

# THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 46  
November 12, 2003

## BIRDS OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER

Fashion photo feature



## Here Comes The Rain Again

Hooray! for blustery days...

## Tales of an Adult Nail Biter

## Canadian Sports this month

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Plus: From My Perspective, FedWatch!, Flicks & Folios, Primetime Update, Net Nerd's Profiles, Dear Sandra, and news, announcements and opportunities from your university and beyond.

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Nov 12, 2003

Volume 11, Issue 46

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**We love to hear from you! Send your letters to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org), and please indicate if we may publish your letter in the Voice.**

Dear Ms Editor,

In the past, I have written to my fellow students at AU about the importance of voting and the price of tuition. It should be known to students at AU that after the Provincial Liberal Party of Ontario won Ontario Provincial Election that they immediately enforced their election promise and froze tuition at Ontario Colleges and Universities for 2 years. During this time they will conduct a full review of tuition and work towards finding solutions. It shows now quite clearly that your tuition bill is not just a budgetary issue its a political issue as well. As a student you can not afford not to vote!

**Arthur Setka  
Peterborough, Ontario.**

**RE: Taking Notes: Eye on Education, November 5, 2003.**

Just a quick comment. I'm very impressed with the description of a course, but there is DEFINITELY a problem when you shouldn't "expect to get a good grade" no matter how hard you study!

Attention AUSU staff...this course should be reviewed!

**Laura Seymour  
B.A. student**

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## THE VOICE

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**Editor In Chief** Tamra Ross Low

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**THE VOICE ONLINE:  
[WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE](http://WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE)**

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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/>





FIRST IT WAS ELECTRICITY  
THEN IT WAS NATURAL GAS

NOW THEY'RE COMING FOR EDUCATION

a bill 43 policy  
ALBERTA'S STUDENTS ARE GOING TO PAY

deregulation  
NATION

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RESTRICTED ACCESS TO HUMANITY'S POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM

Only students who can afford to pay exorbitant tuition fees will be admitted. Contains graphic images of student  
buses and dorms and thousands of published and restricted libraries being left behind.

CAUS

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# EDITORIAL PAGES

## THIS WEEK

**FASHION PHOTO FEATURE - BIRDS OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER:** Sara Kinninmont's Japanese adventure reveals the outrageous fashion scene of Harajuku station.

**HERE COMES THE RAIN AGAIN** - Bill Pollett has plenty of rainy-day free time on his hands, but he puts it to good use crafting this informal dictionary of precipitation. Want to know the difference between Mingus Rain and Don Ho Rain? Read on to find out.

**TALES OF AN ADULT NAIL BITER** - Teresa Neuman tires of being unable to pick up change and kicks this most persistent habit.

**THIS MONTH IN CANADIAN SPORTS** - Shannon Maguire knows what's going on this month. Don't miss your favorite events.

**ARTS STUDENT WON'T "TURNITIN"** - More on the man who has challenged the use of plagiarism detection databases by his university.

## Alberta Student Loans Repayment - Do you Know Your Options!

With all the talk about the lack of funds available through the Alberta Student Loans program, the one issue that is often overlooked is the lack of *information* provided by the loans program to new and current students. Some readers have commented on the generosity of the program, citing dead-beat students who default on loans as a drain on the system and the real cause of our student loans woes.

What we never ask, is if students are being given enough information to make the most of their loans and the relief programs available to help them pay off their massive debts. Many students who apply for their first loans are barely out of high-school, and they may have very little experience with terms such as 'principle', 'interest', 'floating rates', and 'equity.' Are these kids being properly counseled before taking loans, on how long it will take to repay the debt? Are they aware that there are many strategies for paying off a large debt, and that what works for one person, may not work for another? Do they know, for example, that making just a tiny extra payment each month will dramatically decrease their interest over the long run, and shorten the length of their payback time significantly?

Financial skills are just that - skills. They take time to learn, and experience to master. Ask anyone who is financially successful about their younger years, and most will have a horror story of a bad loan, mortgage, or credit card debt that they entered into without understanding all of the terms. How many people are still carrying major credit cards with 18% annual interest or higher, not realizing that they probably qualify for a low rate card for a minimal fee?

I think you get the picture, but the point is most kids don't. And it's not because they are not smart, savvy, or paying attention. It's because they aren't being properly informed before taking out their loans.

I know that the Alberta government has started to provide new loans customers with better documentation, and with easy to read [if not childish] booklets on student debt and repayment strategies, but I still don't think it's enough.

Case in point: The Alberta Students Finance Board's Remission Program. What's remission, you say? If you do, you are not alone. Remission is only the best relief program available to Alberta students, after all. And it's not a new program. It's been around for at least a decade, but I think much longer. I was very fortunate that someone told me about remission when I first started school, so I knew to apply when I completed my studies. Given how incredible this program is, I found it hard to believe that many students didn't, and still don't know about it, but over the years I've been told by many people - including my bank manager - that very few students apply for remission because they don't know they can.

So how does it work? Simple. The Alberta government will repay a percentage of your Alberta Student Loan once your studies are completed, at an amount based on how much funding you required to complete your degree, and how long it took. Not everyone is eligible to receive a refund, but many students are. They look at each semester for which you were funded, and any semester for which your loans were above a per-determined limit, you are eligible to get some funds back. The refunds can be substantial. I did my first two years of school very quickly, at three semesters a year. I had loans for both tuition, and living expenses. My total Alberta loan as of the time I stopped using the loans program was just under \$15,000. I applied for remission, and a few weeks later received a notice that I was eligible for a \$12,500 rebate! I owe less than \$2000 on that loan now, the rest having been paid back to the bank.

Many people hold the mistaken belief that this program is only for those who cannot afford to pay their loans. This is not true. They do not even ask you for financial information when you apply for remission. Being granted remission is not an indicator that you have defaulted, or are unable to pay your loan. Also, it does not matter if you have already started paying back your loan, or if you have completed paying it back. You can still apply, and if your loan has been paid, the refund will come to you.

Now with all of the pressure the Alberta government has been under to support university study, you'd think they would advertise this program by shouting it from the rooftops. Instead, they have attempted to address the lack of knowledge about remission by instituting a new policy last year where all new students will automatically assessed for remission after their first, and final years of study.

Just the other day I was speaking with a friend who has been paying back her student loans for a few years. She had no idea about remission. My advice to her was, "Apply right away! You might not get anything, but you never know until you try."

In effect, the Alberta government is willing to pay a large chunk of the education costs of students who require significant funding. Instead of donating the money up front, they have chosen to pay it back after studies are complete. It's fair enough, really, as this way the government is sure you are actually going through with your studies. You don't have to have graduated to apply for remission, though. You simply have to be finished with student loans. My degree is not complete, but I got remission anyway as I am no longer on loans.

If you aren't sure if you qualify for this program, go to the Alberta Learning Information Services web page (<http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/studentsfinance/eap.asp>) for more info, and select "Alberta Student Loan Relief Program" for a pdf form that you can print and send in.

*NOTE: I have been considering compiling a list of contact numbers and links for information on cross Canada student funding and related issues for a Voice links page. If you would find a page like this helpful, drop me a line at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org)*

**Tamra Ross Low**  
**Editor in Chief**



## BIRDS OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER

Sara Kinninmont



Harajuku Station, and the area surrounding it, was once home to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. The area has morphed over the years to host competitions of an entirely different kind; it is now home to the teen Fashionistas of the city. Although there are no medals given out to these competitors, often the acknowledgement and attention is validation enough. The streets surrounding the station are full of all kinds of trendy stores and boutiques, yet it

is the fashion displayed on the street leading from the station to the entrance of the Meiji Shrine and Yoyogi Park that is far more interesting, at least to me and countless other Western tourists.

On Sundays, anywhere from dozens to more than a hundred young girls can be found hanging out on the street with friends, eating, taking pictures, and trading stickers. All of this sounds routine and normal enough, certainly nothing out of the ordinary for teenage girls of many cultures; the only difference is that these girls are all in costume.

In the spring of 2002, I hopped on a plane bound for Tokyo to go visit a close friend who, like thousands of other twenty-something North Americans, had made the post-university migration to Asia to teach English in hopes of paying off astronomical student loans. I was, however, a bird of a different feather. It was unlikely that I would undertake the migration myself, but that didn't stop me from being curious about the exotic new habitat.

