

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 47  
November 19, 2003

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Democracy is thwarted in high school politics

**Old Dog Might Learn New Tricks**  
Perspective of a new Voice writer and new AU student

**How the Law Has Changed**  
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Original Voice fiction

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Nov 19, 2003

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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.

Arguments are to be avoided; they are  
always vulgar and often convincing.  
-- Oscar Wilde

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## THE 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

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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 structural  
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# EDITORIAL PAGES

## THIS WEEK

**FROM MY PERSPECTIVE** - Student Unions. Debbie Jabbour reveals a disturbing new trend in the selection of student union representatives at the high-school level

**OLD DOG MIGHT JUST LEARN SOME NEW TRICKS** - New writer Bill Phillips shares his thoughts about going back to school, the AU way.

**HOW THE LAW HAS CHANGED...** - Wayne's long hours in the law library sometimes lead to some humour discoveries. This week he shares two of the more bizarre cases from the annals of historical case law.

**THE CASE OF THE MURDERED MURDERER** - Shannon Maguire's first fiction contribution is an unconventional detective thriller. Enjoy.

## Have you filled out the Annual Reader Survey?

Been putting off doing our survey? Don't delay much longer; the survey ends at the end of November. Remember, if you are too busy to fill out the whole thing, just fill out the first page, then click through the rest of the pages and hit the submit button on the final page. This survey is one of the few ways we have to track how many people read *The Voice*. This paper is funded based on the perceived reader interest. If the students' union were to feel that students aren't very interested in this publication, they might not fund it anymore! (No, there hasn't been any suggestion that funding might stop, but obviously the SU must choose their funding sources wisely and base their budget on student interest/need). If you want *The Voice* to remain a priority, make sure you are counted among our readers!

## Nominate articles for Best of The Voice

Do you have a favorite Voice article that was published in 2003? If so, send your pick to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org). It might be included in a year-end Best of the Voice issue, or in an upcoming mini-print issue.

## Disrespect for the distance learner/worker

Do people ever treat you like your schoolwork is less important because you do it at home? If so, you are not alone. I think every DE student has experienced this. But did you know that the situation is not much better for those who work at home, or who choose to access services by phone?

I don't know if it's because some people are resentful of those who work at home, or if businesses tend to shun people who don't show up in person because it's hard to high-pressure them.

I think that the latter might be the reason I've had a lot of trouble with my bank lately. You see, I'm shopping for a new mortgage, and I wanted to get information from a number of sources before deciding. I started by contacting the bank where I have my accounts and had the receptionist set up a phone meeting with a mortgage rep. I didn't think that would be a problem.

On the day and time of my appointment (actually about five minutes past that time), I got a phone call from the mortgage rep, who said: "Hi, I was calling to find out if you're going to be coming in, because I have a walk-in standing here and I'll take him instead if you can't make it."

I replied that I had not intended to come in, because I'd set up a phone appointment, but I was all ready with my information. The woman replied that she had not realized it was a phone appointment, because the person who booked it had not indicated that in the book.

Fair enough. I didn't see how it made any difference.

To my surprise, she said: "Oh, well I have a walk-in here that I really should take."

Oh? I asked: "I'm ready to go over my mortgage requirements, can't we do this now?"

"No," she said apologetically, "I can't really do that now since there is someone here. Can I call you next week at this time?" I was annoyed, but said ok. She never did call back, and it's been about three weeks.

I'm kicking myself now, for not letting this woman know how I felt about her attitude. I had a legitimate appointment, and had prepared myself for it. She chose to take a walk-in and cancel my appointment, without any notice. And she felt that this was a reasonable thing to do! Why was my appointment so much less important than the request of someone who walked in with no appointment? I mean, you make an appointment to ensure you will be served, right? Everyone knows you take your chances when you just walk in.

The funny thing is, I hadn't even considered going in. I planned to get information from more than one company if necessary, and I have no intention of taking hours out of my week to drive around and sit down with every representative. Applying for a mortgage is quite straightforward, after all, unless you are new to the process. Anyway, many companies that offer mortgages don't even have branches in every city (some, like ING Direct, have no branches). The result is that I gave up on dealing with that bank for my mortgage. If I have to drive over there to ask a few questions, then they really don't need my business.

It is interesting to me, though, that people feel that comfortable with brushing off anyone who they don't see face to face. Increasingly business is done over the phone, and more businesses - like ING - are setting up virtual offices to reduce office costs. Of course all AU students are aware of the benefits of attending a virtual university, and we also know that the quality of service has nothing to do with whether or not a company has a physical infrastructure. My car insurance company does primarily phone and internet business and their rates and service are top notch, while the major bank that holds my student loans is so inept that I'm pretty sure Jerry Louis and Lucille Ball could run a tighter ship (I'm betting a few hundred readers know exactly which big bank I'm talking about here).

So what does this mean for the distance student, or for the person who chooses to deal with old-fashioned physical offices over the phone? I'm not sure, but I know that we do have great power to advocate for the distance student/worker by making appropriate consumer choices. I put in a complaint to my bank about that woman who brushed me off, and the management was very unhappy about it. I've also made it clear that I will no longer deal with her. I refused to feel like a less important customer because I don't want to waste twenty minutes driving both ways to ask ten minutes worth of questions.

