

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 44

Volume 11 Issue 44
October 29, 2003

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PC and Reform, Strange Bedfellows

THE FACE YOU DESERVE

Exploring phrenology

LECTURES AND EVENTS

What DE Students are really missing

ANNUAL READER SURVEY

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Happy

Halloween!

Plus: Canadian Fedwatch!, Flicks & Folios,
Net Nerd's Profiles, Dear Sandra, and news
announcements and opportunities from your
university and beyond

THE VOICE

Oct 29, 2003

Volume 11, Issue 44

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

RE: Debbie Jabbour's Taking Notes Course Alert on PSYC 375; October 22, 2003.

FEEDBACK:

Heaps of thanks to Debbie's column last week. I will note the heads up with SERIOUS thought on how to get through this course. Sounds like a STINKER!

Perhaps *Voice* protests could make the staff in the Psychology section think about some changes. Obscurity doesn't sound "fair".

[ed. course alerts can be very helpful for avoiding educational pitfalls. Any student with a course alert they would like included in this column should forward it to voice@ausu.org with Course Alert in the subject line]

Laura Seymour

FEEDBACK:

Regarding the first step process for a doctoral program. I congratulate AU on this development. I personally would like to see a doctoral program involved in the psychology section. I do like to plan for my future....

Thanks,

Laura Seymour
Student and Voice Columnist

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THE VOICE ONLINE:
WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

The Voice is funded by the
Athabasca University Students'
Union, for the students of Athabasca
university

The Voice is published every
Wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at:
VOICE@AUSU.ORG

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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

THIS WEEK

AND IF ANYONE OBJECTS TO THIS UNION... "Reform and PC, sitting in a tree..."

The question is quickly moving from "Will they or won't they" to "Who gets to wear the pants?" Trevor Siwak provides his perspective on how this right-wing tryst will alter the nature of the parties involved. Reformers beware!

THE FACE YOU DESERVE - Phrenology, shmenology. Is there any truth to the notion that your face reveals all?

LECTURES AND EVENTS - What non-campus based students are really missing.

Am I the only one who remembers when Halloween was Halloween?

Here we are again, back to my favorite time of the year. Well... sort of.

In theory, I love Halloween. In practice, the holiday is becoming increasingly disappointing.

First, I'd like to ask all the parents out there, what the hell is with the costumes? This is Halloween, right? All Hallows Eve? The spookiest night of the year? Black cats, graveyards, walking dead... sound familiar?

So, how does The Little Mermaid fit into this? I admit, that each year Disney swells into an increasingly ominous corporate monstrosity, capable of crushing small businesses with its bare hands and wrenching hard-earned dollars from the fists of unwary consumers like plucking candy from the chubby fingers of a babe. Anything that large and self serving has a real fear-causing potential. Microsoft who?

But The Little Mermaid? Pocahontas? Aladdin? They don't even budge the needle on the creepy meter.

It's not like little girls don't have opportunities all year round to play dress-up and pretend to be princesses, mermaids, and other saccharine Disney-approved icons. But Halloween has always been that one night a year people would shun all that was cutesy, benign, whimsical, and sweet. If human beings are well rounded individuals, and our spectrum of holidays is to reflect at least some of the diversity of the human spirit, then Halloween is the day we explore our dark places, and revel in everything that is a little scary, a little creepy, and a lot of fun.

I would argue that an old-fashioned ghoulish Halloween is more important for children today than historically, when the haunts and goblins of All Hallows represented the plagues of the time. By embracing the things that caused fear, children and adults alike learned to gain control over the things that menaced them. How are we exorcizing our demons now?

What could be more menacing for children today, especially girls, than crass commercialism and the beauty ideal. Little girls battle endlessly with the perception that they must be pretty and sexy in order to be valued. I don't have to go into the very real and harrowing effects this pressure can have on a developing child, because it's been well documented. What makes it more difficult, is that children have fewer and fewer escapes. There was a time when young children didn't worry about their weight or how pretty they were. That was a concern for teenagers and adults. Now, children barely out of diapers are beginning to stress out over how they appear.

There was a time when Halloween was about reveling in everything that is ugly, beastly, awkward and strange. These things are a part of all of us, and to embrace those parts is to be free. Today, little girls primp and preen to be as pretty as possible, making Halloween just one more night of worry over psychical appearance and sexuality. Halloween is now yet another night to shun imperfections, and I think it is a terrible loss. What experiences do children have these days that encourage the expression of differences or the celebration of strangeness? What about the creativity that used to go into Halloween? Children today want to look 'exactly' like characters in film. It's like their creative cortexes have gone to mush.

Where have all the little witches, skeletons, ghouls and goblins gone? And when did all the gore dripping, slime slewing movie monsters morph into the pretty, teeny-bopper slashers of *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*? And what is the world coming to when *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* is remade starring that cute big-toothed girl from *Seventh Heaven*? RIP Barbara Steele, the new scream queens are giggling teens. And we wonder why people are unable to confront the realities behind the TV news...

I know not everyone is a horror freak like I am year-round, but it sure was nice to have one night a year when people dropped their denial and confronted a little of the dark side. Death and decay don't have to be morbid subjects, but rather a part of the natural cycle of life! Our ancestors knew that, and Halloween is just one example of that knowledge. It's no coincidence that in ancient religions, gods of death were worshipped with equal reverence to those who gave life. We're losing touch with the fact that no matter how much technology we have, we are all still magnificent machines of blood, sinew and bone. And you know, as kids we loved learning about that stuff!

I cringe with worry and yawn with boredom when I see princess after princess mounting my front porch, asking for candy [they would never want a trick, not these gleaming little ones, oh no!]. They gape with dread at my jack-o-lanterns, which are the only ones on the block that are actually carved to look like - well - jack-o-lanterns! Everyone else, it seems is busy whittling landscapes and cartoon cells into the surfaces of their gourds.

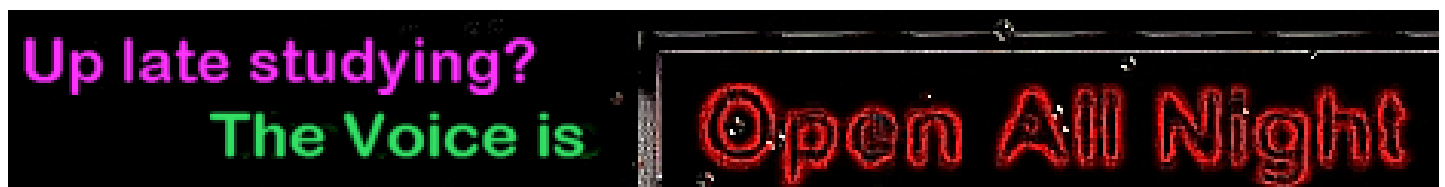
I'm thinking of establishing a graded treat system, where kids with really scary costumes get more candy than those in frills and lace. Little ghouls and goblins would take home sacks of candy. The Little Mermaid? Maybe a small, sugar-free gumball, so she doesn't ruin her figure or stain her pretty dress.

My second idea is to really go all out and scare the pants off of everyone with a truly ghoulish display - but now days, I'd probably get arrested for having unsettled people. No, I'll have to grit my teeth and resist the urge to chase off the little Disney-robot barrage, screaming "get off my lawn, you cutesy little sugar puffs!"

In a day and age when kids are listening to Enrique Eglasias instead of Led Zepplin, and driving around in compact hatchback station wagons is now cool [you can call them compact SUV's if you like, but I remember when my mom wanted one for running around for groceries in the 80s], I'm almost hoping that somewhere out there, there is a kid with enough fire left in him to give my house the egg and TP treatment. Just don't hit my car :)

I think I'll save my graveyard display for Christmas, mwuhahaha...