My friend was teaching in a suburb of Yokohama, just south of Tokyo. I spent the first week exploring Yokosuka, going to class with her, and indulging my love of shopping and Japanese food. There was, of course, a little bit of culture shock, but it mostly took hold at the grocery store while I stared into murky buckets wondering what could possibly







be in them that someone would buy and invariably eat. All in all, I was adapting well. I had read up quite a bit before my trip, and I knew that Japanese society was fairly regimented. There were certain attitudes and etiquettes, which were not only expected but societally enforced. Foreigners, or *gaijin* (outside person), can usually get away with more simply because they are outsiders, but that didn't mean I was going to flagrantly disregard local customs in the name of being a tacky tourist. I did my best to try and follow these societal expectations. The hardest of all being that it is considered rude to eat while walking. With so many tempting food stalls with little-to-no seating, what's a girl to do?

The overall message from all the guidebooks that I'd read was that Japanese society was still very much hierarchical, and within the hierarchies there were many separate groups. Depending on the group to which one belongs, there is a certain acceptable way of doing things and all members are expected to conform. This goes as far as to include dress codes and/or uniforms. It is through one's clothing that greater society can tell which group the person is a part of. From young children in their school

uniforms to salary men in suits to women wearing traditional kimonos, each profession or social grouping has a typical style of dress, or unofficial uniform - unofficial in that it is not always officially required, yet almost all choose to wear it.

The one thing that many of the guide books glossed over was the fact that within the hierarchies and mass conformity there lay an anomaly; Japanese teenagers and early twenty-somethings seem to live by an entirely different set of rules. Just like me, they were birds of a different feather. With their bright trend-savvy brand-name styles, they stood out among the rest of Japanese society, like a flock of toucans surrounded by pigeons. I became insatiably curious about them. Much like the thousands of English teachers who have taken up residence in Japan, so too have many Western trends and styles. Japanese youth are fascinated with Western culture, especially American culture, namely the fashion. Once it lands in their country, they adopt it wholeheartedly, yet always giving it a Japanese twist. A good example of this being a teenage girl I saw outside the Gap in Harajuku. It was obvious she liked Mickey Mouse, for she was wearing his likeness from head-to-toe. From her hat to her shirt to her skirt to her three pairs of socks layered on top of each other, even her shoes, all of it had the mouse's smiling face on it. Strangely enough, this girl is not alone.

It turns out that the late teens and early twenties are seen as a time to experiment and to be free, before one must buckle down and face adult responsibilities. It is a time between the highly regimented school years, and the work and/or family obligations to come. Many Japanese youth explore and express this freedom through fashion. Since members of society are judged by what they wear, they can adopt different personas through their dress. They try on these personas, as



they do clothing. It is a fairly harmless way to experiment. Because this freedom is societally sanctioned, the youth are not harshly judged for their outlandish fashions.

Of course, the fashion savvy masses that clog the sidewalks outside the shops in Harajuku are just the tip of the iceberg. The Mickey Mouse girl astounded me when I first saw her, which in retrospect is rather amusing since I now know what lay in wait for me up the hill in the *Hoko-ten* (pedestrian paradise). I made my way up the hill slowly, wandering in and out of shops, mostly just looking since the Yen unfortunately put most of what I coveted well out of financial reach. As I made it to the pedestrian overpass, I could hear strains of music in the distance. It was as I made my way over the road that I caught my first glimpse of all the girls in their costumes. They all stood around casually talking with friends occasionally posing for pictures. It was unlike anything I had ever seen before. As I made my way back down to ground level, I was overwhelmed, unable to figure out which way to look first.

They were everywhere. There was a girl dressed in a black and red wedding gown. Her friend was wearing all black lace and had bright blue feathered wings sprouting from her head. Others wore nursing whites or lab coats all sprayed in blood, often with bloodied bandages at their wrists. Another girl had huge Jamaican-style dreadlocks and wore a full leather bondage mask. There were two vampires that looked suspiciously like rhinestone-leisure-suit-clad-Vegas-style Elvises. Some girls were dressed like little dolls with ruffled dresses and knee socks, their hair in ringlets. One girl appeared to be wearing a communist-style khaki uniform, her face was painted completely white with the exception of her black lips. I made my way across the bridge, simply gaping and taking it in.

I wanted to take pictures of these girls in their intricate costumes, but I didn't want to be rude. At first, I took a few on the sly. Gradually, I noticed that I wasn't the only one awestruck and interested in these girls, for they were all girls, not a single guy. There were dozens of other tourists, just like me, milling around, even posing with them. That was all the reassurance I needed. From then on, I was camera happy. I







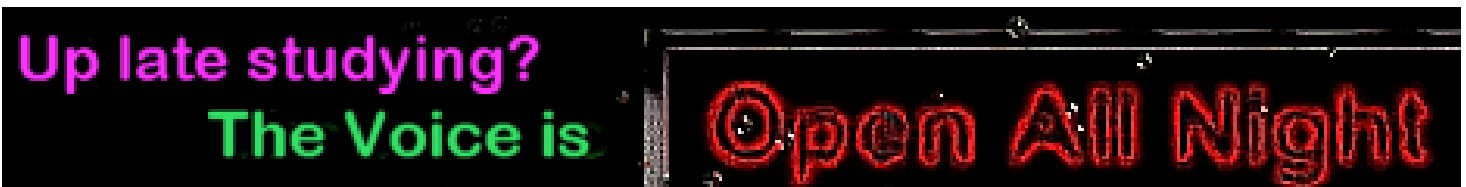
knew I'd need the pictures to show friends and family back home because I worried my words would never do these girls justice. At times, it felt very much like being a visitor at a zoo featuring exotic creatures of the likes I had never seen before.

I went back to Yokosuka later that evening excited by my discovery, as though I was an early explorer having discovered a tribe of pygmies in the deep dark recesses of the Amazon. Similar to the explorer, I was full of questions. Why did these girls dress up like they did? Every Sunday? And they don't mind standing around being admired like creatures? Do they make their costumes? The list of questions was endless. I thought it was great. In such a regimented society, my discovery of these outlandish costumes baffled and excited me. Despite the leniency towards the young, how did they get away with it, especially the girls covered in the fake blood?

Not surprisingly, I was drawn back the following Sunday. My interest hadn't dulled. I walked back and

forth again, taking even more pictures. It was that afternoon that I came across an Australian girl all dressed up among the Tokyo teens. I approached her with my myriad of questions. It turns out that the fashions sprang from the earlier inception of the Sundays in Harajuku when it was mostly bands that would gather to perform. The music that grew out of the Sundays is referred to as Visual Kei, stemming from the fact that these bands adopted striking visual looks strongly rooted in goth, glam, or punk. It was as these bands became famous in their own right, and no longer played there on Sundays that their many fans took to dressing like their favourite performers, thereby taking over the Sunday ritual.

I left Harajuku that night, and headed back to the suburbs a little disappointed. On the one hand, my days in Harajuku would likely be ranked as a definite highlight of my trip, but, at the same time, the mystery surrounding the girls was gone. The fact that they simply dressed up as a means of emulating their favourite rock stars was not nearly as rebellious as I had imagined, nor as creative. It was really no different than the thousands of girls in North America who dress up like Britney Spears every Halloween, except a little darker in tone. All in all, my temporary migration to Japan allowed me to do exactly what I had set out to in the first place, to see my friend's new habitat. For three weeks, I did that very thing. I immersed myself in a culture so different from my own, and loved every minute of it for that very reason. My only disappointment stems from the fact that rather than finding a new exotic breed of local bird, I discovered a species of chameleon camouflaged as one. I realize now, however, that a chameleon can be just as interesting in its own right, and, in the end, makes for some great memories and pictures.





## HERE COMES THE RAIN AGAIN

Bill Pollett



It's Saturday afternoon and we're sitting in our living room eating left-over noodles from leaky paper cartons and watching a videocassette of Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*. It's one of those November days when the rain comes horizontally at the windows and fills the house with the type of blue-green light that always puts me in mind of empty churches and Sherlock Holmes on the Yorkshire moors and grainy footage of Jacques Cousteau beneath the surface of the North Sea. My wife is curled up underneath a blanket while our six-year-old daughter divides her attention between cutting out crepe-paper bats and watching the funny-moustached man eating his shoelaces like spaghetti. The kettle is whistling on the stove and there's a chunk of cedar wood burning in the fireplace. Oh yeah.