I sometimes wonder if the new breed of distance workers and students are getting a taste of what it is like to be physically disabled. We all know that the disabled must sometimes face prejudice in person, when their physical handicaps can be seen, but I wonder if they also suffer discrimination over the phone and the internet from narrow-minded individuals who deem their virtual clients to be less important.

Keep this in mind if you sometimes deal with folks over the phone. I was ready to agree to a mortgage that day, if they offered me a good deal. I wonder if that unprepared walk-in appointment ended up choosing any of the bank's services? With hundreds of mortgage companies to choose from, it's not really my loss. In fact, I find this experience a great way to test the customer service of a company before I decide to do business with them!

**Tamra Ross Low - Editor in Chief**

# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

## Student Unions

By Debbie Jabbour



During the last week there have been several interesting union-related activities in Edmonton. As president of the Athabasca University Students' Union, I always look for relevance to the role I play in these types of events, hoping to learn from the process.

The first activity that came to my attention was related to an *Edmonton Journal* article on November 10, 2003; entitled, "New style leaders spring up in schools." Several Edmonton high schools have adopted a "new structure of student councils" based on an egalitarian leadership model. Student council elections have been eliminated. Instead, a team of teachers choose the "best school representatives - not necessarily the most popular or outgoing - to run the union." The idea is built on the stated notion that student council elections often result in "class clowns" running for office, elected on the strength of a popularity campaign. Once elected, the unexpected level of responsibility results in "slackers" instead of the "loyal and qualified" students needed who will get the job done.

Under this new system of teacher-chosen representatives, "quieter and shyer students have become involved," who are apparently more "committed and dedicated," and "believe in" what they do. Some schools are using an egalitarian model which "brings out leadership in everyone on student council, not just a chosen few," by making all council members equal, with no leaders. Others are using a variation which allows students to apply for council positions, then once they are selected by teachers, they are elected for executive positions from among the group. One of the first schools to embark on this project was the Victoria Arts School, where the assistant principal has made the observation that the new consensus model "takes longer to make decisions," but has given a "new voice to many young people."

My first response on reading this was one of disbelief, then one of deep disappointment. Not only are young people being deprived of the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights, but an essential learning process is being circumvented. I was particularly disappointed that Victoria School would be taking the lead in this process. The Victoria Arts School is a progressive and reputable institution that converted a tough inner-city school into one that provides arts-based instruction from kindergarten to Grade 12. Victoria school is a model of egalitarianism among students - how one dresses, sexual orientation, family or socio-economic origin - none of them make much difference to the students or teachers at Victoria school. Teachers take a keen interest in students; and arts, theatre, dance, drama and music training are considered equally as important as math, science and social studies. I was so impressed with the school that I chose it for my daughters. Anytime we were involved in school activities, I was always bemused by the diversity of expression I would see - hair of every hue and style; crazy and wonderful clothing ranging from staid to dramatic or witchy; and behaviour that could go from quiet and serious to wild, crazy and joyously off-the-wall.

Yet this same school that is a celebration of individualism and diversity has now taken the lead in embracing a student union representation model that removes student rights to choose their leaders in favour of totalitarianism!

There are several underlying assumptions that really disturb me about the whole thing, beginning with the loss of democratic process. First of all, where do students have their first opportunity to learn about the election process before they are of legal voting age, if not at school? Where else do students learn about, and have the chance to participate in, an election campaign in which they each can cast a vote for the winner? Where do



students learn the lesson that voting is "both a right and an obligation," and "you get the government you deserve?" Many of the principles of democracy are taught to students through the student council election process. In the real world, if we don't vote, or if we vote based on popularity or looks (and yes, we do elect our leaders on this criteria!) - who do we have to blame afterwards? This is a valuable lesson that is being lost amongst the schools who have adopted this undemocratic model.

In a November 15 letter to the editor, one *Journal* reader made the observation that "taking the right to choose student politicians away from students and giving it to teachers is not egalitarian leadership; it is disenfranchisement." For many years, women were denied the right to vote, since they were considered too foolish, simple, or uninformed to be able to make a capable decision. A system that allows teachers to choose leaders on behalf of students makes the same implications - that high school students are too immature, and/or incapable of making a responsible voting choice.

Teaching young people that they need adults to make an informed vote on their behalf also reinforces the idea that voting is not important. Far too many 18-24 year olds do not exercise their democratic right to vote. At the last federal election, overall voter turnout was 64 percent - but 75 percent of 18-24 year-olds DID NOT VOTE! Young people often state that they don't go to the polls since they don't think it will make a difference anyway. To have that lesson reinforced in high school by being taught that students are not capable of making an informed decision on behalf of the student body - I can only begin to imagine how much damage that could do to the future voting motivations of these young people. Certainly there is no justification to disenfranchise everyone, simply because the majority choose not to vote.