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



AU Profiles:

AU Alumni: Maggie Davidson

Tell us about where you live:

Spruce Grove, Alberta

When did you graduate from AU, and what was your program?

I graduated in June 2003, with a BA in Psychology

Did you complete the program you started, or did your goals change as you progressed through your degree?

I started out in Psychology, but my career goals changed as I went through the program. I began with the intention of working in Human Resources or personnel training.

During my studies I took a course dealing with Applied Behaviour Analysis (Psyc 387) and became very interested in the field of behavioural therapy.

Have you taken courses at another college or university? If so, how did it compare to AU?

I took courses at Augustana University several years ago. I much prefer AU's courses. I like the fact that AU's courses are very flexible.

AU allowed me to work courses around my life, rather than having to work my life around courses. I also liked the strong emphasis that AU puts on reading and writing. I learn best by seeing material written down, and found lectures to be largely a waste of time. I found AU courses to be well written and well organised. The opportunity to work through material at my own pace yet get help if I needed it worked very well for me.

What has your AU education done for you? Are you working in a career related to your degree, or have your courses led to new opportunities?

My course work at AU led me to be very interested in behavioural therapy. Since I have always been interested in working with kids, I am now pursuing a career doing behavioural therapy with autistic children. The program I work with uses the principals of Applied Behavioural Analysis in a therapy known as ABA therapy. It helps autistic children learn to modify their behaviour and function in society.

Do you plan to continue your education? If so, will you continue with AU or Distance Education?

I plan to pursue a Masters of Counselling degree. I hope to be accepted into the AU/ Campus Alberta Master of Counselling program.

What are your hobbies / interests/ activities/ etc.

My hobbies include gardening, hiking, camping, reading, and travelling.

What are your future goals?



After completing my Masters, I hope to work as a Clinical Consultant doing behavioural therapy with autistic children.

Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for other students?

My main piece of advice to other students is to stay focused and organise your time. The secret to completing courses successfully is to work every day. Try to set aside at least two hours a day per course and don't let anything interfere with that time.

As well, don't get discouraged. It may seem like it will take you forever to finish your degree, but if you keep plugging away graduation will come sooner than you think.

What was the hardest thing about distance education. What was the greatest benefit?

The hardest thing about distance education was learning to organise my time. The greatest benefit was the flexibility of distance education, which allowed me to work on courses when it was convenient for me.

Thanks Maggie, good luck with your masters studies. Your responses are really encouraging to anyone who has is still on that long road toward the first degree.

Are you an AU student, alumni or tutor, and would you like to be profiled in The Voice? If so, contact voice@ausu.org



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"AND IF ANYONE OBJECTS TO THIS UNION, SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER..."

Trevor Siwak



So it seems our country's two conservative political parties are looking to tie the knot, a sort of same-sex marriage I suppose one can say. There will even be a name change to go with it. The long cycle of flirting followed by the courtship, has got them to where they are now, both ready to take the plunge. But they first have to get the blessing of their proverbial parents, the membership.

This brings up the question, will it receive the blessing or will the groom get tossed out into the street on his backside?

The groom in this case is clearly Stephen Harper. This is quite evident from his almost stalker-like pursuit of the bride, Peter MacKay and the PC party, over the last couple of months. And while some family members on both sides are sending in their RSVPs for a spot at the wedding, others are sharpening their knives and cleaning their unregistered firearms, ready to make sure this holy (or unholy - you pick) matrimony doesn't make it to the alter.

In my mind, the bride's family should be chilling the champagne and it's the groom's family that should be looking for a good oak tree for a lynching. Yet it seems the other way around! This just makes me scratch my head in awe; after all, it's the Alliance that has given almost all the concessions to the PC party. The new party, based on its vague, loose, and top down statement of principles assures that 90% of the PC party's members won't know the difference between the new and the old. The only thing that might tip them off is the presence of more family members, and the more than normal sightings of cowboy hats at family get-togethers.

Not sure that it was the Alliance that sacrificed everything for this marriage, you say? Well first of all, I don't recall, nor can I find any mention of, a time that Peter MacKay "actively sought out" Mr. Harper to propose a merger and to beg him to accept. "But wait" you say, the PCs are ready to change their party name. Yes right, now it will be called the PC party of Canada, that's PC with a silent P. I mean up to now when someone said 'the conservative party' did you really think 'Oh they must be talking about the Canadian Alliance?' Heck Tories drop the term progressive from their name themselves when talking on the news etc. So no, I don't really see this as a big concession on the Tories part. Let's examine some principles set out for their parties by the two love birds MacKay and Harper:

- *"We will create a national force that reaches out to all Canadians, not just like-minded conservatives."*

"Not just like minded Conservatives!!!!" Does this comment mean that they should consort with communists if it suits their purposes? Not that I have anything against Communists, while their dream has yet to be proven, some would argue so has democracy's. The question here is, will this kind of thinking be a big trait of the new party? Consort and sell out to whomever helps advance their march to 24 Sussex Drive? Actually this is already an unspoken PC party principle (reference Mulroney) so nothing new for them here. I remember the Reform days when the motto was "we will not sell out to big business and vocal minority groups to come to power." It's amazing how over a decade in opposition will change one's perspective.

- *A balance between fiscal accountability, progressive social policy and individual rights and responsibilities;*

Progressive social policy!?! I am not sure just what this vague statement entails but you social conservatives in the Alliance better get clarification on this before you vote for this merger. Sounds more like they conveniently missed a word there and it should have read, 'Progressive CONSERVATIVE social policy.'

- *Build a national coalition of people who share these beliefs and who reflect the regional, cultural and socio-economic diversity of Canada and, Develop this coalition, embracing our differences and respecting our traditions, yet honoring a concept of Canada as the greater sum of strong parts*

That's darn right, the East wants in on the Alliance's success, and we Tories are tired of your Western influence. Join us and we will see to it that this gets neutralized ASAP.

- *"The Leadership will be conducted on a One-Member, One-Vote Point System: It is very similar to one-member, one-vote, but allows for each riding to be weighted equally, thus giving each riding access and importance in the process."*

"It is very similar to one-member, one-vote, but...", yeah **but**, it isn't in any way. A one member one vote system is in no way like a "disregard the number of members in a riding" percent based vote weighting system.

- *"Each riding is worth 100 points (i.e., 100%). Leadership candidates are assigned a point total based on their percentage of the vote in each riding. For example, if Candidate A received 50% of the vote, he or she gets 50 points. If Candidate B received 20% of the vote, he or she gets 20 points."*

This assures that 1000 people in a riding of 4000 in Alberta get the same weight to their vote as 10 people from a riding in Weed Hedge Newfoundland with a membership of 40. Ah fair enough!

- *"To win, a candidate must obtain a majority of points from across the country. Preferential ballot (single transferable vote) will be used."*

Ah yes! "Preferential ballot," this ensures that at least 25% of the people in both parties will not understand how the vote tally works.

You PCers should note, there is no mention of parliamentary reform so there's a good chance you will still be able to appoint your friends to the senate. Oh and don't worry, only one sentence made an indirect reference to grassroots rule in the party but they made sure not to use the word "Grassroots," so you will still have no real say in policy development within the new party. Plus Mike Harris is toying with running for leadership. If this happens and he wins you will even have an eastern Tory leader like you do now. Since all party funds will be merged, the Alliance's surplus will help to cut down your seemingly unmanageable debt, and assure that the new party starts off in the red, just like you "red" Tories like it. Plus based on recent polls 47% of Canadians would vote for your new party (1). If this is true it means you can finally start repaying those old promises and favors that have been stacking up in your basement.