This is my kind of weather. Other people long for balmy summer evenings or crisp fall days. I pray for leaden skies and torrential downpours. Perhaps, as my wife suggests, it betrays a certain morbidity in my cast of mind, but I have always been a sucker for stories that begin "It was a dark and stormy night," have always relished the bleak autumnal procession of days that pass across the Vancouver calendar like black-hooded medieval monks.

In my idle hours I have randomly and unscientifically identified fifty or sixty different types of Vancouver rainfall. There is, for example, Don Ho Rain - those tiny luminous bubbles that dance on capricious air currents, never seeming to land. Bladerunner Rain occurs in the early hours of the morning and leaves the downtown streets with a futuristic, neon-reflecting glaze. Collective Unconscious Rain cascades for days on end, inspiring archetypal visions of apocalyptic floods. Ingmar Bergman Rain brings on feelings of existentialist angst. Strata Council Assessment Rain, perhaps the most common Vancouver variety, is capable of turning wood frame condos into soggy cardboard boxes and transforming drywall into something roughly the texture of milk-soaked arrowroot biscuits. Mingus Rain plays rhythmically complex post-bop compositions on middle-of-the-night corrugated tin roofs. Humiliation Rain selectively drenches the area from crotch to kneecaps. B-Movie Rain falls outside isolated cabins when everyone else is asleep. Well Spent Afternoon Rain provides an excuse to phone in sick and do something really productive, like play snakes and ladders or watch televised ballroom dancing. I could go on, but perhaps you get the picture.

If I ever fall into a fabulous inheritance, I intend to open a rain museum - room after room of bronze-age rain barrels and primitive cloud chambers. A whole floor, of course, would be dedicated to a collection of the world's rarest umbrellas: the early Chinese prototype, made from treated rice paper, discovered in a subterranean vault of the Forbidden City's Imperial Palace; Louis XIV's jewel-encrusted *parapluie*; the seventeenth century Japanese version made from the silk of nocturnal worms that spin their thread only during the full and dark of the moon (It is said that this particular umbrella will instantly dissolve if used in a rainstorm by any but the most pure of heart.).

Half the enjoyment of a good rainfall is finding the perfect place to experience it. My idea of an afternoon lived large, for instance, is one spent walking along the Stanley Park seawall while raw gusts of drenched easterly winds hurl themselves like liquid rottweilers at the throat. There's also a great dim sum place on Pender Street where they cook with woks the size of upside down umbrellas, and the steam from dishes of sticky rice and Peking duck conspires with the exterior

weather to create condensation so thick that passersby in the outside world resemble nothing so much as great carp drifting beneath the surface of a murky ornamental pond.

There are certain provisions, too, that help maximize the enjoyment of lightless fall days. Thick Victorian novels and sombre chamber music recordings create a fine ambience. Burning incense and candles and swilling cups of espresso can't hurt. By all means put extra garlic heads on the shopping list to ward off vampires and colds. Lamb stews or hearty chowders washed down with pinot noirs or thick creamy porter ales are sustenance of choice around our house. Whatever your personal taste, though, it's the sense of seasonal ritual that counts. Like it or not, autumn is here, and, like most things, enjoying it is largely a state of mind. Bring it on, I say, bring it on.

## **ANNOUNCING THE NEADS ONLINE WORK SYSTEM (NOWS)**

OTTAWA, October 28, 2003 - The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) is pleased to announce the launch of the NEADS Online Work System (NOWS).

Are you a post-secondary student or recent graduate with a disability looking for work? If your answer is yes, you now have a new job web site at your disposal. Located at <[www.nowcs.ca](http://www.nowcs.ca)>, the system provides a unique bilingual channel for hiring companies to post employment and internship opportunities specifically for qualified Canadian post-secondary students and graduates with disabilities. Students can upload their resumé's, browse and search for employment opportunities, and apply online.

Opportunities include summer, part-time work, internship programs and full-time careers.

For students or recent graduates NOWS is a service that allows you to promote your skills and talents to progressive employers seeking candidates with disabilities for available positions. It provides employers access to the only Canadian searchable database of its kind of post-secondary students and graduates with disabilities looking for work.

If you would like more information on NOWS or wish to register, log on to <[www.nowcs.ca](http://www.nowcs.ca)> or contact Chris Gaulin toll-free at 1-877-670-1256 or by email at [chris.gaulin@neads.ca](mailto:chris.gaulin@neads.ca).

Since 1986, the National Educational Association of Disabled Students has been Canada's consumer-based cross-disability organization advocating for full access to post-secondary education and employment opportunities for students and graduates with disabilities. Visit our web site at <[www.neads.ca](http://www.neads.ca)> to learn more about the organization and its projects.

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.

**Contact: Chris Gaulin, NEADS**

**Tel: 1-877-670-1256**

**Email: [chris.gaulin@neads.ca](mailto:chris.gaulin@neads.ca)**



# TALES OF AN ADULT NAIL BITER

## *Healthy hands are Worth a Second Look*

*Teresa Neuman*



I just broke a nail on the washing machine. I'm not being a whiner. In fact, being able to break a nail is a major accomplishment. I am a confirmed nail biter. I have to work hard to grow nails and I have to work harder to keep them. So, it's always disappointing when a nail breaks.

I have always been a nail biter, starting as a child. My parents diligently tried to entice me to quit biting my nails. They painted my nails with bad tasting polish and even resorted to bribery. Every week, my mother would inspect my hands and pay me 10 cents a week per nail (which was a fortune in 1970) for the nails that I let grow.

It worked for a while. But money wasn't enough and eventually, I broke down and chewed my nails again.

When I started playing piano, an opportunity to bite my nails presented itself. At the same time my parents wanted me to grow my nails, my piano teacher wanted me to have short nails as my new, long nails clicked too loudly on the piano keys when I was playing scales. The piano teacher won out and I chewed off my long nails happily.

I come by the habit by example. I will never forget the look on my father's face as he came home one day to find both my mother and I together in the living room, me chewing my nails and my mother picking her fingers. He knew that he was facing a losing battle, threw his hands up in the air, and gave up.

Nail biting is not all that uncommon. Today's Parent (<http://www.todaysparent.com>), says that 40 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 18 bite their nails. According to their experts on child behavior, some children bite their nails due to stress, but most bite their nails because they find it soothing, or because they are bored. Most children stop when they are ready, usually once they start school, or when their peers make fun of them for nail biting.

The American Academy of Dermatology (<http://www.aad.org/pamphlets/nailhealth.html>) website contains useful information about nails and nail health. I learned that nails are produced by living cells found on fingers and toes and are made up of keratin, a hardened protein, which is also found in skin and hair. Finger nails grow at a rate of 0.1 mm per day, toe nails grow at a much slower rate. The rate at which nails grow can also depend on age, time of year, and heredity. I thought otherwise, but nails grow faster on a person's dominant hand. Men's nails generally grow faster than women's, but women's can grow faster during pregnancy and old age.

Nails reflect the state of a person's health and can indicate the presence of diseases affecting the liver, kidneys, and the heart. Doctors often check their patient's nails during physicals. For example, yellowish nails with a slight blush at the base would indicate to the physician to check the patient for the indicators of diabetes.

The American Academy of Dermatology links nail biting in older children and adults to stress and I fit perfectly in that category. Although I bit my nails out of stress, I got tired of sore hands and nails so short that I could not pick up coins or pencils. I decided that it was time to quit. I began by visiting a professional manicurist who cleaned up and shaped my short nails and offered advice about nail care. My husband offered to pay for the manicures as an incentive for me to stop biting. Following the advice of friends, I now keep a supply of emery boards stashed everywhere – in the car, by my desk, on the piano. When I find a rough spot on my fingers, I



sand it, eliminating the temptation to bite that rough spot. Hand lotion is another weapon in the arsenal against biting; by keeping my skin soft, I can eliminate further temptation to pick or bite. Finally, I have purchased several nice bottles of nail polish and take the time to keep my hands looking nice. I have discovered that if my hands look nice, I am less tempted to ruin the look by biting my nails. If I am too lazy to take the time to apply nail polish, I wear a base coat of clear nail polish or a nail hardener such as Sally Hansen "Hard as Nails."

Unfortunately, I don't have any before and after photos to show the transformation of my hands. It always makes my husband giggle when I pull out all the nail care paraphernalia. It's worth enduring the giggles not to hear the comments about the sorry state of my hands. I like how my hands look now. I am still tempted to bite my nails, but realize that healthy hands are worth the effort to stop.