Another area of concern is the criteria being used by teachers to choose student representatives. The system is supposed to eliminate the "popular" or "outgoing" in favour of the "quieter and shyer" students. The assumption that quiet and shy people are more loyal, qualified, and dedicated than popular and outgoing ones is absolutely appalling as far as I'm concerned. Being a student leader - indeed, being a leader of any kind - requires that one be outgoing and somewhat aggressive. How effective is a quiet and shy person in going up against opposition? Or in being fearless in speaking out on behalf of others? Certainly one does not have to be popular to be an effective leader, but often popularity is an important part of being able to get the job done and overcoming the apathy of the masses. Sometimes the most beneficial political change has resulted from a person who is not afraid to stand out from the crowd to take an unpopular or different decision. Equally appalling is the notion that someone who is popular or outgoing is not committed or dedicated. Just because you are a class clown or popular - does this mean you can not be an effective leader?

One *Journal* letter writer stated it well; "productive citizens must have the ability and willingness to question authority; allowing authority to choose one's leaders is not conducive to that goal." Allowing teachers to choose student leaders simply reinforces the hierarchy, and is totalitarianism at its worst. It begs the question - if teachers choose the student representatives, who will these representatives really be representing?

In some of these systems, current council members are allowed to choose their successors - which is another troubling implication. One issue that has come up within AUSU is the notion of "succession planning." This is the idea that those of us who are experienced on Council can use the benefit of our experience to help choose future leaders. This can be a good idea, since there is certainly no substitute for on-the-job experience. But there is a potential for abuse if individual council members use their position to advocate for friends or relatives as upcoming council members. One teacher likened this to the "inbreeding of the French kings in pre-revolutionary France."

Even if not abused, an endorsement from outgoing student council members is not always the best indicator of good potential either - and this is also true of "real world" politics. If a council member is highly committed to a particular style of leadership or certain goals - they may support others who also subscribe to the same philosophy. But sometimes a student population (indeed any population) wants change rather than continuation

of the status quo. In the appointment system being used by these high schools, this option is being removed. Certainly there is nothing wrong with a teacher or council member encouraging an individual to run for council if they see good leadership potential; but this can be done without destroying the democratic process.

I put my own experience into the picture here. In junior high and high school I was one of the quiet and shy, and I was not popular or outgoing. Although I always rated high on leadership scales in my report card, as a teenager I had not yet developed the kind of qualities needed to lead a student political organization. Now, as president of AUSU, I clearly see the importance of certain qualities in a student leader, and being quiet and shy are not necessarily among them. During the next few weeks I will be sharing with *Voice* readers my observations about student unions and similar representative groups, as well as my own experiences as president of AUSU, and what kinds of things I have learned to be important in overseeing a successful and democratic student union. These things, of course, are based on my own experience - and another student leader might be equally effective taking a very different approach. One thing, however, that I believe all of us student leaders would agree upon - we want to be elected democratically by the students we represent.

In a few months AU students will have the opportunity to go to the polls and elect a new set of representatives. Unlike the Edmonton high schools I've spoken about here, we have fortunately not had our democratic right removed. But it is also incumbent upon each of us to make an informed choice - otherwise we will "get the government we deserve".

Next week I'll take a look at another "unionized" group at the opposite end of the spectrum - a group of Alberta seniors who have run into their own set of problems with democracy.

"New style leaders spring up in schools: Student councils dump presidents in favour of equality" Jodie Sinnema, *The Edmonton Journal*, November 10, 2003.

<http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/archives/story.asp?id=8472EC35-B0E4-40D7-9E5E-7A61231935D0>

"Poor training for democracy." *Edmonton Journal*, Wednesday, November 12, 2003.

<http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/archives/story.asp?id=49867F5A-56A9-4DBA-B84C-C019235F5A66>

Letters to the Editor, *Edmonton Journal*: "Let students choose their leaders," November 13, 2003; "Students need democracy", November 15, 2003.

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## STUDENTS INVITED TO JOIN AU IN COMPUTER CONFERENCE

AU wants to talk to you. From November 28 to December 7, the university will be running an asynchronous computer conference which will take the form of an open meeting between the AU executive and AU students.

For the 10 days that the conference is open, students and AU execs will post messages back and forth on an electronic forum, in the form of an extended conversation, and all AU students are invited to participate. The session will include four concurrent discussions based on the four main topics of the AU Strategic University Plan [SUP]. The individual topics will include: Introduction; Meeting Learners' Needs; Organization and People; Provincial, National, and International Positioning; and Fiscal Health.

A pdf document detailing the SUP can be found here: [http://www.athabascau.ca/sup/sup\\_19\\_06.pdf](http://www.athabascau.ca/sup/sup_19_06.pdf)

Additional information, including Power Point slideshows, will be available shortly. Watch *The Voice* or the AUSU website for more information. The URL [web address] for the conference will be given out the day before the conference begins.

## OLD DOG MIGHT JUST LEARN SOME NEW TRICKS

By Bill Phillips



My apologies to all the young children who were shopping for back-to-school supplies earlier this year. I probably bowled some of them over as I searched out school supplies of my own. Thank goodness for the local ElderCollege because at least I won't be the oldest student in town.