Considering all the things that will remain unchanged or in the favor of the PC family with this merger, they are the ones who should be ready to celebrate. For they, with smaller numbers, weaker influence, and less cash are about to take over a larger, more powerful, and richer party. Don't they see the coup they are about to pull off? I mean the Alliance members don't; for I can assure you, after giving away everything some of them spent over a decade working for, they will, on December 12th, eagerly join the same party they left years ago.

(1) http://www.ipsos-reid.com/media/dsp_displaypr_cdn.cfm?id_to_view=1928

An "Agreement in Principle" between the PC and Ca party can be found on the PC party web site under the quick links section. <http://www.pcparty.ca/>

THE FACE YOU DESERVE

John Thompson, The Martlet

'Christopher Reeve and I have narrower heads, like deer'



VICTORIA (CUP) -- Are my brown eyes set too widely across my face? Are my eyebrows, thick and black, too bushy? Is my nose too big, too crooked?

These questions jostle inside my skull as I sit across from Kelly Ann Andrews one chill January morning. To my left, a bay window overlooks the water from her spacious home, a large blue house surrounded by palm trees that jut from the landscaped lawn.

Andrews is a corporate consultant in Victoria, B.C. who specializes in "reading" people's faces to reveal their inner temperament. Armed with my notepad

and recording equipment, I wait for her to explain what my face means.

Andrews is a thinly built woman who looks younger than she is—45—with steel-blue eyes and short, wiry dark hair. She makes tea and we talk. Her words are well-rehearsed—she appeared on both *Good Morning America* and *The Larry King Show* during the mid-80s—and her voice rings with an enthusiasm that could be mistaken for religious fervor. She is quick to reaffirm anything I say.

The basis of Andrews' analysis is physiognomy, or the belief that our faces reveal our inner temperament. The idea is at least as old as ancient Greece—Aristotle hired generals for Alexander the Great's army by picking men who looked like hawks, with beak-like noses.

I am skeptical. Andrews' version of history is highly selective—from antiquity she leaps to the 1920s when the judge Edward Vincent Jones applied the same ideas to identifying criminals. His conviction rate was unsurpassed, I am told.

What she leaves out falls between the mid-eighteenth century and the Victorian period, when physiognomy and its close relative, phrenology—the study of how bumps on the head reveal our temperament—were blossoming in popularity across Western Europe. Both fields of study were eventually abandoned by the scientific community, and to this day are considered by most to be discredited pseudoscience.

But Andrews has reclaimed physiognomy, synthesizing it with a warm and fuzzy mixture of career coaching, motivational thought, pop psychology and new-age holism. It seems to be a benign and harmless mixture. More than anything, I am curious. I want to know what she thinks of my face.

She unfolds a binder and shows me photographs of two women. One is beautiful, with smooth skin bathed under bright lighting. She is smiling broadly. The other wears a deep frown, with furrowed brows and creases across her forehead. She is cast in shadow, with her hair falling across her face. Andrews asks which one I'd rather work with.

"I'd pick the happy-looking one, versus the one with the big frown on her face," I reply.

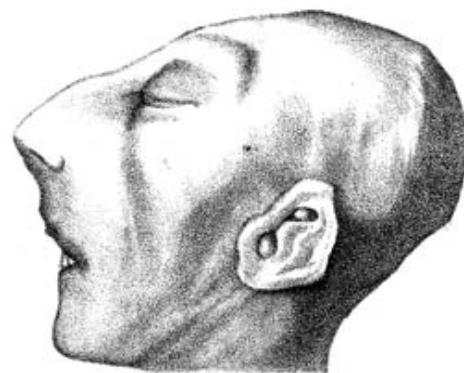
"Exactly! Yeah, exactly," she enthuses. "And so this person here is totally in line with her innate disposition. She's expressing her qualities in a very constructive, loving way, and that's what you're actually witnessing." She points to the frowning woman. "But this one is sort of out of alignment with herself. She's running into her traits, instead of expressing them as attributes, and so she's highly critical, pessimistic, detail-concerned, exacting, methodical and critical."

"You're sure she's not just having a bad day?" She's not, I am assured. Even if it was a momentary grimace, this "physically imprints into the face" over time, like a papier-mâché mask. "It stays at that level," says Andrews. "It's the continuum of the mood that imprints itself in the physiology of the face."

"So you'd be someone who agrees that, by age 50, everyone has the face that they deserve?" I ask.

"They design their face by that point," she replies.

Next, Andrews pulls a sheaf of paper from a folder and lays it on the table. They list various traits, beginning with Innate Self-Confidence, Courage and Thoroughness. These are followed by a numbered scale, coloured pink on one end and blue on the other.



She explains that these traits correspond to different areas of the face. "The face is very logically proportioned," she says. For instance, someone with a tall forehead innately has intellectual predilections—hence the egghead stereotype. "Wherever the mass of tissue is, that's the part of the personality that will be dominant."

When I ask about my face, Andrews tells me it is lopsided: my nose is crooked, and my left eye is deeper set than the other. "Your whole left side of your face sits higher up than your right," she says.

"Thanks a lot," I think. She explains that this shows I am multidimensional.

What else does she see? I am an extrovert, hence my job as a reporter. I am a scuba-diver, not a snorkeler: I prefer depth of thought over surface conversation. I nod my head and agree, even though I don't believe I'm naturally outgoing. Still, I enjoy the flattery—until I am told I have the head of a deer.

Our head shape reflects our confidence, she says: Marilyn Monroe had a wide face like a tiger, while both Christopher Reeve and myself have narrower heads, like deer. Broad faces like Monroe are outgoing and lean towards the fight instinct, while Superman and myself tend to be more timid, innately leaning towards flight.

Similarly, wide-set eyes reflect broad-mindedness. "If the eyes are wide-set, it's like a wide-angle camera, and if it's close-set, it's like a zoom lens." Those of us with wide-angle lenses are equipped for broad overviews, while those with zoom lenses are better off on an assembly line.

I fall in-between the two, I am told. Another revealing characteristic is eyebrows: The higher they are, the more remote someone is. The lower the brows, the more approachable they are. Me? I'm lowbrow.

Andrews markets her analysis to the corporate world. Her clients are mostly small businesspeople and entrepreneurs looking to bring their lives back into balance. Her advice is applied to job interviews, sales, management, partnerships and professional alliances.

With a referral, an individual consultation with her—consisting of two two-hour sessions—costs \$250. Without one, she charges \$275. In comparison, visiting a local astrologist for that long costs \$180, although Andrews' rates are below what a licensed psychologist would charge.

She says she wants people to discover their hidden potential, to find a job that's right for them. "There's a lot of systems that'll tell you what you are, but not what to do with it." Her ideas aren't entirely deterministic: Andrews says our appearances are partly determined by innate ability, and partly by how we apply ourselves. In her words, "You have the genetic, which you see in the bone structure, and you have the environment, which is seen in the musculature."

I leave her house unconvinced, but nevertheless tingly with enthusiasm. I do not buy her explanation that our faces reflect who we are, but her motivational language had some worth: Fear looks like a brick wall, but it can be walked through like a vapour cloud.

Before going to sleep, I think about what I was told. I stare at my reflection in the bathroom mirror and try to decide: Am I a deer? A dog? A frog, or a fish?

The next day I visit Jan Bavelas, a University of Victoria psychology professor who specializes in non-verbal communication. A few years ago, Bavelas developed a videotaped lecture called "Debunking Body Language," challenging the belief that involuntary gestures and ticks cause us to reveal ourselves in unexpected ways.

"One of my favourite mottos is, if you want to explain any widespread irrationality, look at who's making money off of it," she says, citing how the federal prison system once considered paying a body language expert \$10,000 to teach a one-day course. Bavelas offered to teach, or rather debunk, it for free. She says what Andrews sells is similar: a fad driven by profits, not science.

"If you walk in and look at my face, you see a lot more than my face. You see the way I'm dressed, you see the way I talk, you see how I present myself. So you can't just say this is being done on faces and measurement."