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*Teresa is enrolled in the Bachelor of Professional Arts Program, Communications Studies, at Athabasca University and is enjoying returning to school after 18 years. Teresa enjoys writing, union activism and gardening, and lives and works in Regina, Saskatchewan, with her partner Kevin and son Adam.*

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**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, or personal experiences with courses or university situations they feel other students should know about.**

**Debbie Jabbour**

University students have been taking advantage of [RateMyProfessors.ca](http://RateMyProfessors.ca) to see what other students have to say about their professors, and now junior/high school students have the same option. [RateMyTeachers.ca](http://RateMyTeachers.ca) is quickly growing in popularity since starting two years ago. The site bills itself as a "forum for students to publicly expose ineffective teachers and praise stellar ones," adding that, "for the passionless imposters who only call themselves teachers, this website is your worst enemy."

Provincial and Federal teacher's groups consider the site inappropriate, if not downright dangerous. The president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Terry Price, complains that the ability of students to make anonymous comments can be "professionally and personally damaging," a "virtual open season on teachers." Some have suggested that schools should block access to [RateMyTeachers.ca](http://RateMyTeachers.ca) from their computer systems.

Certainly there are valid arguments - repeat votes from a single student with a pet peeve can skew results, false or unhelpful information can be submitted, teachers can rate each other unfairly, comments can be hurtful and harmful, and teachers who are disliked are often very good teachers nonetheless.

Are teachers justified in their fears? I think back to my elementary/junior/high school years and I certainly had plenty of indifferent or incompetent teachers, and the same is true of university studies. But I'm not convinced that such website ratings are really a fair indicator. Price poses a question that is well worth considering for users of [RateMyTeachers.ca](http://RateMyTeachers.ca) and [RateMyProfessors.ca](http://RateMyProfessors.ca) - "what would happen if teachers set up a website where they could anonymously and publicly comment on the behaviour of students?"

#### **Reference**

Students grade teachers on U.S. website: Union doesn't like [RateMyTeachers.ca](http://RateMyTeachers.ca). *Edmonton Journal*, November 8, 2003.

## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

# Total Eclipse of the Moon

*By Debbie Jabbour*



Tonight we had a treat in Edmonton, one that was shared with most of the country. Clear skies, and a rare sight of a total eclipse of the moon. This eclipse was also marked by a "red" moon, caused when earth's atmosphere bends the sunlight into the earth's shadow and onto the moon to create a reddish hue.

I missed the first part of the eclipse since I was at work, but as I was driving home eastward at about 5:30, I could see the shadow of the earth almost ready to overtake the moon completely, with a curved sliver at the bottom all that remained. By the time I arrived at home the total eclipse had just started, and for the next fifteen minutes or so the moon was just a dark shadowed ball surrounded by a faint glow of light. With the naked eye it didn't seem very red, but it was incredibly beautiful nonetheless. For the next hour and a half I kept tabs on the progress as the eclipse completed, watching from the shelter of my front entrance.

It was not the first time I'd had the privilege of seeing this marvelous phenomenon. As a child, I remember my father waking us all up well after midnight to watch a lunar eclipse. We traipsed out to the backyard in our pajamas and jackets, where he had set up the telescope. Yawning and shivering in the cold night air, only barely awake, I recall being awed by the wonder of seeing the moon gradually disappear from sight, only to gradually re-appear several minutes later.

This scenario has been repeated several times through the years, any time there was a partial or complete lunar eclipse, and a clear sky. We also had the rare privilege of seeing a total solar eclipse one year. My father brought home chunks of welders glass so that we could all watch this wonder safely. I treasured the picture we took that day - a diamond ring in the sky - created when the moon moved in between the earth and sun to create a perfect circle inside, surrounded by the brilliant glow of the sun that sparkled at one corner. I recall the eerie feeling when the sky became completely darkened at midday for a few moments, and the sense of awe, knowing the rarity of what I was seeing, thankful for being in the right place at the right time.

We spent many hours in the backyard, peering through the telescope, as my father taught us the different planets, their moons, and the constellations. These experiences developed in me a lifelong interest in astronomy and heavenly bodies.

My daughters have inherited this fascination with the sky. From the time they were small, I repeated the lessons my father had taught me about the eclipse, taking them outside to watch on those special and rare occasions. As they grew older, this wasn't always easy. The last lunar eclipse, several years ago, I stood on the snowy front sidewalk in chilly freezing weather, trying to persuade my youngest to join me to watch this miracle. She protested initially, preferring to watch the season premiere of a favourite sitcom - but finally relented and put on her coat, hat, and gloves, and we cuddled and shivered as we shared the marvel together. Last night my eldest called her sisters to remind them that we all should watch tonight's eclipse, and she, like me, spent almost an hour outside in below zero weather, monitoring its progress.

As I watched the shadow of the earth pass over the moon, I mused about what it must have been like centuries ago in a simpler, less-technologically savvy world. What must have gone through our ancestors' minds watching this amazing phenomena? How would they have explained it? I felt a profound connection with a long ago time and place and a sense of deja vu overtook me. Our world has changed so much, and our lives

have become so very different - yet the planets continue to move as they always have. The earth sometimes passes between the sun and the moon, and the moon sometimes blocks the sun. The eclipse is timeless.

Watching this incredible evidence of the earth's movement, things came into perspective for me. All the troubles I had dealt with at work during that day didn't weigh on me quite as heavily, and the many stressors that have been wearing me down recently seemed less important somehow. No matter what is going on in our lives down here below, the earth keeps rotating and moving in its orbit around the sun, and the moon keeps circling in its orbit around the earth. To stand outside and watch that movement occur is an experience almost too wonderful for words. I felt very small in the face of it.

What struck me as odd was that we were the only ones in the neighbourhood outside watching - I had always assumed that everyone had the same sense of amazement at seeing this natural phenomena. Sadly, this is not the case. For many people, the thought of taking a few hours to step outside and stop and watch a lunar or solar eclipse pales in comparison with watching the Hollywood version of the event. Or perhaps they simply never learned to appreciate what a wondrous event an eclipse truly is.

The Universe Today - Special report: Total lunar Eclipse, November 8-9, 2003.  
<http://www.universetoday.com/html/special/le1103.html>

Lunar Eclipse  
[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/04nov\\_lunareclipse2.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/04nov_lunareclipse2.htm)

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*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.*

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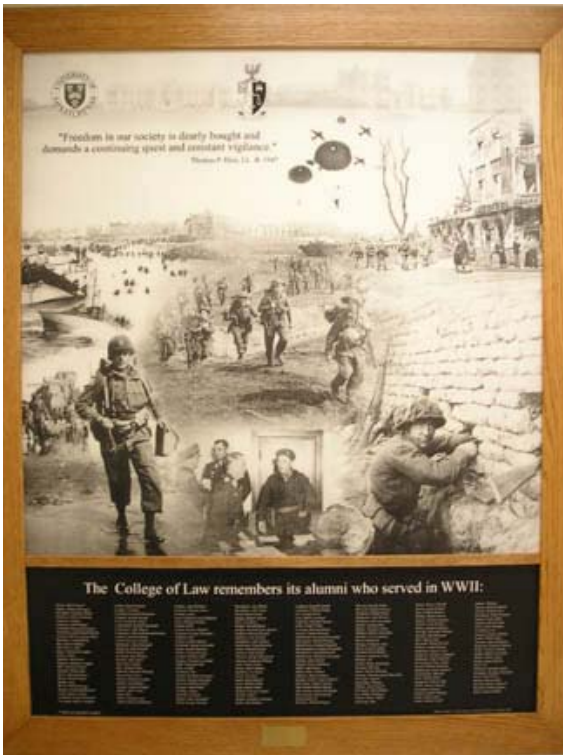
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Last year my Remembrance Day article was a book review on *The Price of Glory: Verdun 1916* by Author Alistair Horne (<http://www.ausu.org/voice/articles/articledisplay.php?ART=229>). This year I had planned on reading another of Horne's works to review for the *Voice* readers, but I have not had time for extracurricular reading since beginning the law school term. Consequently, I was wondering what to write about in recognition of Canada's annual general holiday that is by far the most meaningful to me. As usual, an article subject presented itself to me just as I was seeking it out.

One of my fellow students read my review from last year and commented to me that he felt pulled in polar directions regarding Remembrance Day. His parents immigrated to Canada from one of the war-torn European countries that were occupied by the Germans in WWII. He had family members who fought in the war, some losing their lives in defence of their country. He understandably deplores war and sees it as the most base example of humanity's inhumanity to man. He does not want to participate in a holiday that arguably celebrates or glorifies war; concurrently, he wants to honour all of those human beings that

died in the many wars fought between nations.