Yes, I've decided to further my eh-ja-ma-kay-shun. I'm going back to school. I am attempting to get a Bachelor of Arts degree in political economy. How's that for a mouthful? And, I can take all my courses at home. I've enrolled in Athabasca University that specializes in distance learning.

They call it 'individualized study,' which is really just a fancy name for correspondence. However, thanks to the Internet and more working people seeking to further their education, AU has thrived. It now has more than 24,000 students. Not bad for a little prairie town located north of Edmonton.

It's not an easy program and like all degree programs, will take several years to complete. The decision to do it wasn't an easy one either. And as a genuine 'adult learner,' I can sympathize with those who make the decision to go back to school later in life. It's tough, especially if you have a good job that you love (like I do). If you're doing okay, then the first question is "why?" If your goal isn't necessarily to get a new job or a raise (make note to send boss this column for potential remuneration increase), then why do it?

The simple and trite answer is to do it for yourself. For me, it's finishing off something I started many, many years ago.

I attended university right out of high school and, being very mature in my late teens and early 20s, I didn't quite complete my degree. I never regretted leaving university because it resulted in my life's journey bringing me here. However, I always wanted to complete my degree.

When I started working and maturing (getting into debt), returning to school became less of a reality. Like I said earlier, the Internet has changed all that. Completing a degree is within anyone's reach.

That doesn't mean it's not a scary proposal. All kinds of questions roll through your head. Can I do it? What if I fail? Will I find the time? Do I still know how to study? What if I don't like it? Can I do it? The questions swirl around and around.

The answers to those questions lie in the community around you. That's where you can find your inspiration. At least it worked for me. I look at people at our local ElderCollege and it becomes abundantly clear that educating ourselves later in life is something we should all do. And don't wait until you're older. Never stop learning. That is the mantra of another group in Williams Lake, the Learning Communities group, which promotes "lifelong learning." Lifelong learning doesn't have to be a formal education, but it can be.

Last year my wife Cathy attended the University of Calgary and earned a diploma. (Maybe I just don't want to be the dummy in the house).

I also have a friend who, in her mid-30s, went back to school to get her master's degree in psychology, and then she got her doctorate. It took her 10 years. Here's the kicker. When she started she had three kids, all under the age of seven years old. If you think you can't do it. Think again.

Take your inspiration from wherever you can get it. In addition, do it, just for the sheer joy of knowing more. If you aren't constantly learning, then you are standing still. In a society that is moving ever faster, standing still is still getting left behind.

So, if you see someone pushing the kids out the way when three-ring binders go on sale, that'll be me. The downside to 'individualized study' is that I don't really need back to school clothes. A new bathrobe and slippers are about it.

So take the plunge. You never know what you might learn.

*\* Originally published in the Williams Lake Tribune*



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**

### **AU EXAM SCHEDULING**

**Did you know** that you must book your AU exam 15 working days ahead of the date you wish to write it? Most of us do by now. But did you know that if you happen to be writing Spanish 300, and you wish to write it at the ELC, you have to book more than 15 days in advance? The same is true of ADMN404, BIOL325 & 341, GEOL319, CHEM301, and all French and Spanish exams. Why is that?

I found this out the hard way when I tried to book my Spanish exam this spring. I called 15 working days in advance, only to be told that because the exam was longer than 3 hours it could only be accommodated on certain days of the week (for example, Tuesdays). I was advised that I had already missed the 15-working-day deadline for that particular day and would not be able to book an exam on a "Tuesday" until the next month. This would require me to obtain a course extension. Nothing in the course materials or on the exam website indicates that these exams are restricted to certain days - they are just listed as 3 ½ hour exams.

**Did you know** that if circumstances prevent you from writing an exam on a scheduled date, the invigilator can give permission to re-book within five days (as long as it does not extend past your course contract date)? Depending on the circumstances, they may not have to charge you a fee either, although they are under no obligation to do this.

**Did you know** that if you have a disability, special accommodations for writing exams, (such as alternative format or longer time) can be requested, as long as you do so at least 30 days in advance?

Knowing what your options and rights are when it comes to exams can do a lot to relieve the stress and anxiety students at AU face regarding exams. For more exam details and information, exam rules and regulations, and a list of invigilators; check out AU's online calendar; Section 7 Evaluation, at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/calendar/03/page07.html>

AUSU has also compiled a very helpful list of exam tips at: <http://www.ausu.org/helpcenter/index.php>



# The Case of the Murdered Murderer

Shannon Maguire

Its owner said, "Chris Parks was my brother," waited for Vick to consider this and shot him three times as the horrified look of realization came across his face. Knowing that Vick knew who had killed him and the fact that the killer could now be free to live a life without the likes of Vick filled the murderer with satisfaction. The killer watched as Vick drew in his last breaths and, once satisfied that the monster was dead, dropped the gun and ran.

Marc Finkel, the detective in charge of the case, was very familiar with Vick, so he knew he could dredge up no end of suspects who would like to see the victim dead. Vick had his hand in a little bit of everything, from drugs to prostitution. The scene of the crime didn't help Marc much either; there were no fingerprints, no footprints and the gun was gone. All he had was a once feared criminal lying dead in a pool of his own blood amid the dirty needles and garbage.