To prove her point, Bavelas makes a few predictions herself. "I mean, I could look at you and say you're not considering a job with a three-piece suit, right?" I tell her how Andrews told me the same thing: that I could be part of the conventional world, but never be of it. Apparently, my casual clothes, spiky, unkempt hair and long sideburns have something to do with it.

Bavelas suggests that Andrews' methodology belongs in the same category as horoscopes or ESP. "If I have a hunch something's going to happen and it does, I remember it," she says. "But the hundred hunches I had that didn't happen, I just forget." This doesn't surprise me, but what she says next does.

"But perhaps the most important point, above anything else, is the notion that there is a personality that I have, that can be detected."

No such thing as "myself"?

That's right, according to Bavelas. She disagrees with a key assumption made in our society: that we have coherent personalities that are stable and consistent over time. Bavelas speaks as someone who used to work in the field of personality assessment, but became disillusioned. "They kept on trying to capture essential personality, and we don't have one. We're much more flexible than that."

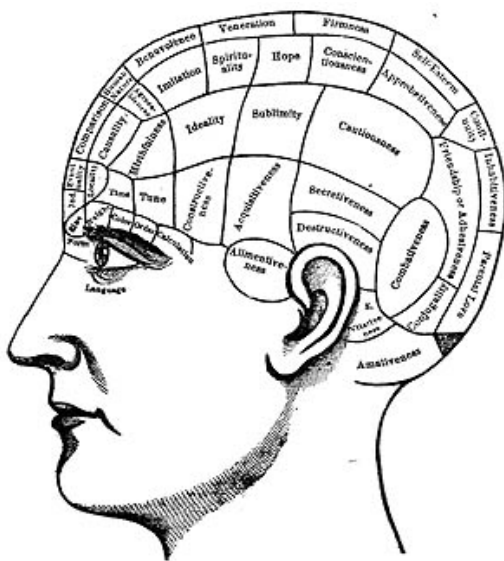
Bavelas says evidence shows people act differently in different situations. After all, we all know people who've done unexpected things.

"It's not that I'm wildly or erratically random, it's that human beings are adaptive. It's a really good quality," she says, adding that anyone who acts the same in every situation "tends to be deemed pathological."

Still, the desire to capture some essence of ourselves seems to be a very human desire. "We always want to know about people, right? We're curious about people. It would be nice to have some special insight into people, whether it's a potential spouse, or a potential employee, or even about yourself."

I also ask Bavelas if she agrees that, by age 50, everyone has the face they deserve. She says there's "a tiny, tiny smidgen" of truth to this: she remembers seeing one woman whose frown was so deeply engrained in her face that she scowled all the time. She adds this is fairly unusual.

"The biggest change, with age and faces, is [caused by] gravity," she says. "And I don't know if this woman deserves it or not. Maybe she's had a terrible, terrible life. Is that the face she deserves? In that case, I don't think she deserves a life like that."



Before I leave, Bavelas lends me a large book wrapped in an antiquated dust cover. On the front is a line drawing of a man whose brain has been mapped into 37 distinct territories, each one corresponding with a different temperament. There is Benevolence, Veneration and Firmness running along the top of the skull, with Self-Esteem, Continuity and Inhabitiveness located further back. Parental Love lies on the back of the head, with Destructiveness curled along the top of the ear, and Combativeness and Secretiveness not far away. Somewhere in the middle lie Sublimity, Hope, Spirituality and Conscientiousness.

The book is Fowler's *Phrenology: A Practical Guide to Your Head*, and Bavelas assures me it isn't a gag—it's the real thing.

I leave Bavelas' office feeling relieved that my deer face and my identity aren't intrinsically connected, although I'm a bit discouraged to hear I don't exist—at least not in a coherent, stable way. While physiognomy may not be able to tell us who we are, it does tell us a lot about who the Victorians were. When I spoke with Bavelas, she explained how the symptoms used to identify criminal tendencies are now recognized as signs of malnutrition. Similarly, the book she loaned me is burdened with attitudes towards women and Africans that would be considered offensively sexist and racist today. In retrospect, it's clear many of these classifications were used to justify racial and class prejudices of the period.

And so we return to the fundamental question asked by the caterpillar in *Alice in Wonderland*: Who are you? I wonder this as I shave in the evening, scraping a blanket of stubble from my face. The eyes that return my stare are brown with yellow flecks, circled with dark rings below. They are lopsided, it's true.

My eyebrows are still bushy, my lips are full and my cheekbones and chin are not as pronounced as I wish they were. My glasses sit askew on my crooked nose. Does this reflect who I am? I am a student journalist mistrustful of corporate culture and the way we categorize the world, and an English literature geek who appreciates Michel Foucault and Jacques Lacan, those radical French theorists from the 1960s who wore too much black and argued against the idea of a coherent, stable identity. I am also a tired 22-year-old who probably doesn't sleep enough.

Maybe that last item registers on my face, but I would like to think the rest of it stays beneath the surface. And you know what? That suits me just fine.



On September 17, 2003 the Voice published an article written by me entitled "Conventional Vis-À-Vis Distance University Education." In it, I explored some of the differences between on-campus, class-based university education and distance university education from my personal student-perspective. I'd like to augment that article with some further insight procured after nearly two months studying in the former mode.

There is an aspect to conventional university studies that I didn't realize I was missing while studying strictly via distance. The University of Saskatchewan, and particularly its College of Law, goes to great lengths to provide its students and faculty with some of Canada's most prestigious speakers and special events. Every Monday the College arranges for guest speakers to lecture on various subjects of their particular expertise, and I have yet to miss one of them.

On September 29, 2003 The Honourable Raynell Andreychuk, Canadian Senator, was the College of Law's Guest Speaker. The Senator's lecture was based on the Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights—she sat as Chair of said committee. The report is entitled "Promises to Keep: Implementing Canada's Human Rights Obligations" and it can be found at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/37/1/parlbus/commbus/senate/Com-e/huma-e/rep-e/rep02dec01-e.htm>. Senator Andreychuk spoke about Canada's human rights record nationally and internationally and pointed out that while gains have been made, Canada has a poor record of implementing the human rights legislation domestically that it agrees to (and imposes on others) internationally. The Senator is an alumna of the USask College of Law, class of 1967.

On October 6, 2003 UBC Professor of Law Susan B. Boyd was the Guest Speaker. Professor Boyd is Chair in Feminist Legal Studies & Director of the Centre for Feminist Legal Studies. The professor's lecture was based on her recently published book *Child Custody, Law, and Women's Work* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2003; ISBN: 0195409183). Professor Boyd spoke about the historical development of Canada's divorce and child-custody laws and the impending changes to same under federal Bill C-22.

On October 15, 2003 Rosemary Owen, Senior Lecturer of the University of Adelaide Law School, Australia was the Guest Speaker. Her lecture was entitled "Taking Leave: Work and Family in Australian Law and Family" and it was based on the evolution of Australia's labour/employment law in relation to female workers and leaves required for birthing and raising children. Australia lags far behind Canada in this area of law, women workers having no access to government-paid maternity leave. Consequently, work and family are in conflict to a much higher degree than Canadians are used to. I found Ms. Owen's lecture to be particularly interesting to me personally, as it allowed me to compare Australia's legal system of industrial relations to Canada's—a polarized comparison indeed.

Most recently, on October 20, 2003 Desmond Manderson, Professor of Law McGill University and Canada Research Chair in Law and Discourse, was the Guest Speaker. Professor Manderson examined the sources and nascence of civilization and law through the unlikely vehicle of children's literature. Utilizing the children's classic book *Where The Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak as his focus, Professor Manderson drew on mythical, cultural, and legal-philosophical literature to synthesize the topic. His thesis is that children's literature allows children and their parents to confront complicated questions of responsibility and obedience. Through the tutelage of children's books, children learn of societal, social and familial rules—law and civilization.

