, and then asks to French kiss her, but she proudly announces she's happily married.

Out of left field a man shows up and says that the book topic is ironic. Frances asks why. He says it's about a guy who lives out his teenage fantasies, and why don't you ask your husband? Ouch! One messy divorce later...

As it happens, Frances' best buddy, Patti (Ontario actress Sandra Oh), and her gay partner are planning a lovely trip to Tuscany but the trip is cancelled when Sandra finds out she is finally pregnant. "Fifth time's the charm," announces her overly busy girl partner. So, they decide to cash in their two coach seats to buy Frances a first class ticket. Frances is touched, but is unwilling to part with her new digs.

Frances' new apartment is in a building filled with the who's who of the divorced and desperate. The guy next to her bawls his eyes out daily and if his crying bothers her too much she just slams the wall a few times! He's a lawyer, giving out free advice to the other tenants. Also in there is a doctor who gives the disturbed people sleeping pill prescriptions. When the new landlord finds out that Frances is an author she says, "You can help people with their suicide notes." Egad!

One day, shortly after dinner, the noise is too much and Frances calls up Patti to ask when she leaves. If it were me I'd find out they already gave the ticket to their other friend, but this is film.

On the "you're Gay and Away" bus tour of Tuscany, Frances' takes in the Tuscan countryside. It's all breathtaking scenery now. So sit back and feel free to keep sighing. The sights include an amazing woman dressed like a film star - Lindsay Duncan as Katherine. She is breathtaking as she stands at the market and rubs a tiny little duckling all over her face, relishing its baby-soft down against her skin. Mmmm... Frances is taken in, and tries to follow the woman, but quickly loses her.

Instead, she comes upon a sign that shows a number of houses for sale in the area. One is called Bramasole and is simply illustrated with a drawing. She remembers the name, since the mysterious Katherine shows up and

asks her if she's going to buy it. We discover that this eccentric woman is English and had been discovered by Federico Fellini when she was 16.

Frances denies interest in buying the house gets back on the bus, but an unscheduled stop, courtesy of a flock of sheep, drops her right in front of the house in question.

At first she is just stunned but she finally snaps out of it and says, "Stop the bus!" She hauls her luggage and the "Gay and Away" cap into the overgrown grounds and goes into the rundown house. There is a spigot on the wall that promptly goes her but won't produce water. It is a pigeon occupied home with holes and extra guests (like black scorpions and a snake or two), but she takes the sign.

After the nasty people trying to buy the quaint house from under Frances leave, the Contessa (owner) decides no one can buy the house until a sign from God appears. Frances understands and believes in them too. Well along comes the sign courtesy of a pigeon letting loose on her face!! Ahem! Apparently this is a good sign in Italy and so she buys the house.

Finally, we get to her love interest in the project, played by Raoul Bova. They meet when Frances heads into town and is followed by some local guys. To chase them off, she grabs the nearest man and goes through the old "there you are!" routine.

Her target turns out to be a hot heartthrob named Marcello. Marcello has some great lines and the scene on the beach between Diane and Raoul is worthy of the ticket price!

After a few tries trying to get together she finally pops in unannounced to Marcello's. Oh crap! He isn't alone. Is it all over for her and love? No. At a young couple's wedding we find out an American author is visiting and when he stops by we know this is special. And it is.

Sure this film is a mushy chick flick but it's also so scenic and funny that my hubby loved it. Judging by the reactions from others in this theater it was mutual.

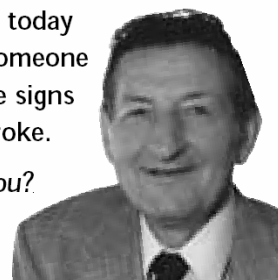
Go see it and dream of Italy. I'm gonna go buy the book and see what it's like. But, again, that's another review.

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).

Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor

I'm alive today
because someone
knew the signs
of a stroke.

Do you?



STROKE WARNING SIGNS

WEAKNESS

Sudden weakness, numbness
or tingling in the face,
arm or leg

TROUBLE SPEAKING

Sudden temporary
loss of speech or trouble
understanding speech

VISION PROBLEMS

Sudden loss of vision,
particularly in one eye, or
double vision

HEADACHE

Sudden severe
and unusual headache

DIZZINESS

Sudden loss of balance,
especially with any of the
above signs

Call 911
or your medical
emergency number
immediately.