Marc put his notepad away, lit a cigarette and stared at the younger police officers moving busily around the scene. They looked so eager and enthusiastic. A big case like this could make their careers, but instead they had to call in Marc who viewed it as a hassle. *I should have requested a desk job for another few years before I retire*, he thought.

The night was cold and the air was full of moisture. Marc was not impressed at being dragged out of bed after midnight on such a night. *At least I have no wife to wake up*, Marc thought, and soon after tried to repress thoughts about how pathetic his life had become without his noticing.

The next day Marc had the always unpleasant task of informing the family of the death. A young girl, no more than 13, answered the door to Vick's modest, but extravagant home. The girl was the shining image of innocence with rosy cheeks, golden blonde hair and an angel white smile. Standing in the doorway of a white house with immaculately tended gardens, full of vibrantly colored flowers, and a white picket fence to boot, made Marc wonder at first whether he had the right address. *Is this actually the home of one of Vancouver's sleaziest criminals*, he thought?

After verifying that he was indeed in the right place Marc asked the little girl if Trixy, Vick's girlfriend for the past eight months, was there. The girl went back into the house and was replaced moments later by a tall, beautiful woman who no one would expect to see on the arm of a character like Vick MacDonnell. Marc said hello and asked who the little girl was. He was shocked to hear that the intelligent and attractive looking young lady was Vick's daughter, Isabelle.

"At least he did one good thing while he was here," Marc said.

A worried look suddenly appeared on Trixy's face. "What do you mean, while he was here?"

Marc cursed himself for his insensitive slip of the tongue and tried to break the news of Vick's death as gently as he could. He waited patiently, as he always did after breaking the news, for Trixy to stop crying and regain

her composure. Watching her cry, he felt sympathetic, but he was also happy for her loss. He had gotten to know Trixy quite well over the years. She was a nice girl and all of the cops thought that she was actually starting to make Vick a more compassionate criminal. In the end however, they all thought that Vick would put more evil into her character than the good she put into his. After she calmed down he got to the point of his visit. "I need to ask you if there is anyone that would want Vick dead."

Trixy remained silent and thought about it for awhile. As soon as the answer dawned on her she was filled with anger. "How could he? That rat, it had to be him. Richard Jones. Vick confronted him just last week about stealing money from him."

Marc knew Richard Jones as Vick's exclusive lawyer for the past ten years. If Vick found out that Richard was stealing money he would have had him killed immediately. It makes sense that Richard would try to kill him first to save his skin. He would definitely need to have to have a talk with Mr. Jones, but first he had to explore the always awkward task of questioning the family without offending them. "Nothing personal Trixy, but I have to ask you where you were last night around midnight."

"Isabelle and I were both here watching television all night" she replied. "You don't think that one of us killed him do you?"

"It's too soon to be sure about anything. As far as I'm concerned you're not suspects right now. It's just common procedure to question the family in these cases."

After Trixy assured him that she couldn't think of anyone else who might have committed the crime he said goodbye and set off for the office of Richard Jones. When he arrived in the lobby the secretary told him to have a seat while she informed Mr. Jones of his presence. The lobby was quite large and sparsely furnished. Abstract art of a variety that Marc cared little for was strategically placed upon the walls most likely by a highly paid interior decorator. After a short wait a tall man in a well fitting custom suit walked briskly up to Marc and introduced himself as Richard Jones. He invited Vick into his office which, thankfully, was a little cozier and more welcoming than the overbearing lobby.

When Marc explained why he was there, Richard was furious at the suggestion that he could have killed Vick. The distraught lawyer proceeded to explain to Marc that he had known Vick since he was a child and that Vick had helped him get through law school. He admitted stealing money from Vick, but he said that he told Vick it was only because he was going through some hard times and he wasn't thinking straight. They were like brothers and Vick would never kill him over money.

"Well where were you last night?" Marc asked.

"I was home alone all night, but I swear I didn't kill him," Richard said pacing around the room. "But I have a good idea who did. You're going to think I'm crazy, but I think his little girl did it?"

"Isabelle?" Marc laughed. "Why?"

"She's not as sweet as she looks, detective. There is a lot of hate in that little girl and it's all directed at her father. It's no secret that Vick was involved in a lot of criminal activities and that his wife, Isabelle's mother, was murdered by some unhappy associates of his. Isabelle hates him and she is also the only heir to his rather large estate."

"Okay, I'll talk to the girl, but don't make any plans to leave town for awhile" Marc said.

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Trixy did not look happy to see Marc again so soon and almost refused to let him in when he told her why he was there. Isabelle had become like a daughter to her and she knew that although Isabelle hated her father she could never kill him. She told Marc that Isabelle did not kill her father because, as she told him earlier, the girl was home all night with her.

"What time did she go to bed?" Marc asked.

"Ten o'clock and she stayed in bed all night" she said. "After you left I thought about it some more and I am absolutely sure that Richard must have done it."

"I'm sorry Trixy, but Vick was killed at midnight, which would have given Isabelle plenty of time to sneak out of the house and walk down to Hastings. I'm still looking at Richard, but Isabelle's motives are just as good as his."