I celebrate Remembrance Day introspectively. I have never lost a relative in any war (that I am aware of), and I have never experienced war first-hand - I hope that I never will. I deplore war while recognizing that it is necessary in certain instances. However, I also believe that the best way to prevent future conflict is to educate the people (especially our youth) regarding how horrendous war is. The adage that "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it" is applicable to war and Remembrance Day. Aside from wearing a poppy, I try to contribute to the prevention of war by educating myself on its consequences, writing and talking about them, and keeping the remembrance of them alive. I suggest that our populace needs to be properly educated regarding violent conflict today more than at any time since WWII. With the vast majority of Canada's world war veterans passed on, the duty to keep the memory and knowledge poignant now falls to our history teachers and to all of us as individuals.

I believe that Canadians respectfully mourn those that lost their lives in conflicts, and that Remembrance Day is not, in this country, a glorification or celebration of war. I hope never to see a day when Canada's Remembrance Day is turned into a propagandist military recruiting program directed at our youth and I am confident that I won't.

The photo that accompanies this article hangs in the main moot courtroom of the University of Saskatchewan of College of Law. It is a commemoration to the 206 alumni of the College of Law that fought in World War Two. Eight of those men died in the service of their country. The photo collage was put together by a WWII veteran and alumnus named Thomas P. Deis, LLB '47. He can be seen in the photo at the center-bottom of the collage. I look at this commemorative art every time I am in that room and for me every day throughout the year is Remembrance Day.

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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 AU, and 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. Wayne can be reached at [wayneben@sasktel.net](mailto:wayneben@sasktel.net)

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*Shannon Maguire*

## **A Look at Canadian Sports this Month**

The last half of November is going to be exciting for sports fans because in addition to the regular sports seasons, such as the NHL, there are going to be several national and world championship events taking place.

The action will be starting this Friday in Vancouver, British Columbia where the 2003 World Weight Lifting Championships will be taking place from November 14-22. Athletes from over 85 countries will be competing in this event, including several Olympic Champions who are hoping to rank high enough to qualify for the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens. Canada's own Olympic Hopeful Maryse Turcotte will be competing in the 58kg category. To learn more about this event and to purchase tickets, visit the events official website at [ww1.2003wwc.com](http://ww1.2003wwc.com).

Another event taking place this weekend is the Grey Cup Final, which will be played at Taylor Field in Regina, Saskatchewan at 5:30 p.m. The final will bear a striking resemblance to last year's game as the Edmonton Eskimos once again take on the Montreal Alouettes. The Alouettes beat the Eskimos 25-16 in the 2002 Grey Cup Final. On Sunday November 9 Montreal beat Toronto 30-26 and Edmonton beat Saskatchewan 30-23 to make it into the final. For more information about the CFL visit their website at [www.cfl.ca](http://www.cfl.ca).

Shortly after the Grey Cup, Bobsleigh fans will be making their way to Calgary for the 2003 Bobsleigh World Cup taking place November 17-29 in Canada Olympic Park. Admission for spectators of this event, which will be participated in by 16 nations, is free, so make sure to drop by and check it out. If you would like more details on the event you can visit the Bobsleigh Canada website at [www.bobsleigh.ca](http://www.bobsleigh.ca). This event is just the beginning for fans of winter sports because the Lake Louise Winterstart World Cup 2003 will be starting on November 29. The Men's Downhill and Super G will take place November 29-30 and the women will follow shortly after in December. For more information on this event visit the official website at [www.worldcupwinterstart.com](http://www.worldcupwinterstart.com).

The final event is the 2003 Canadian Cross Country Championships taking place on November 29 in Sunnybrook Park in Toronto, Ontario. The event will be hosted by the Toronto Olympic Club which has details about the event on their website [www.torontoolympicclub.com](http://www.torontoolympicclub.com).

These sporting events and the regular seasons should be more than enough to keep any sports fan busy this month. If you live near one of the cities the events are taking place in, don't miss the chance to see these top athletes perform in person. If you can't make it out to see events most of them will be covered on CBC: [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca)

# Primetime Update

Week of November 7, 2003

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

Missed your favorite shows? No problem. Primetime updated gives you the rundown.

## Friends

Phoebe is asked by Mike to get rid of some of her stuff before he moves in. This includes a painting of a woman, who appears to be climbing out of the painting. Rachel and Monica fight over who will receive the ugly painting from Phoebe's apartment. Chandler gets a big marketing account, for which he must cast a professor type in a commercial for computer stuff. He gets on Joey's bad side when he lies about watching Joey's audition tape (which included a Japanese commercial for men's blue lipstick). In the end, Joey agrees to forgive Chandler, on one condition. He must wear the blue lipstick and tell everyone that he's a pretty little girl. Comical, really. Ross is up for a big grant, although Charlie's ex-boyfriend (the Nobel Prize winner) is in charge of who gets it. Dr. Hobart tries bribe Ross to break up with Charlie by offering him the grant. When Ross refuses, the man goes wacko with immaturity and asks Ross many irrelevant questions during the formal interview process. What Ross doesn't realize is that Charlie and Dr. Hobart will reconcile anyway, so he may as well have taken the bribe.

Next week's episode is entitled "The One with the Home Study," which has endless possibilities.

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

## Survivor: Pearl Islands

Last week, our tribe of outcasts kicked some butt and left Shawn out in the cold, while Osten voluntarily walked the plank. We were left wondering which outcasts would be rejoining the tribes.

So, who was it you ask?. With a vote of 3 for both Burton and Lill and 2 for almost everyone else, our 31 year old marketing executive from San Francisco (Burton) along with the 51 year old scout troop leader (Lill) draw buffs from the hands of our host, and will be returning to the tribes they were voted out of (Drake and Morgan respectively), with immunity from the vote, at least for one round. Both return to apologies and explanations but each responds in a different way.

A heartfelt talk between Rupert and Burton, with Rupert explaining the ostracism he felt from the former tribe mate, sparks Burton's newfound loyalty to the tribe, and each vows to do their best. Talk easily turns to which annoying tribe mate to get rid of first, and all agree that it'll be Jon.

Lill, on the other hand, expresses the resentment she feels towards never being a real part of the tribe, and then being voted out. To add to the tribe's troubles, they boil their last portion of rice, leaving them with only mussels and coconut to eat in the future.

Another twist was thrown into the loop during what we thought would be the reward challenge. Instead, we had a merge. The new tribe (named Balboa) of ten members was thrown new black buffs, told they'd live on Drake's beach, and the rules of the first individual immunity challenge, were explained. They'd be competing not for a headdress or necklace, but a pirate's sword complete with sheath.



The challenge was run in two heats; two groups of five, and then the top 2 from each group for a total of 4 racers. The goal: to race underwater by pulling along a rope, underneath a wooden platform, without coming up for air. Then, climbing onto the platform, running back to the start and doing it again. The first heat would have two laps, and the final race to the finish would have five. And wouldn't you guess it, Rupert, Burton, Ryan O, and Jon are the final four, with Rupert and Burton in the lead. Literally, by the length of a hair, Burton beats Rupert and wins double immunity (remember he automatically got it when he re-entered the game). Since he can't use two for himself, and can't save it for future use, he has the option to throw it away, or pass it to someone else.

When Balboa returns to their beach, there is a buffet waiting for them to feast on, and the tribe spends the afternoon getting to know one another. The options for the vote consisted of Jon who was found to be more than annoying, and Andrew Savage, the strength of the old Morgan Tribe. The definite division was 5 (Drake members) voting for Savage, and 4 (Morgan members) voting for Jon, with Lill sitting on the fence as to whether she should be loyal to the Morgans who voted her out, or take the true spirit of outcast revenge and join the Drakes. And since this show is centered on pirating, can you guess what happens? Aye Aye! Buh-Bye Savage.

Next week we can look forward to the events of an electric stingray, food, energy, egos, suspicions and scheming, and an unlikely couple of castaways enjoy the first individual reward.

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

## The Bachelor

Last week we said goodbye to the sympathy card, Meredith. This week, we watch Bob go on overnight fantasy dates with Kelly-Jo, Mary, and Estella.

We start off in Alaska, in the middle of a glacier, with some dog sledding, and Kelly and Bob. We travel down the glacier and enjoy a hot tub in the middle of the forest, and talk of how kids can wait. Dinner is a late night tram up into the mountains, where there is more talk, from Kelly-Jo, of her love for Bob. She attempts to show her understanding, of the situation, through her explanation that she needs no response from Bob, who then implies that the other two women are on his list of things to do before he can be honest with Kelly.