When I worked for the railway (not so long ago), I often found myself driving my truck in the middle of the night to some Godforsaken terminal that I'd been ordered to. I'd tune into CBC radio and listen to *Ideas*, on which I would often hear lectures broadcast from different universities or other venues across the country. I'd imagine myself in the audience and wonder what it would be like to partake of such an intellectually stimulating experience in real life. Now I find myself surrounded by brilliant minds and I plan to take advantage of their availability at every opportunity. I encourage my AU peers to seek out lectures given by guest speakers at a local venue near your residence (if possible). Most universities will advertise when guests will be speaking and they are often open to the public without charge. Pick someone who is speaking on a topic that you are interested in, not necessarily one which you are studying, and go with a mind open to new ideas and prepared for stimulation and enjoyment...

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



This column will focus on educational issues affecting 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.

Debbie Jabbour

A McGill student, Jesse Rosenfeld, has filed a grievance with his university's senate committee over its plagiarism policy. Why? McGill university, along with several others across Canada such as University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and University of Victoria, have adopted a policy which requires students to submit their paper to turnitin.com. This is a U.S.-based Internet organization that maintains a database of more than one million previously-submitted essays and papers. Universities pay a subscription fee for the service, in which new student papers are compared against this database for evidence of plagiarism. Rosenfeld refused to comply with this course requirement, instead submitting his paper directly to his professor, resulting in a mark of zero.

Rosenfeld's opposition consists of two key points. First, the requirement to submit a paper for proof of plagiarism in advance effectively treats students as if they are guilty until proven innocent. This is an argument I've heard before, and some universities, such as University of Toronto, are allowing an opt out provision to address this, as long as students can prove the work is original. His second argument is more complex, involving ethical issues of academic freedom and copyright. Rosenfeld states that he is supposed to hand in his paper to "a private company...which the company in turn profits from. I'm indirectly helping a private company make a profit off my paper." Turnitin.com is a business making a profit from student papers, since the greater the database of papers, the more valuable the service becomes to universities, increasing the numbers of paying subscribers.

Does this American company have the right to profit from student academic papers in this manner? Who owns the copyright for student papers and does this practice violate academic freedom? Should the problem of plagiarism be dealt with by treating every student as if guilty until proven innocent? I'm with Rosenfeld on this one.

McGill student makes new plagiarism policy subject of grievance.
<http://canada.com/national/story.asp?id=486DAB13-BF20-4288-9D04-CBB3446C2A75>
McGill Daily News: <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/view.php?aid=1582>

CanWest News Service.

UVIC STUDENTS PLAN TUITION BOYCOTT *Fees up 30.4 per cent this year*

Chloe Ash-Anderson, The Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP) -- UVic students may be putting their bankbooks away next semester if the students' society goes through with its plan to push a tuition fee boycott.

Early this semester, the students' society at Simon Fraser University initiated a tuition fee boycott as a protest against rising tuition fees in British Columbia. The students' society at the University of Victoria is planning something similar.

"The plan is simple. If the provincial government won't pay our education, neither will we," said Erin Hartson, a member of the Tuition Action Coalition at SFU.

The province has registered the country's largest increase in average undergraduate fees for the second consecutive year in 2003-2004, according to Statistics Canada. Fees are up 30.4 per cent this year, after last year's 25.7 per cent rise.

Geordie Dent, a spokesperson for the SFUSS, emphasized the need for action. "For the second year in a row, the provincial government has cut per student funding and has passed that funding cut onto students through massive tuition fee increases," he said.

The intent behind this action is to force the government to consider the financial plight of many students. "The university will have to either negotiate with us to ensure our school is accessible, or begin lobbying the government for increased funding," said Dent.

The students' society at UVic is proposing a similar action to take place in January. "The UVSS recognizes that there are many students that want to do more than just attend a rally, so we are organizing the tuition fee boycott as one of the many tactics for students to express rising frustrations about increasing tuition fees," said Joanna Groves, director of finance for the students' society.

Students at both institutions will face financial penalties for participating in the boycott. At SFU, the impact appears to be minimal. If tuition is not paid by the deadline, the university charges a 2 per cent monthly interest rate, students may remain enrolled in classes, and there is no impact on their academic record.

The UVic accounting department has yet to summarize the consequences for students participating in a boycott, but said they would be comparable to those at SFU.

Response to the boycott at SFU has been overwhelming despite the possibility of fines. Currently 1500 students have agreed to participate in the boycott, depriving the university of \$3 million in tuition.

The UVSS plans to go ahead with the boycott regardless of consequences.

C A U S
Council of Alberta University Students
Athabasca • Calgary • Alberta • Lethbridge

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

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



Dear Sandra,

Does AU have mementos that students can purchase to remember their experience at AU? I'm completing my last course at the end of the month and I'd like a little something to remind me of my time here.

Sincerely,

J. from Calgary

Dear J.

Congratulations on completing your studies! Your greatest mementos will come from attending AU's convocation ceremony on the University grounds in June. The Athabasca University Students' Union will be handing out gifts for the grads (last year it was desk clock/calculators, this year it was black koskin portfolios) as they leave the stage. The Alumni Association also gives students some sort of AU memento as well and AU always has a booth set up near the robing area for recent graduates to purchase a wide range of AU emblazoned items.

If you can't wait until June, AUSU sells t-shirts to students that request them by emailing the office at ausu@ausu.org. You can view these t-shirts by scrolling down the AUSU home page at www.ausu.org. You can also shop on-line for AU merchandise at <https://auburn.cs.athabascau.ca/forms/cmshop.htm>. Here you'll be able to order jackets, parkas (how many other universities offer parkas as a promotional merchandise item? I'm sure this item portrays the stereotypical Eskimo image to our foreign students), pullovers, t-shirts, golf shirts, vests, ties, backpacks, watches, key rings, pins, pastry tins, mugs, umbrellas, golf balls, license plates, stuffed animals, and picture frames all with the classic AU logo imprinted on them.

Current AU students can also order books, or computer software at this same site. The prices are reasonable and you have the option of paying on-line by Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

I highly recommend the polar fleece vest! I love mine, but don't be fooled by the sizes. I usually wear a large and the AU one I have is a medium. I hope you end up with something you like.

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 31, 2003

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

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

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Amanda was unable to do the Primetime Update column this week. Please use the following links to obtain information on these program, and look forward to another instalment of Primetime Update next week.

SURVIVOR

<http://www.cbs.com/primetime/survivor7/>

THE BACHELOR

<http://abc.go.com/primetime/bachelor/episodes/2003-04/5.html>

FRIENDS

<http://www.tvtome.com/Friends/season10.html>

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

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

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Arrgh, me Mateys!

So it seems yer Federal Government types 'ave come up wi' a new bill to keep the likes o' you an' me from piratin' satellites! And I'm sure thar's many a pirate out there who'll be sorely disappointed by this new bill, as there warn't nothin' like sailin' the sea o' tranquility, an' firin' a shot across the starboard side o' some unwary satellite.

But don't be too concerned yet, matey. No, this here bill's about decodin' them signals that broadcasters lay down o'er the earth. Yer Honourable Minister Sheila Copps caterwauls on abou' how "If not for direct-to-home satellite piracy, there would be hundreds of millions of additional dollars poured into the Canadian broadcasting system to make Canadian programs, to expand distribution capacity and access to foreign-language services, and to offer new digital, high-definition and interactive services to Canadians." O' course, she don't seem to mention that surfin' the TV channels is like swimmin' through a hold o' whale blubber, and p'raps thar's the reason folks ain't spendin' their hard-earned booty on't.