Marc insisted that he be allowed to ask Isabelle some questions, but after arguing with Trixy he agreed to wait until the next day.

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After he left, Trixy was furious. She was convinced that Marc would not be able to find the real killer and would end up putting Isabelle in jail after some half-hearted investigation. If she could find the gun that killed Vick she knew the police would trace it back to Richard and then they would leave Isabelle alone. She made some phone calls to Vick's associates and told them to spread the word that she would give a \$3000 reward to the person who brought her the gun that killed Vick.

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While Trixy was intent on finding the murder weapon, Marc decided to hit up one of his informants to find out what Vick was up to lately. Apparently, the word was out about Richard stealing the money, but Vick was not as brotherly as Richard thought because he was planning to kill him over the incident. Richard was going through hard times because a young investigative reporter from out of town had gathered evidence of Richard's criminal dealings with Vick and was about to go public with it. Richard finally asked Vick to kill the reporter. Vick took care of the situation and thought that the matter was dealt with until he found out that Richard was stealing money to run away and start a new life with before someone else threatened to expose him. The informant also confirmed Isabelle's hate for her father, but he didn't think that she was capable of murdering anyone. Other than that, Vick had received the usual barrage of death threats from rival criminals and families whose children he had lured into crime.

After leaving the informant, Marc went down to the police station to see if anything new had developed. The only information he obtained was that Vick was shot with a nine millimeter handgun. Since Richard was starting to look like the main suspect, Marc checked his records and found out that Richard owned a nine millimeter handgun. *Looks like it's time to pay another visit to Mr. Jones,* he thought.

Richard's secretary gave him a disapproving look when he entered the lobby for the second time that day. "Mr. Jones is not here" she said. "He left very quickly after your last visit with him." The rather large woman's tone betrayed her as being very annoyed at Marc's disruption of the regular office work.

"Do you know where I can find him?" he asked.

"No detective. He did not tell me where he was going."

Marc's hands started to sweat, the pace of his heart quickened and a lump formed in the middle of his throat. *I knew I should have taken him to the station for more questioning*, Marc thought. *No need to panic yet. Just because he left the office doesn't mean he has disappeared altogether.* One thing was for sure though and that was that Marc was not going to be at ease until he located the missing lawyer.

He said a quick and disinterested goodbye to the secretary and made his way over to Richard's home. The queasy feeling that had developed in his stomach grew stronger as he stood outside Richard's door ringing the bell and receiving no answer. With his focus completely on the door, he almost jumped out of his skin when his cell phone rang from inside his jacket. His nerves were so shot that he had to catch his breath before he could slowly answer the phone. "Hello."

"Hi Marc are you okay, you don't sound so great."

Marc pulled himself together and confidently replied into the phone that he was fine. "Who is this anyway?"

"It's Trixy. I just wanted to let you know that I think I found the gun that killed Vick. I'm taking it to the police station right now."

"That's great news" Marc replied a little more cheerily. "I'll meet you there."

Marc hung up the phone and made his way to the station. The good news momentarily diverted his attention from Richard's disappearance and lifted his spirits. When he got to the police station Trixy was already there and the gun was being processed by the forensic unit. While they waited for the results, Trixy explained how she offered a reward for the gun and found out that after the murder a person, who she promised would remain anonymous, had stolen the gun from the scene and was going to pawn it when he heard about the reward.

"Do you really think that this gun is going to lead back to Richard?" Marc asked, painfully remembering that the lawyer was still missing.

"I think so, but what I really want is to clear Isabelle's name." Trixy replied. "She is just a great kid who has been through so much."

"What is going to happen to her now that Vick is gone?"

"I've already filed papers to adopt her" Trixy replied. "Vick was her only family, so I'm all she has now. When this is all over, we're going to move back to Seattle, where my family lives."



"Just don't forget that Isabelle has to come in for questioning tomorrow" Marc quickly added, determined not to lose another suspect.

Their conversation was interrupted when the officer analyzing the gun came over to give his report to Marc. The gun Trixy found was matched to the bullets found in Vick's body and it was registered to Richard. Marc was satisfied that he had enough evidence for an arrest; Richard had no alibi, he probably knew that Vick was planning to kill him, and Vick was killed with his gun. Now all Marc had to do was find him.

"Is it safe to assume that you won't be questioning Isabelle now that the gun has been linked to Richard?" Trixy asked.

"Yes, it looks like Richard is the murderer, but there is a problem. I couldn't find him this afternoon."

"So what are you going to do now?"

"All I can do is put out an arrest warrant on him and keep looking."

Trixy wished him luck with his search and headed home, happy with the knowledge that the case was closed and she was free to start her new life with Isabelle.

-----  
Isabelle was excited to be moving to Seattle to live with a nice family. She hated her father and blamed him for her mother's death. Every day she feared that she would be murdered by one of his criminal friends and she begged him to lead a normal life. He just laughed at her and told her that she worried too much. As if that wasn't bad enough, she couldn't even make any friends because everyone knew who her father was.

*I can't wait to start a new life*, she thought. After the sale of the house her inheritance would be more than enough money to start a new life with and forget about her old one.