The couple is then invited to share a fantasy suite, and more than eager, the two head to the cozy chateau and share pillow talk, champagne, and kisses. Bob admits that this is one of the best dates of his life. The door is then shut and cameras turned off as the lovers move into the bedroom.

The second dream date is in Jackson Hole, Wyoming; an outdoor adventure date with Mary involving a kayak, a honey and apricot massage, and a hot shower. Discussions include Mary's concession that she can wait one or two years for kids, but not four or five. Remember, she's 35 and her biological clock is ticking! Mary then plays her own set of cards, asking if Bob has been intimate with either of the other girls to which he responds that none of his private moments with Mary and the other two are anyone else's business.

Mary accepts the invite to the private suite, and the two share dessert, drinks, and more conversation, however, we (and obviously the producers of the show, since they would've shown it) don't know if she spent the whole night.

The third and final date, with Estella, takes us to a private island in Belize where the couple goes snorkeling in clear blue water with sharks. Dinner is on the edge of a dock, where Estella is complimented for her confidence as she admits that she has to just let things happen and not think about it. She then continues to say that she worries about not getting a rose, because then she'll never see Bob again.

Bob extends the invite to the fantasy suite, and Estella gives him the choice. Since Bob's a man who's been only dating women for the last few months he quickly decides to forego the individual rooms, and Estella agrees. The couple goes to their private cottage by the pool where they swim and kiss as the cameras leave.

The rose ceremony is a pathetic attempt on Bob's part, not to look like a jerk. We all know he'll end up with Kelly-Jo since she's the perfect combination of work and play. He says that none of them have done anything wrong, blah blah, then says good-bye to Mary (who was too old for him anyway). He walks her out to the limo and explains that she'd be compromising her child-bearing dreams by devoting herself to him. They embrace, and another heartbroken woman is sent away in a limousine. And the viewer wipes a tear from her eye.

Next week...The women tell all, in the season's reunion of all the dumped chickies.

*The Bachelor* airs Wednesdays at 10:00pm Alberta Time on ABC

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



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## CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

*By Karl Low*



### Wonders Never Cease

What a change an election makes. Once again I find myself in the unusual position of having to praise a provincial government's actions on post-secondary education. The new provincial government of Ontario has provided a pleasant surprise for post-secondary students in that province. Specifically, they have announced an intention to freeze the tuitions of Ontario universities and colleges.

It looks like Ontario's ill-fated experimentation with tuition deregulation may be at an end. The provincial "liberals" in British Columbia might well take a look at the fate of their PC counterparts in Ontario. Much the same could also be said for Premier Klein's Progressive Conservative government here in Alberta.

True, the Alberta government makes encouraging noises about regulating tuition, but when we take a look at their actions, we see that the noise is really just a distraction from what the hands are doing. Specifically, the Alberta Government is still putting through Bill 43, that provides no commitment to funding post-secondary education even as it tries to put more control of it directly into the government's hands.

And the Alberta Government's claims to be promoting affordable and equal access to all are simply laughable when you start to look at the numbers. Specifically, tuition for Alberta Universities is supposedly "capped" at a rate that provides no more than 30% of the operating costs of the institution. Capped, that is, until they're at that total, at which point they're allowed to increase tuition at the cost of inflation plus about two percent.

In contrast, our wages rise at about the rate of inflation if we're lucky (as our wages are a primary portion of what makes up inflation). Total available student finance hasn't risen in several years, to say nothing of meeting inflation, and Alberta government supplied bursaries rarely increase in amounts, although the government has been increasing the numbers they award – especially to trade schools and apprenticeships.

All in all, this does little to lend any credence to the provincial government's platitudes about affordable access to lifelong learning.

But hey, Premier Klein is in good company, since it was the likes of Ernie Eves and Mike Harris who thought letting post-secondary tuition continue to rise was a good thing. Oh wait.. they didn't get re-elected, did they?

Ever think there might be a connection, Ralph?

## Honour Among Thieves?

The Alberta Government is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of the HP Privacy Innovation Award for "developing a privacy protection framework to guide the design of its computer systems"

This is the same Alberta Government that had its proposed privacy legislation soundly trashed by the Federal Privacy Minister as not being near thorough or comprehensive enough to protect the privacy of its constituents from commercial enterprises.

Then again, this is also the same HP that has been trashed for putting spy-ware inside its keyboard drivers of all things (For the non-computer minded, this means that the program HP uses to make its fancy keyboards work also likes to send information back to HP, presumably about what kinds of things you're doing with your keyboard, but perhaps more than that). This is also the same HP that is making an advertising campaign based on, of all things, being able to find a certain person when they're in the pub and send them off to the police. Now, since we all know how software is perfect and never fails, we have no need to worry that the software might point out the wrong person or something like that, do we? Of course not.

I guess the reasoning goes, if the Privacy Innovation is good enough to meet the "standards" of HP, it's deserving of an award?

Yet I can't help but think that this is really more akin to a fox giving an award for henhouse design.

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*A native Calgarian, Karl is perpetually nearing the completion of his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Information Studies. He also works for the Computer Sciences Virtual Helpdesk for Athabasca University and plans to eventually go on to tutor and obtain his Master's Degree.*

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The advertisement features a green background with yellow and white text. On the left, it says "Missing out on all the deals?" in large yellow letters, followed by the website "www.busu.org/services" in white. On the right, it says "Get an AU ID card, today!" in large green letters. To the right of the text is a small image of an Athabasca University ID card. The card is white with a blue header that says "Athabasca University" and "Student Identification & Library Card". It features a photo of a woman and the name "Jane D. Student" with the ID number "411444".





## JOURNEY TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN (1969)

Film Review

By Laura Seymour

Also known as *Doppelganger*, this British production looked like a hokey piece of nonsense, although I admit I was judging this "book" by its cover - or maybe that should read promo. I thought I'd have a chance to pan a sixties film about guys landing on another planet, but instead I was amazed.

This is the same company who created *Space 1999*. As much of a fan of that TV series as I was, this film beat it hands down.

While the project has a few moments of 1960s fashion – mostly on the women — it is an amazingly well done production. The fashions on the cast members are not excessively "spacey". Remember that point if you decide to produce a film set in the future, please, just minor clothing changes. In *Journey*, men wear casual style suits without ties (I think that's a great idea for men nowadays).

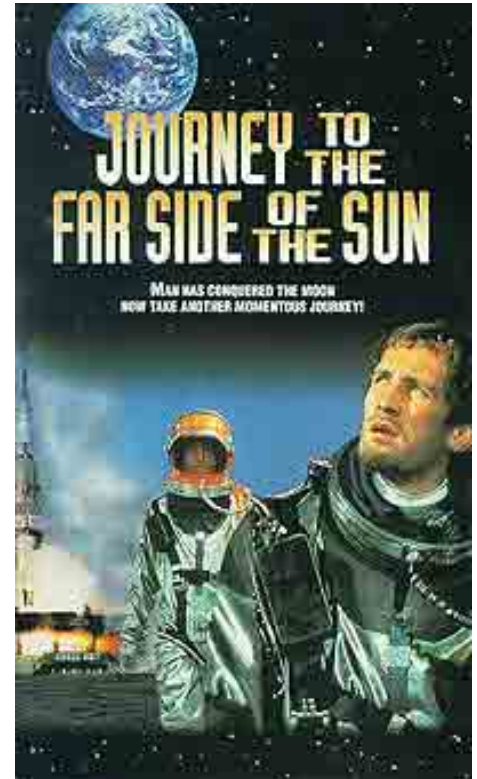
The sets and props are well done - especially since this production is over 30 years old and probably didn't have a monster budget. One of my favorite gizmos was an arriving plane which looked like a cross between the Concorde and a Harrier Jump Jet (which is just cool anyway). This craft lands and a neat little loading machine drives up behind it and off-loads the entire "cabin" area as the nose of the plane lifts out of the way. Too cool!

I like the name of the space agency, *EuroSec*, because it sounds so plausible since we now have Euros as currency in Europe. So many films have goofball spacey names.

Most famous of all the actors is Herbert Lom (playing Dr. Hassler) who you'll no doubt remember from all the *Pink Panther* movies as Inspector Dreyfus, the man that Clouseau kept driving insane. This time he has a "cameo" appearance and gets to be very serious in his role. He is a traitor. He is also equipped with a pretty nifty "spy equipment" piece. I won't spoil the neat surprise.