1-888-HSF-INFO
(1-888-473-4636)
www.heartandstroke.ca

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



On-Line Education: It's Not Just for Grown-Ups Anymore

The Government of Newfoundland & Labrador has announced that it now will provide on-line tutoring for students who are preparing for a supplementary mathematics exam. A tutor will be available to students from 7am to 9:30pm from Tuesday til Thursday until November 12th.

This initiative, which is taking place through the Department of Education's Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation, is also responsible for making 25 high school courses available online for students in rural and remote areas of the province.

Of course, most interesting to Athabasca University Students is simply that Newfoundland & Labrador has a Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation, while in Alberta, Learning and Innovation are considered entirely separate ministries. Distance learning isn't even on the political map, despite one of the four Universities in the province, and arguably one of the largest, being a distance-based institution.

It almost makes me wonder if AU shouldn't consider playing hardball with the Alberta Government. After all, as a distance education institution, there is no physical necessity to remain in boondocks Alberta. It could just as easily be located in boondocks Manitoba or boondocks Newfoundland, and the majority of students would see little change to the actual services they receive. Unlike traditional universities, AU could threaten to literally pick up and move. Imagine the black spot that would be on the Alberta Government's record if it hit the media that an entire university left the province because the opportunities were better elsewhere!

Not only would this call into question the idea of the Alberta Advantage, it would, unfortunately, devastate the entire town of Athabasca. Would the Provincial Government continue to take Athabasca University for granted, however, if it thought there was a serious possibility of this happening? Would it continue to provide grant increases of less than the rate of inflation, or maintain inequitable funding formulas where technology costs are not seen as infrastructure?

It might not even have to seriously contemplate moving, but simply make the opening overtures to other provinces to remind the Alberta government that they actually have something fairly special and quite unique in Athabasca University. Besides, no offence to anybody intended, but personally, I'd rather go somewhere other than Athabasca for my convocation.

What a Week


It's a busy week. In Alberta, October 10th to October 19th is considered Science and Technology Week. I'm not sure how they consider 10 days to be a week, maybe it's metric time, or maybe the scientists left it to the politicians to determine how long a week was. At any rate, you can check out the science and technology week website and get a free 2004 calendar for your household if you want. There are also some interesting resources for parents, including lists of events and lectures that the public can attend, and which AU students in Alberta might be interested in checking out. Unfortunately, I already missed the one on cryptography.

Of course, this week is also Thanksgiving. So by the time you read this, you'll already be into the leftovers and thinking about how you have to get to the store soon to pick up Halloween candy. I never know what's worse,

giving away all the candy or seeing that the stores are already starting to put up Christmas decorations. I think it would be nice if the stores gave us the first two weeks of November to shop without having consumer-guilt about the things we haven't bought yet.

Of course, I also think it'd be nice if tuition was free and the Federal and Provincial Governments thought long-term. After all, if we dream, we might as well dream big.

Happy Thanksgiving!




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Show your card to buy VIA 6 PAK — get 3 round-trips for **50% off** !



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NEWS FROM AU

Contributed by The Insider

Terry Taylor on why "AU Rocks"

Does "AU Rock?" You bet! And even more so now, thanks to the efforts of Athabasca University's musical element. Eight musicians – all AU staff or AU staff affiliates – contributed their own original material to create the music sampler of the year, a 17-track CD that some discerning critics are calling, "More than great!"



According to Terry Taylor, AU tutor, course coordinator, musical contributor and "guy who picked the songs," the quality of this CD even far outstrips his own expectations. "We wound up with eight (musicians) who sent in CDs," Taylor explained. "We listened and thought, 'Wow! This is going to be fun. This is good.' We had such a neat variety, and we had people from every part of the university community: students, immediate family, staff members. We got a good cross section of what we could call the AU family - a really good cross. The quality was way beyond what we even hoped for."

The idea for a sampler CD showcasing the musical talent in and around the halls of AU was sparked at last year's Learning Conference. Taylor noted that it was during a conversation he had with friend and colleague, Angela Heydemann, coordinator of Learning Services-Outreach, that they both realized how much musical talent surrounds them. Off the top of their heads, they were able to name four musician/songwriters.

"We started speculating that if we knew that many casually, there must be others. We got interested in the idea of finding out who they were and doing something about it." With the support of colleagues and fellow musicians, Dave Brundage and Steve Boddington, whose songs appear on the CD, and with the support of Athabasca University and Marilyn Bittorf in Public Affairs, Taylor and Heydemann moved ahead, soliciting music, establishing copyright waivers, planning play lists.