She was in the process of packing when her attention was drawn to the television. A reporter was excitedly ranting on about a body that was found in the Fraser River by a fisherman. The man had been viciously stabbed and dumped in the river. The victim was Richard Jones. *What does this mean?* Isabelle thought. Is that detective going to come poking around again now that his murderer has become a victim himself. This couldn't be happening; not now when they were so close to leaving. She would have to tell Trixy right away and they could figure something out together. When the reporter finished her story, Isabelle ran upstairs and burst into Trixy's room. To her surprise Trixy was sitting on the bed surrounded by newspaper clippings. Isabelle picked up one of the clippings and read the article aloud:

*Local reporter missing. Chris Parks, an investigative reporter, was reported missing by his sister who has not seen him for two weeks. His sister, Mary Parks, says it is not like him to disappear and the last time she saw him he said that he was investigating a lawyer named Richard Jones and his involvement with a dangerous criminal named Vick MacDonnell.*

Isabelle stopped reading and put the article down. She stared at Trixy with a confused look on her face.

"I was going to wait until we got to Seattle before I told you. Chris Parks was my brother and your father and Richard murdered him. I know this because after Chris went missing I used a fake name and became Vick's

girlfriend. After a while I found out that he had killed my brother because Richard asked him to. We were all sitting around one night and they talked about it like it was some kind of sick victory. I had to use all my strength to keep myself from killing them that night."

"Why didn't you just do it then? Why wait?"

"In the time that I was here, I started to care for you and I couldn't stand the way Vick treated you. I knew that if I stole Richard's gun and shot Vick with it the police would charge him with the murder and we would be free to leave the city and start a new life. Of course I had to wait until Richard had a motive. When Vick told me Richard was stealing from him I knew it was my chance. But everything went wrong when the gun disappeared and the police started pointing the finger at you. Richard came to see me after Marc talked to him. He was going on and on about how you must have done it and what an evil little child you are. First he had my brother killed and then he blamed you for your father's murder. I was so mad and there was a knife on the table. He was dead before I even had time to think. That's why he's missing and that's why we have to leave right away before they find him."

The doorbell interrupted their conversation. "You're not expecting anyone are you?" Trixy asked.

"No" Isabelle replied flatly.

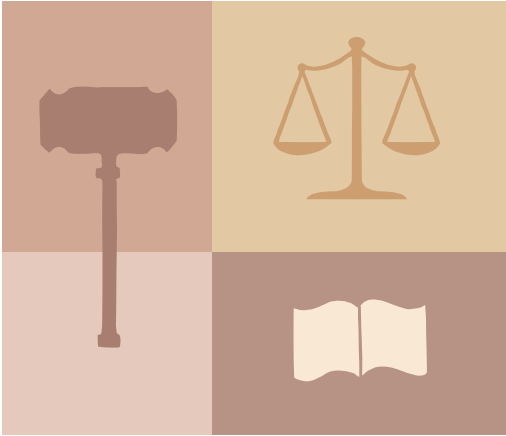
Trixy and Isabelle went downstairs and opened the door to a flustered detective. When they dragged Richard's body out of the river, Marc almost cracked. He was relieved to find his missing suspect, but now his suspect was a victim. This time he was going to follow up his leads immediately before anyone else went missing. "I need to interview Isabelle right now" he said in his most demanding and authoritative voice.

Both Trixy and Marc turned and looked at Isabelle in utter disbelief when she said, "Trixy murdered them both."



**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.



Here I sit once again on a Sunday night in the University of Saskatchewan College of Law library. This week I am frantically working on an "open memo", which is an exercise wherein I am provided with a fictitious fact pattern and must write a balanced legal opinion on its likely outcome if it were to go before a court. My arguments must be supported by statutes and common law cases. The "open" aspect means that I am provided with no cases to utilize but must "discover" the relevant law through copious amounts of research. Of course, this project is due within a set time period and the relentless pace of readings required for regular classes does not abate to alleviate the law students' anguished plight. If I sound like I'm complaining, it's merely because my blackened and sunken eye-

sockets are representative of the fatigued condition of my mind and body... All that aside, I am really enjoying the challenge of law school and some aspects I find particularly amusing.

Students of law are taught through a process of immersion into common law cases—they learn the law by reading thousands of judgements from various courts. In reading a case, we are to understand the issues in dispute, the facts of the cases, the arguments made on both sides, the decision of the court, and the legal principles that are produced. The collection of previously-decided cases makes up the common law. Canada's common law legal system was imported from that of the United Kingdom and much of our law is based on early English cases (Quebec's legal system was imported from the French Civil Law and is an entirely different entity). Trying to read some of the earliest cases is a challenge to say the least—they are written in an English dialect that is foreign to ours. Further, both the subject matter of the issues in dispute and the outcomes of the cases can be surprising indeed. I thought I'd share a little light reading with you from the 17th century:

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The Bill was to have a Discovery of Gold; and a great Quantity of Goods which the defendant took out of the Plaintiff's Ship; which Goods and Ship the Defendant took on the Sea.

The Defendants set forth, The Charter made by the King to the African Company, of the sole trade in those Parts on the Guinney Coast, and empowering them to seize the Ships and Goods of any that should trade in those parts; and justified under the Patent what he did, and denied to make any Discovery.