Peg-leg an' eye-patch aside, I ain't no real pirate. This 'ere's just fer Halloween. But the way I sees it, if them broadcasters don't want me makin' use o' their signals, then they oughta be takin' better care to make sure they don't be goin' through my house. After all, if someone were t'throw a book through my window, I don't think there'd be cause for them to say I couldn't at least try t'read it.

Instead, yer Federal Government fellas figure that fools who throw books through windows oughta be protected when someone has the nerve to pick it up, an' worse, to tell people they can't be makin' or sellin' machines to pick up books with. Far as I c'n figure it, those book throwers be usin' the public air-space, not t'mention my own private airspace for their books. If they wanna make money off it, they best be makin' money at the front end, an' not expect me to be payin' fer what's already mine.

A Most Delicate Swindle

Aye, mateys, the official government types o' British Columbia 'ave come out with an amazin' piece o' spin that any lyin, dirty, cut-throat'd be most proud of. They be announcin' changes to the student loan plans that s'posedly make life easier fer students, but when you read the details, it seems like y'd be better off trustin' the lion t'lay with the lamb.

In th' ol' system, a hard-workin' student was given the grace to claim up t'six hundred dollars o' legitimate earnin's before the swabbies in the student loan office start dockin' yer amounts. After that, y'only got t'keep a measly 20% of what y'earned over the course o' the school year.

In th' new system, they talk 'bout how yer hard-workin' student can now earn up to fifty dollars per week before impactin' their student loan amounts, but they carefully don' say that it impacts it at the same rate. This 'ere strikes this ol' pirate as a tad on th'underhanded side. After all, if the impact was th'same, wouldn't they say so? Diggin' through the Ministry o' Advanced Education's website provided no clue.

Even if th' amounts are th'same though, consider if y'expected t'be workin' only over th' spring break an' earning some \$300 in that week. The ol' system wouldn't have had a problem with that. In th'new system, \$250 o' that would have some sorta effect on yer allowable loan amounts.

Th'announcement goes on t'proclaim that British Columbia has one o' th' highest amount of loans available per week fer students with dependants. T'be fair, they also have one o' th'highest amounts per month in any category, be the student single, married, or what have ye. O'course, they don't mention that th' tuition in BC's been goin' up faster'n a pistol shot.

They also be claimin' that half o' all university students who graduate do so wit' no debt. But that leaves open the question not only about how much debt th'other half has, but o' how many students weren't able to graduate because their loans couldn't cover the cost o' their educations.

Aye, 'tis a most delicate wordin' they choose.

Horrors A-plenty

In Ontario, th'new folks in pow'r be settin' up a new Secretariat for Democratic Renewal. Th'job o' this secretariat is s'posed to restore th'peoples faith in th'democratic system.

O'course, under the 'guise o' that, some truly horrible things could develop. Fer one, they're lookin' at expandin' the powers of the MPPs. Because everyone knows that when th'people don't believe in th'democracy, th'answer is to expand the power o' the rulin' folk.

Another idea they've got is t'get rid o' partisan politics by givin' the Provincial Auditor the power t'enforce a ban on partisan commercials. Considerin' that it's the government in power that gets t'appoint the provincial auditor, it makes me wonder just what type o' commercials they might be considerin' as "partisan". I'm bettin' any that say the liberal party is the greatest ain't among them.

Scarey enough happenings even fer a pirate like me!

On th'bright side, it be the time o' year fer a good scare like that.

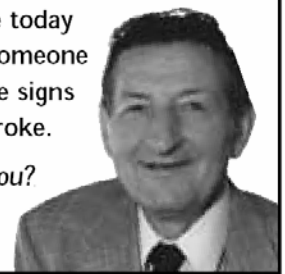
Happy Halloween, Mateys!

Arrgh! Karl be of Calgarian birth, an has been sailin' the high seas o' education fer many a year now with an eye t'ward diggin' up a degree in Information Studyin'. 'E's 'opin' t'one day be tutorin' the likes o' you and earnin' a greater treasure in 'is Master's degree.

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

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Making Mistakes

By Debbie Jabbour



Something I've always tried to do in life is be ready to admit when I've made a mistake. This is not easy to do at times. Admitting a mistake can feel as if we are admitting a personal failing of some kind. All of us want to believe that we do the right thing, that we are correct in our assessment of the situation, that we are good judges of people and character, that our beliefs are the right ones. Saying, "I was wrong" may be incredibly difficult. Apologizing for our mistake may be near impossible for some of us.

Does admitting a mistake mean we are personally deficient or failures somehow? I don't think so, although I usually take it very personally when I have to admit I am wrong. I feel very passionate about things, and tend to approach matters intensely. I research issues completely and try not to make a decision until I've looked fairly and non-judgementally at all sides. I rarely (if ever), reach a decision without ensuring I've actively considered all aspects. But even so, I make mistakes. Sometimes I listen to the wrong group of people or an individual I mistakenly trust. Other times I give in to a particular bias that is so deeply ingrained within me that I'm not even aware of it. At times I just make a wrong decision - no reason or justification - I just do. I put it down to being human, I guess.

As a psychology major, coming to appropriate judgements of other people's character and motivation is an important requisite skill. Yet I've made serious errors in this regard. I've placed my trust and confidence in people who have betrayed me. I've advocated for people who have turned out to be completely undeserving. I've believed people when they've assured me that I can trust them, that they are worthy of my support. I've made some serious mistakes in this regard. One such mistake is now having significant repercussions for me and others. This worries me. I'm now working in a field where my job requires that I assess family situations, and my assessments play a key role in the future of those families. If I cannot make worthy judgements about people - what good am I in this job? What if I trust a client who is misleading me and make a recommendation that causes harm to the family?

Making a mistake in judgement is only part of the problem. As mentioned at the outset, being able to admit to the error is much more difficult. I've made many mistakes as a parent, serious mistakes that have impacted my children profoundly. I've admitted these to them, but all the same - I find myself consumed with guilt at times. Parental mistakes are something we all make - some more than others. We start out with great intentions as a parent, but life intervenes, and we err. Parenting classes come too late. Fortunately most of the time, our kids grow up in spite of what we do as parents.

Professionally I've made mistakes, and these have really been at the forefront lately for me. Two years ago I was feeling completely betrayed by a co-worker I trusted. A year ago the repeat situation occurred. Ironically I'm in the same position yet again. It makes me wonder. Does the problem lie with me for being trusting? Do I make mistaken judgements of people? Or is it simply part of human nature that we make these mistakes?

Admitting our mistakes is key. Alcoholics Anonymous is a proven and respected treatment program for people with addictions. The AA Big Blue Book lists the twelve steps to healing, and one of them is going to people

we've harmed and honestly admitting mistakes. Its a good lesson for all of us. Healing and moving forward requires admitting our mistakes and apologizing.

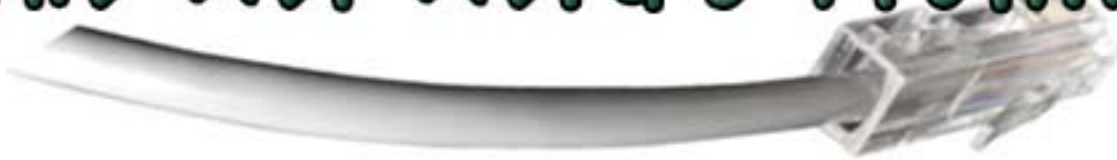
We may not feel we've done anything wrong, but here is the most important part of making a mistake. Sometimes we have to accept responsibility and say "I'm sorry," even if we do not feel we've done anything wrong. Why? Because sometimes that's the only way we can move forward. Sometimes we need to accept responsibility in order to allow others to move forward. This may be as a parent, as a spouse, as a co-worker. If taking responsibility and accepting blame will allow a group to move forward, then it takes a very big person and a good leader to put their own feelings aside on behalf of others.