Taylor admits there was a certain "just because" element to the project, but it quickly became much more than that. "We were also really interested in the fact it would be a community building kind of activity," he said. "It's something that everybody in the AU family could take pride in and share in and say, 'I know that guy,' or whatever. "I think the AU community is a small and fairly closely knit one," he continued. "People know people from different departments. We have just kind of a homey feel. I do think this kind of thing does build that sense of community, and it's something we can all share. If nothing more than that, it was fun to do that." Taylor says the project took a community of people just to complete, including the eight musicians who volunteered their talent and recordings to the effort.

Now CD sales have been slated for a fundraising project. **Profits realized from the sale of "AU Rocks" will help fund scholarships at Athabasca University** [emphasis added]. Taylor says that if the project helps with that, and gives his fellow musicians some extra exposure, he's thrilled. "Our goals were modest," he said. "We've achieved what we originally set out to do. When the University recovers whatever their cost is on these and shows in the black on the project - that will be nice."

Find out how you can order your own copy of "AU Rocks" here: <http://www.athabascau.ca/forms/aurocks.pdf>.

Library FAQ's continued

Q: *I've been trying to search the Blackwell Synergy and Science Direct journal databases but keep coming up with articles that are not full text. Is there a way to limit only to our subscribed journals?*



A: Yes. We only have access to the Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences collections in Blackwell Synergy. To limit to only these collections follow these steps:

- Open Blackwell Synergy. Click on Search at the top of the screen.
- Choose Advanced Search.
- Click in the box beside Journals with Full Access Rights.

This will limit your search only to the collections we subscribe to.

To limit to our subscribed journals in Science Direct follow these steps:

- Open Science Direct. Click on the Search button.
- Click on the Journals tab, and under Source choose Subscribed Journals.

If you have questions or problems, please contact AU Library. (library@athabascau.ca)

Q: I had a student ask me how to access the library's journal databases and I wasn't quite sure what to tell them. Can you help?

A: The journal databases are accessible via our website: <http://library.athabascau.ca>. Please be aware that all users who are not based in Athabasca must authenticate in order to gain access. Students are required to enter their first and last names as their username, and student id as their password. Please note that this is different from staff - staff members use the id number assigned by the library.

From Learning and Collaboration Services ...

The Grouped Study course offerings page has been updated and now includes a number of options that can be used to search for courses that are being offered by Grouped Study. [The public entry point is at http://www.athabascau.ca/lso/LSO_web.html], and it allows you to conduct searches by course, by institution, and by region or city. ... [information for AU staff omitted]

The indicators

Members of the Athabasca University community work hard every day to create learning opportunities for people all over the province, country and planet. In the middle of it all, it can be difficult to see what comes of all the effort. But there are tangible results, in terms of registration and student numbers, in terms of the quality and quantity of programs and courses offered, and in terms of the impact AU has on individual lives.

The following chart compares total registration numbers from April, 2003 to September, 2003 with figures from 2002. Look for more on performance indicators in future issues of *Insider*.

Undergraduate registrations				
Mode		2002-2003	2003-2004	Percentage change
Individualized study		19,218	21,197	10.3
	Grouped	2,627	807	na
	Independent grouped	150	65	na
Total grouped		2,777	872	na
Challenge		390	383	-1.8
Undergraduate total		22,385	22,452	0.3
Individualized study new/returning				
New students		10,204	11,056	8.3
Returning students		9,014	10,141	12.5
Graduate registrations				
Program		2002-2003	2003-2004	Percentage change
MDE		1,301	1,154	-11.3
Master of Health Studies		1,229	1,487	21.0
MBA		2,463	2,268	-7.9
MA Integrated		385	593	54.0
MSc CS		262	448	71.0
Graduate Total		5,640	5,950	5.5

This report compares recorded registrations for April 2002 to September 2002 and April 2003 to September 2003. Please note that not all September seminar supported registrations have been processed. For the purpose of this report, undergraduate 6-credit courses are double counted and graduate registrations are pro-rated up to 3-credit undergraduate course equivalents. (MDE and Nursing Graduate Programs @ 1.67, the MAIS and MSc CS @ 1.82 and the MBA @1.25). These figures are for internal tracking purposes only and should not be counted as official FTE's.

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.

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Forum location - 2nd Floor, North Tower, 10030 - 107 Street, Edmonton

Office contact - ausu@ausu.org Edmonton local: 497-7000 Toll-free: 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413

AUSU SPORTS CLUB

I am thinking about starting an AU 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 anything 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

THE VOICE

c/o Athabasca University Students' Union
2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
800.788.9041 ext. 3413
Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

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