Derek Meddings was in charge of visual effects, and what a great job he did. I also give credit to the music and sound effects teams. The project hummed along nicely because of the understated use of sound, effects and gizmos.

Fans of 1970s films and TV will recognize the American, Colonel Glenn Ross (played by Roy Thinnes), who must go to the planet behind the Sun with British counterpart John Kane (Ian Hendry) to investigate it. A team is therefore hastily put together and trained. They have lovely implants put into their arms so that they can take a swell three-week medicated snooze. It actually looked pretty good as these things go.





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Ross survives the crash landing on "the planet" but his British partner dies.

It takes Ross a while to realize that although he is around everyone he usually knows, things aren't quite right. It takes him time to see that the writing on this planet is backwards to ours. It's English all right but it is read the other way. His internal organs are backward to theirs and his home's furniture is also in reverse.

With these discoveries in mind, he heads over to the head of the program and explains his theory. Oddly enough there is some really great in this scene. Instead of the usual, "He's mad!" lines being recited, we find out that the head of the program is just as convinced as he is. It's a nice touch.

So of course the only thing to do is go back to your own planet right? Uh, yes, except when he decides to do that there are a few problems. He gets inside his spacecraft orbiting the planet but finds the ship is starting up without his ok so he aborts that plan. It ends in a crash. The film creators are obviously not sold on "Happily Ever After."

The only one left is a man who's been in a sanitarium for ages, Mr. Webb (played by Patrick Wymark). Seeing a giant mirror at the end of a hall one day he takes off in his wheelchair and smashes into it. Roll credits.

Ok that wasn't the ending I would have picked but it was certainly more creative than some formulas out of Hollywood. The problem I have is that it's very common as a British film ending. Though I like British films it's getting has-been now. My only qualm was the ending.

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*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. (Psync).*

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## WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact The Voice editor  
at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for  
details on writing for The  
Voice. Provide a sample  
selection of writing  
and preferred genre.

# The Net Nerd's Profiles



Are you a student with a disability who needs resources about university life and contact with other disabled students? Go to [www.enablelink.org](http://www.enablelink.org)

OK, I realize this site is not directly related to education, but there are some great educational links and support available to disabled students. Working on courses alone is often lonely and it is frustrating not having the contact with other students. Imagine having a physical, mental or even learning disability. The isolation and frustration of distance education only adds to the isolation and frustration of everyday life. *Enablelink.org* can point you in the right direction for all your support, information, and learning needs.

At first the site is a bit daunting but it is very well organized. 25 menu choices lead to topics such as "Chat", "Sex/Sexuality", "Employment" and of course "Education". Besides these menu choices on the home page, there are articles and resources you can click to. These include "Links to Disability Sites", "On My Own: A Resource Guide to Living Independently", "Support Groups" and many others. No one can accuse *Enablelink.org* of leaving something out

Under the "Education" heading is several other subheadings. These are "Articles", "Canadian Links", "Chat", "Disability Organizations", "Events", "International Links", "Message Boards", and "Products and Services". Under "Articles" there are 73 entries. I really enjoyed the article *Adults with Learning Disabilities: Overcoming the Odds* by Isabel Shessel. There are 44 entries under "Canadian Links" and 11 entries "International Links". I went to the chat feature. No one was there but it was very easy to use. The best thing under the "Education" heading was the links.

This site also has bits and pieces from the magazine *Abilities* though I think to get the most of the magazine you should get the print version. There is also an alphabetized list of specific disabilities under the heading "Disabilities". This is just a database of definitions. There is also a searchable list of organizations under the same heading. Just look under "Disability Organizations" for a list of resources.

I really liked *Enablelink.org*. It's a great resource for students with any type of disability as well as anyone who interacts with someone who is disabled. I found this site to be very informative and interesting. So what's stopping you? Go to *Enablelink.org*!

**Neat Stuff:** This site also has a "Classifieds" area with sections like "Accommodations", "Employment", "Items Wanted", and "Volunteer Opportunities". As well as the chat feature, there are also message boards you can post on.

**Not So Neat Stuff:** Judging from the interactive features (chat, message boards and classified ads) this site doesn't get much traffic. Maybe it does but the above features don't seem to get used much. So if you want to connect with other people, make good use of these features!

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*\*/5 Very rarely does a site exist that is as good as this one. Visually, there is no clutter and "piss me off pop ups". Technically, the layout is well organized and easy to follow. For the knowledge factor, you can't beat the content. Whether disabled or not I urge everyone to check out [www.enablelink.org](http://www.enablelink.org).



**Halloween's over and you have that candy hangover. Plus you don't know what to do with all those wrappers. [www.pioneerthinking.com](http://www.pioneerthinking.com) will tell you what to do.**

Ok the secret is out. You all know who I am now that my name is up there! So fine, I'm going to review a girly site! To all the men out there don't worry, there are no pictures of Mel Gibson and no talk of the feminine things that make you guys cringe. Well it isn't all that girly but with the pretty pastel colors and Oprah-like catch phrases it's easy to assume that it is kind of girlish.

*Pioneerthinking.com* is essentially a lifestyle website with an emphasis on healthy living. According to their home page, *Pioneerthinking.com* is "Where expert authors, columnist [sic] and everyday people from over 100 countries share their practical knowledge, ideas and experiences to provide a refreshingly new perspective on topics that affect our lives." Sound a little vague? Well it is but don't let that stop you from checking it out.

When you get to the main page there are three main sections, "Mind and Body", "Lifestyle", and "Discussion Boards". Under the "Mind and Body" section I decided to look into "Comfort Foods" (although there are 24 other headings there). Lots of good stuff here like recipes and tips. I saw the title "Fruitarian Diet". Since I'm always looking for new ways to make my life difficult I decided to look into it.

I learned a great tip : If you feel the need to overeat breathe deeply instead. Breathing instead of eating, I wonder if that's how Kate Moss does it? This diet looked interesting until I discovered on the Canada Food Guide that cheeseburgers aren't included. Oh well, moving on. I checked out the herbal database and finally found a new use for that Wild Cherry Bark that's just been molding away in the cupboard!

Next I moved on to the "Lifestyles" section. Under that category I checked out "Home Brews" (again there are 30 subjects here like various crafts, gardening ideas, relationship and family advice, and money saving tips). Upon reaching that page I realized I had misunderstood what they meant by "Home Brews". Nonetheless I did get a kick ass recipe for Strawberry Shrub (for that recipe click here: [http://www.pioneerthinking.com/aicr\\_shrub.html](http://www.pioneerthinking.com/aicr_shrub.html)). Lots of great stuff here, I did not leave this section disappointed.

Onto the "Discussion Boards". Lots of activity and lots of topics. I didn't get time to post anything so you'll have to try that one on your own. *Pioneerthinking.com* is an extensive wealth of information. Go see it and get that homemade, natural cure you've been waiting for. If nothing else you'll finally find out what a Chakra is (go to: <http://www.pioneerthinking.com/ara-spiritualfitness.html> ).

**Neat Stuff:** The emphasis on alternative medicine and overall healthy living is a fresh respite from dime store diet books and magazines, though it can be a little gushy sometimes. You can also translate this site into French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Japanese. The emphasis on the "we are all a global village" thing is really strong.

**Not So Neat Stuff:** If you swear by traditional medicine and the old-school philosophy of treating illness and general healthy living you may be a bit turned off on some of the content. I urge you to give it a chance anyway.

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*\*/5 I may never want to make a homemade candle but I'm glad the information is there in case I do. What can I say? No ads, well organized and interesting content. I think it's time to put those beer sausages on hold and check out *Pionnerthinking.com* .

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 [aubsa@ausu.org](mailto:aubsa@ausu.org) if you would like to join.

## ARTS STUDENT WON'T "TURNITIN"

*Adam Verwymeren, The McGill Daily*  
*Jesse Rosenfeld challenges new counter-plagiarism policy at McGill*

MONTREAL (CUP) -- The first challenge to the use of the anti-plagiarism Web site Turnitin.com at McGill has been launched by Jesse Rosenfeld, who claims the site violates his rights as a student.

Several weeks ago, Rosenfeld handed his first Economic Development assignment directly to Professor Sonia Laszlo, violating Laszlo's requirement that the assignments be submitted through Turnitin.com. As a result, Laszlo gave him a zero on the part of the assignment that was to be evaluated by Turnitin. Rosenfeld said he objects to the climate of distrust created by Turnitin.