Accepting blame and saying "I'm sorry. I made a mistake" may be the most difficult thing we can do - and for me - the person who can do so has my complete respect and admiration. I will continue to aspire to the ideal of a person who is able to admit to mistakes and apologize.

It's far more realistic than achieving the goal of someone who never makes mistakes!

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.

The Net Nerd's Profiles



What in the hell does *pi* mean? You better rethink that math course or visit <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/services/counselling/math>

Ah math, my old nemesis. Yes you beat me in grades 9, 10, 12 and twice in 11, but I can take you now...I think.

Excuse me while I talk to myself (love that Dr. Evil voice). Although I'm far from done, sometimes in my spare moments I peruse my degree requirements and lovingly look through the courses I'll soon be taking (yes I do need a life, thank you very much). Imagine my shock and horror when a course labeled MATH popped up. I thought at first it was a trick of the eye, a brain hiccup, then I thought maybe I had a joke version of the calendar (they should really make those), but no it was there, and not an elective but a REQUIREMENT! I shed a tear that day.

Coming from a family of math and computer whizzes I am the black sheep. I am such a black sheep I'm not invited to family functions, no pictures, nothing. My name is whispered with revulsion, they shudder at the thought of me.. Ok my Mother is rolling her eyes right about now. Seriously, in a family where calculus is "fun" for half of them. I do stand out. But all that will change.

On the AU website I found something that may change my life (or make me feel better). It is the *Mathematics Diagnostic Evaluation*. I will now find out if I can survive a university level math course. This evaluation is a comprehensive test of your math suitability. You have the option to do part A and B and C which consists of seventy questions, or only part c which has thirty questions. Being the masochist I am, I will attempt the seventy question route. That's about it for this website, clean and simple. So farewell folks, depending on the results, you may never hear from me again.

Neat Stuff: After the evaluation is complete you can click *next* which will take you to a page that gives you appropriate courses to take based on your scores. There is also a *skip* button you can press if you don't know the answer.

Not so Neat stuff: There is a *skip* button you can press if you don't know the answer

Rating **/5** This site is a great tool if you need to take a university math course, yet aren't sure what to take or if you're ready. My score? The word "remedial" kept popping up (AU doesn't have a course for my level).

What happened to the kid's (or your own) college fund? Put down those loonies and try www.pogo.com

I may not be good at math, but when it comes to my money I can figure out how much I lose. One weekend my twenty bucks was burning a hole in my pocket so I decided to try my luck with the VLT's. Well after putting in five bucks, I ended up with \$340! Great, so I put in more to get the \$46 bonus. Well I put in \$80 and I never did get that \$46. The lights and neat sounds the VLT's have when you win fifty cents are great reinforcers. If that kind of stimulus prompts you to spend more money (to quote BNL "you can call me Pavlov's dog"), maybe you should try pogo.com.

This is a free site where, if you sign up, you can play tons and tons of games. It's a fairly easy site to navigate, and all the games are categorized. You can try casino, card and board games, sports games, trivia, arcade and word games. For example, I clicked on the game "Poppit" (I like the popping sounds. Bubble wrap anyone?). From there you can click on one of many game "rooms" to play in. In these rooms, there is a chat box beside the game where you can chat with other gamers while you play. Or if you're all business, just click *play now* if you don't care which room you go in.

The premise of pogo.com is that you play for tokens. These tokens can then be used to enter monthly, weekly and daily drawings for cash. Granted, it may not be as exciting to win at pogo's games when it's not real money, but you can still waste time without losing your house in the process (On the up side, some of the games do have cash jackpots). So happy playing. Goof off with a clean conscience!

Neat stuff: Sometimes companies put their PC games on this site for a trial period, so you can try out the newest games for free! Also, the game selection is great. I quit counting at sixty.

Not so Neat Stuff: Yes this site is free, but we all know what that means. Yes the corporate devils themselves: ads, ads and more ads.

Rating */5** Yes, this site is fun and sure you can ignore the ads. But like anything else with pretty lights and cute sounds, it's easy to lose track of time when you're trying not to study. Play in moderation and remember they're only tokens.

AUSU THIS MONTH

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The AUSU Legislative Committee is looking for active members who can help us create and change AUSU policy for the benefit of all our members.

We need volunteers who have a good sense of right and wrong, who are able to understand policy documents, who can extrapolate well to predict likely possibilities of policy decisions, who are willing to speak up, have their ideas heard and debated, but most importantly, who are willing to get involved in the process.

Volunteers should also be VERY comfortable with email, have reliable email access that can handle attachments, and a copy of Word 97 or something compatible, as the revision tool is used extensively for final drafts.

The current AUSU policies can be found at this site: <http://www.ausu.org/bylaws/policies.php>

Interested people can mail the Legislative Committee chair at klow@ausu.org, or contact AUSU Council.

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.

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

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...

NEW CLUB COMING SOON

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



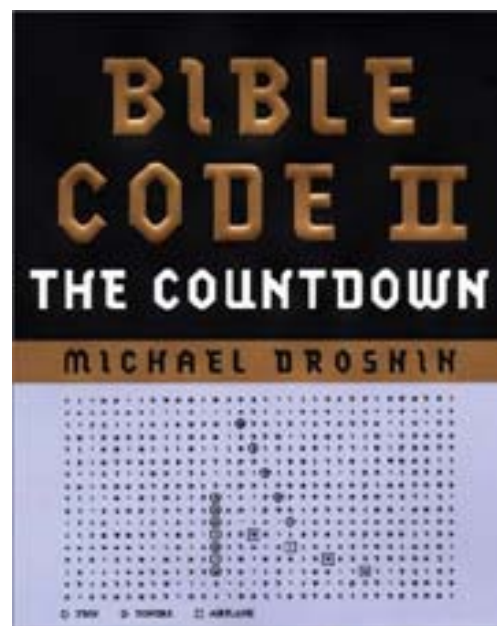
The Bible Code II: The Countdown Book Review

By Laura Seymour

This book, if all points prove true, could easily be the scariest book ever written. Author Michael Drosnin is a hard-core journalist who proclaims he is not religious; therefore the bible should mean nothing to him on a spiritual level, and in fact Drosnin met with Dr. Eli Rips, the Bible Code's discoverer, as a complete skeptic. Rips, apparently, has discovered a 3000 year-old code hidden within the bible, which can be interpreted through computer software to reveal some ominous predications..

Since becoming convinced of the code's authenticity, Drosnin has met with the likes of Arafat and Sharon trying to warn them that their courses in history can only lead to the world's worst war, which the hidden bible code says is atomic war.

Drosnin has found references in the hidden codes of the Christian bible, The Torah (Jewish bible) and other sources. His first book on the subject, *The Bible Code*, includes a mathematics-loaded article explaining the code. Top mathematicians at Harvard, Yale and Hebrew University have confirmed this code. It is spooky.



Drosnin has sent letters to warn President George W. Bush of the coming problems during his second term in office. That Bush will be elected a second time, therefore, becomes a prediction. Considering his popularity is very low right now, I hope he winds up with a solid comeback to get reelected. Or do I? Do I want to see these frightening incidents happen?

Oddly, there is a sick fascination in human nature. We stop to watch a traffic accident secretly anticipating blood or gore. Most of us will never admit this yet we do not avert our eyes and we often slow traffic for miles by our need to see the sights connected to the smash up. It seems to be the same with this book.

Do you want to know that G.W. Bush never read the letter from this journalist that could have led to a clearer plan to stop war in the Middle East from spreading into a world war? I'm not sure anyone in his or her right mind would. According to Drosnin's research, the war will begin either by bin Laden or his remaining followers (the book states the war continues "after bin Laden"). It will be a war against the infidels ... that means, unfortunately, all of us in North America and the free world.

I read the first book and wasn't overwhelmed at the predictions. So many of the writings seemed general and didn't seem to apply to me. The predictions included a monster earthquake for California in 2010, and a couple of big ones in China. Ok, not a nice thought but let's be honest ... kind of expected. I was far more curious after 9/11. Drosnin had claimed to find so many events prior to the actual event's occurrence, hidden within the code. I wondered if the Twin Towers were mentioned. I mean...just how much history is there in the code?

Drosnin began the second book with September 11, 2001. He lives in New York so his experience was first hand and well written. I appreciated the fact that he admitted he had missed finding this in the code. Since you need to use a computer program to find the events, it made sense. WHY would anyone have put in Twin Towers as a search prior to that fateful day? After the second tower fell, Drosnin ran down to his apartment and fed the event keyword into his computer. It spat out the data. How can this be? How could anything 3000 years old know the events to come for human kind?

Drosnin is convinced that no human being could possibly know the future so accurately. Indeed, even the great Nostradamus had to hide information in quatrains and still had typos (for instance Hister not Hitler). I find myself asking the same questions that Drosnin does.

My husband is fascinated with this second book, far more than the first. Now that 9/11 has taken place there seems to be more possibility for these catastrophic events to truly happen – unfortunately.

The atomic war the book predicts will not be over the need for land or resources (like oil) but against those that the Arab extremists don't agree with...which seems to be virtually everybody.

Yet, before you become deeply depressed, Drosnin is a believer in mankind's future. He asserts that this code was placed here so we could find it and change the world's events. He insists the likelihood is that we can change these events if we work toward it. Drosnin has traveled the world to meet with world leaders and shown them as much code as they need to try to make events change. He hopes to change these political actions over time to stop the upcoming catastrophes.

Since the original Bible Code book speaks of events in 2010 and beyond, I think we can guess the world will not completely end in 2006.

Depending on how much work we, as people, do to influence our politicians and fellow men about the need for peace, we may even be able to avert this calamity all together. We may have to stop gaping at the gore in traffic accidents that come along, though.

My review of this book includes a wish for peace to all – and those of all faiths.

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



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BILL 43 AMENDMENTS FALL SHORT

Changes give little comfort to students



Edmonton, October 27, 2003 – The spirit of the proposed amendments to Bill 43, the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* fails to address students' major concerns with the Bill.

"A permanent framework to increase tuition above the 30% cap and above the pace of inflation still appears to be the government's plan," stated Shirley Barg, CAUS Chair. "While the explicit deregulation of distance education may be taken off the table, this amendment does not address our concerns about tuition. Purposeful under-funding led to the removal of the 12% cap, the 20% cap, and now the 30% cap. This isn't about 'flexibility'; this is about another broken promise -- it's about the gradual privatisation of public post-secondary education," Barg concluded.

"It seems unwise to allow institutions the 'flexibility' to increase tuition above the 30% cap without a review of the system to why the current framework works for some institutions and not others," stated Chris Samuel, CAUS vice-chair.

Currently, Alberta's universities can only charge students 30% of their net operating expenditures. Bill 43 proposes that cap be removed.

Bill 43 also creates provisions for the Minister to investigate and dissolve an elected student council.

"The amendment on the audit provisions does not address our concerns fully," said Barg. "It still leaves the door open for institutional administrations and Boards of Governors to trigger the investigation. It is widely known that this provision will be used to brow-beat students."

"Students' unions are accountable to students. They get their money from students, and are held strictly accountable to them," said Samuel. "Students' associations receive no funding from the government or from their institutions. We feel it is inappropriate for students' associations to be held accountable to anyone but students."

"It appears as though the government is unwilling to allow students to hold their own representatives accountable through their own tested means," stated Barg. "It also appears as though the calls for affordable public post-secondary education are not heeded."

The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) represents over 80 000 Alberta undergraduate university students.

For more information, contact:

Shirley Barg, CAUS Chair
780 461 4948

Melanee Thomas, CAUS Executive Director
780 492 1976



THE SIRC RESEARCH AWARD

CALL FOR SPORT RESEARCH PAPERS

The Sport Information Resource Centre (SIRC) leads the world in sport, fitness and sports medicine information provided through their bibliographic database SPORTDiscus. For 30 years, SIRC has been identifying, organizing and disseminating sport and fitness information through a variety of products and services.

In commemorating 30 years of excellence, SIRC is pleased to announce the creation of the SIRC Research Award. From basketball to goalie masks, zippers to pace makers, coaching to volunteer development, Canadian research has changed the world of sport. The SIRC Research Award will recognize Canadian innovations in sport related research.

For more information how to qualify for this award, please visit:

www.canadiansport.com

**Celebrating
Canadian
Sport Research**

**La célébration
de la recherche
du sport canadien**

Photo by: Andrew Dobrowolsky, McGill Sports Info Office

SIRC

www.canadiansport.com

Photo courtesy of CAAWS / Photo gracieuse de l'ACAFS - Mariela Hiedra Photography

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.



CUTC 2004 (Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference)

January 22 - 24, 2004
Delta Toronto East Hotel

The Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference (CUTC) is about technology, innovative ideas, and the people who turn these ideas into reality. The Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference was started in 2000 by a few visionary students from the University of Waterloo, and is now in its fifth year and continues to be organized exclusively by university students from across Canada.

The last four conferences sold out, each bringing together approximately 500 students from 20 universities across Canada from every aspect of technology. The three-day conference features hands-on workshops and seminars featuring leading speakers from industry and academia. Filled with events such as ThinkTank, TechExpo, CareerExpo, TechPanel, TechShops and TechTours, all of this is made possible by the generous support of our past sponsors, including Bell Canada, Redknee, Microsoft Canada and IBM Canada Ltd.

We are excited to announce that Glenn Edens, Vice President of Research and Director of Sun Labs, will be a keynote speaker for CUTC 2004. Other speakers include David Kirk, Chief Scientist and VP of Architecture at NVIDIA, who will give a glimpse of future graphics technologies and explore the factors that make inventors out of engineers, and Ray Mowling, past president of Monsanto and currently the Executive Director for the Council for Biotechnology Information, who will be speaking about genetically modified foods.

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.cutc.ca> or contact info@cutc.ca.

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **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
- **ISIMD 2004** - Jan. 5 - 7, 2004 - Istanbul, Turkey - "2nd International Symposium of Interactive Media Design." Details: <http://isimd2004.yeditepe.edu.tr/>
- **LEARNTEC 2004** - Feb. 10 - 13 - Karlsruhe, Germany - 12th European Conference and Specialist Trade Fair for Educational and Informational Technology. Details: <http://www.learntec.de>
- **ICDE 2004** - Feb. 18 - 21 - Hong Kong - 21st ICDE World Conference on Open Learning and Distance Education. Details: <http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/hk2004/>

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>
- **WITHINSIGHT 2004** - January 21-24, 2004 - Ottawa, Ontario. Details: "A four day forum for the discussion and exploration of prominent Canadian issues based on an interactive format of communication with current Canadian leaders. Open to post-secondary students from all across Canada and from all disciplines. Applications are due by November 3rd." http://www.withinsight.ca/en_site/index.html



Know of a conference that is not on this list? Contact voice@ausu.org with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

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

OTTAWA COFFEE GROUP FOR AU STUDENTS

1:00 pm - Sunday, November 2
The Royal Oak - 318 Bank St. Ottawa
Contact: tneuman@ausu.org for more information
See you there!

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THE VOICE

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THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

The Voice is funded by the Athabasca University Students' Union, for the students of Athabasca University
The Voice is published every Wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at: **VOICE@AUSU.ORG**

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