"My issue with it is that students are guilty until proven innocent," he said. "Basically what students are being asked to do is to prove they didn't commit a crime before their paper has even been looked at or before suspicion has even been raised."

The California-based Web site, which is currently in trial use at McGill, checks each paper submitted against an ever-growing database of essays.

Arts Senator Nick Peters acknowledged the usefulness of services like Turnitin. "If there is an issue with a paper, a professor should be able to talk to a student about it, and if there is a need to use tools like this as part of an appeals process or disciplinary process, fine," said Peters. But Peters said he disapproves of the widespread use of Turnitin at McGill. "To have everyone presumed guilty even before they have handed something into a professor is a little bit Orwellian, and it is the wrong way for McGill to operate," he said.

Rosenfeld said that Turnitin also infringes on intellectual property rights by continuing to use students' papers after they are submitted to the site. "My paper is now aiding the profit of a private company," he said. "It seems rather contradictory, when you are looking at plagiarism issues and copyright issues, when a company is making profit off of numerous student papers and not even acknowledging it."

But Associate Science Dean Morton Mendelson, who is overseeing the Turnitin experiment at McGill, defended the service. "It's not an issue of guilt any more than asking students to write an exam with invigilators present," he argued. Mendelson also dismissed Rosenfeld's claim that Turnitin profits from the intellectual property of students. "That small cost to a student is worth the benefit of all students," Mendelson said.

Rosenfeld said he is trying to resolve the issue directly with Laszlo and the university, but is prepared to file a student grievance. He is also appealing the assignment academically. When contacted by The Daily, Laszlo declined to comment.

McGill's trial use of the Turnitin service will expire in December, at which point the university will decide whether or not to register for further use.

Student Council spokesperson Vivian Choy said she wants to gauge student opinion on the problem of plagiarism and on Turnitin. "I am having an open forum and am doing research to get the facts straight," she said. "We need to have a completely informed decision before proceeding with action. It's simple to say we don't like this, we don't want this, but we also need to put something on the table to suggest something better."

Choy said she would rather see academic integrity preserved by educating students on the issue of plagiarism. "That is where I see this issue being addressed, through education and not by trying to catch people in the end," Choy said. Peters and Choy will also be bringing up the issue at the Committee on Students Affairs in the coming months.



# NEWS FROM AU

Contributed by *The Insider*



## Alvin Finkel's first 25 years

When he contemplates his 25 years working with Athabasca University, two things bring Alvin Finkel particular pride. One is the Craig Cunningham Award for Teaching Excellence he took home in 1999.

The other is the union work he's done in that time that has "prevented a reasonable number of people being declared redundant."

"My career at AU has been defined by an effort, largely successful I think, to balance

teaching, research and an active role within the university community, including that of a union militant," Finkel explains. "Much of my research is in the broad area of social justice, and I try to bring something of that orientation to my dealings with fellow staff and with students."

AU family members gathered at University House September 17 to celebrate Finkel's 25th anniversary with the University, and his reputation as an academic and Canadian history authority. According to Finkel, it was more than a pleasant affair.

"I spent the day basking in all the compliments people gave me ... about my achievements," he said. "Actually, I've always found people at AU extremely encouraging of my efforts and more than forgiving when I'm fairly strident as I press my perspectives."

Finkel notes that if he had relied on his then-knowledge of Athabasca University, he might not have applied for the Canadian History position that was advertised in 1978.

"Everything I heard about it came from professors at the U of A who were hostile to the idea of a 'correspondence' university," he said, noting he decided to take that leap based partly on reassurances from his friend and colleague Natalie Sharpe. He also found himself intrigued by the concept of writing courses.

"I had a background in journalism as well as university teaching," Finkel said. "So, actually, the idea of writing courses very much appealed to me as something that I could probably do a whole lot better than people with academic training.

"Graduate school often teaches people to write in pretentious and jargon-filled language," he continued. "I knew the game, but I had a different kind of training that made it easy and enjoyable for me to think and write in plain English."

Finkel adds he's looking forward to more of the same in his next 25 years at AU.

"I want to continue to write books, articles, and courses, to serve on editorial boards, to do union work, and to serve on AU committees," he said. "I often think I should slow down in some areas so as to allow my work in other areas to be more relaxing. But I'm not sure what work to divest myself of, since I enjoy almost all of it."

## Lives lived

Like many people, AU philosophy tutor Jill Hunter was deeply affected by the news of the death of Lori Oddson, the director of Collaboration & Learning Services. She and Lori had been friendly, and Jill was deeply impressed by, among other things, Lori's capacity for gratitude.

When presented with the opportunity to run the Royal Victoria Marathon on October 12 in support of the Cancer Society and the Lung and Asthma Association, Jill felt it was time for her to take opportunities as they come. She had never run a marathon before, but she couldn't help but feel that life is already too short to miss this.

"It seemed appropriate the marathon is on Thanksgiving weekend," Jill noted. "in a way the run is sort of in memory of Lori. I'm just thankful I can run the marathon."

Fellow AU staff [had] an opportunity to remember Lori Oddson, as well, Wednesday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m. when a tree [was] planted in her honour at AU Central. There [was] also be an opportunity to speak for those who wished to do so.

Separate events are being planned to remember other AU family members who have died in the last year. A tree will be planted at Tim Byrne Centre in honour of Lois Haub, and a piece of art and a plaque will be hung at Edmonton Learning Centre to remember tutor Dave DasGupta, who died in July.

Details for those events will be announced soon.

"It (can be) very hard on people," Martin noted. "All of these deaths affect almost everybody. Everyone knew one or the other of them."

## The indicators

Every minute of every day last month, an average of almost 5 people logged onto AU's Web site.

Here are some other AU Web statistics to chew on ...

### **Traffic Analysis** (Sept. 7 - Oct. 7, excl. AU staff)

Total visits:	205,648
Total pages viewed:	1,211,162
Average visits per day:	6,735
Average visits per week:	47,145
Average visits per month:	200,474
Average pages viewed per visit:	6
Average pages viewed per day:	39,665
Highest volume time of day:	11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Highest volume day of the week:	Tuesday



## 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](http://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](http://www.canadiansport.com)

Photo courtesy of CAWWS / 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](http://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

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](mailto:awardsinfo@athabascau.ca).

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## COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP PLAN

**Value:** **Varies**

**Deadline:** **Varies, depending on country of study**

**Administrator:** International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS)

**Notes:** All applicants:

- must meet the citizenship requirements of the awarding country: Canadian citizens are eligible to apply for all programs. Permanent residents of Canada may apply in some cases...
- must have completed a university degree or expect to graduate prior to the commencement of the award;
- should have a minimum standard of "A-" to be considered for an award: it should be stated that normally only first class candidates are nominated;
- applying to do research toward a Canadian graduate degree (as opposed to obtaining a degree abroad) must show that they have the approval of the relevant authorities at the university they are currently attending;

**Instructions:**

See website and follow links to programs specific to the country of study.

**Contact Information:**

Web Site: <http://www.scholarships-bourses-ca.org/pages/CWout/cwCanOt1-en.html>



## **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](mailto:info@cutc.ca).

### **Contributed By AU's *The Insider***

- **ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2003** - December 3-5 - Berlin, Germany. Details: [http://www.global-learning.de/g-learn/cgi-bin/gl\\_userpage.cgi?StructuredContent=m1301](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**

- **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](http://www.withinsight.ca/en_site/index.html)

**Know of a conference that is not on this list? Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto: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](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for more information.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

AUSU Legislative Committee needs volunteers with a good sense of right and wrong who are able to understand policy documents, extrapolate to predict outcome of policy decisions, and are willing to have their ideas heard and debated, but most importantly, are willing to get involved.

Volunteers should be VERY comfortable with email, have reliable email access that can handle attachments, and Word 97 or something compatible. Contact [klow@ausu.org](mailto:klow@ausu.org) for more info.

## RED DEER COFFEE GROUPS

Red Deer Athabasca University students meet at the Chapter's Starbucks on the last Thursday of every month. From 8 pm to 9 pm, the goal is to share ideas that will help us all be successful AU students and collectively resolve our specific issues. Contact Ryan, [lowrystcol@hotmail.com](mailto:lowrystcol@hotmail.com)

## THE VOICE

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800.788.9041 ext. 3413  
**Editor In Chief** Tamra Ross Low

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***THE VOICE ONLINE: [WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE](http://WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE)***

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