The Plaintiff's Counsel offering to waive the Plea and Demurrer:

Lord Chancellor. If you can help your selves at Law, do so, but I will give you no Assistance here in Prejudice of the King's Charter.

### ***Brooks contra Bradley. 11 May 1682***

Well, what do you make of that? This was a case heard in the English Court of Chancery in 1682 and as I read it, the King had granted the African Company a licence to privateer on the Guinney Coast. A privateer was privately-owned ship that was armed with guns to affect legal piracy. It operated in times of war against enemy trading vessels. Each privateer was given a Charter from the King enabling them to seize enemy ships and goods as a 'prize'. In this case, the plaintiff African Company seems to have accused the defendant ship captain/crew of removing the booty (Discovery of Gold; and a great Quantity of Goods) from its ship after returning from pillaging in the Guinney Coast. The defendants claimed that they had done no such thing, but

had merely found no booty at all (denied to make any Discovery). The court found for the defendant ship captain. Want to try another?

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*Herring, Anno 1681*, was delivered of two Female Children, they were baptized by the Names of *Aqulia* and *Priscilla* : The Birth was Monstrous, for they had two Heads and four Arms, four Legs and but one Belly where their two Bodies were conjoined. The Birth was at *Ilbrewers* in the County of *Somerset* : Many People came daily to see them, and gave Money to the Parents ; the Father was a poor Cottage Tenant to Mr. *Walround*, a Justice of the Peace, who, and the Father entered into Articles, that *Walround* should have the Custody of the Children, and the Benefit that was to be made by Shewing of them ; but was to pay the Plaintiff one eighth part of that Benefit, and to maintain the Plaintiff his Wife and Children (for he had other Children) so long as *Aqulia* and *Priscilla* lived. The Bill complains that the articles were gotten from the Plaintiff by Surprise, being prepared, &c., but the contrary was proved : The Children lived but a Month, and then after the Bill being exhibited to be relieved against the Bond and the Articles, and an account of the Monies received by the Defendant for Showing the Children, which the Defendant had embalmed, and caused to be still kept.

The Chancellor much disliked these Doings, and decreed the Defendant to bury the Children within the Week, and to account for what he or his Agents had received, and full Costs of the whole Suit to the Plaintiff ; who (her Husband the former Plaintiff being dead) did revive the Bill.

### **Herring contra Walround. 3 July 1682**

Rather macabre, don't you think? But this case is pretty much representative of a day in the Court of Chancery in mid-seventeenth century England (well...maybe a little unusual). Did you manage to decipher what the case was about? A poor couple had given birth to conjoined twin girls. They showed them to the public for money to make ends meet (there was no social safety net in the 1600s). Their unscrupulous landlord entered into a contract with the father to take custody of the twins, show them publicly for money, and pay the father one-eighth of the profits. The twins died and the landlord embalmed their bodies and continued showing them for profit without paying any money to the father (girls died = no contract ["so long as *Aqulia* and *Priscilla* lived"])). The father made out a Bill of complaint in the Court of Chancery but he also died before the case was decided. The Chancellor (judge) was so appalled by the "Doings" that he allowed the widow to revive the husband's action (no small event in the centuries before women's rights) and ruled against the landlord.

So now you know what I spend countless hours doing—day-in and day-out reading and deciphering old and new case law. Granted, 99% of it is comprised of decisions rendered within the last hundred and fifty years; but I sometimes wander over to the really ancient racks for a little extra-curricular light reading. If you like this article, email me at [wayneben@sasktel.net](mailto:wayneben@sasktel.net) and I'll keep an eye open for some more unusual cases and make them the topic of a future article.

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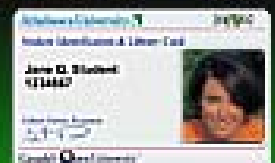
*Wayne E. Benedict has a varied career history and strong links to the Canadian labour movement. He is working part-time toward his Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations at AU, and is a fulltime first-year student of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. For a more detailed writer bio, see The Voice writers' feature page. Wayne can be reached at [wayneben@sasktel.net](mailto:wayneben@sasktel.net)*

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Dear Sandra,

I just read a Voice article about a woman and her pickles [Pickles by D. Jabbour, v11 i41, Oct 8/03]. My mother-in-law also makes pickles. Her pickles are absolutely delicious. She just made a new batch this time using Green Beans. She is unbelievable as a person and as a cook.

She works very hard in all that she does but still has time to do the things she loves to do. Her cooking, no matter what it is, is always perfect. I have watched her and surprised her when they come to visit by making one of her recipes. I have a long way to go but still keep trying. I wanted her to be able to show the world just how good these pickles really are. I have people all the time who try them say they would pay \$5.00 for a jar of these pickles. I don't know how to get them marketed to sell. She lives in Michigan and she always goes to the farmers market not to mention the garden she has of her own, I think she should be able to put them on the shelf for others to try.

If you, or your readers, have any suggestions on how to get started I would love to know.

Sincerely,  
Daughter-in-law in Chicago

Dear Daughter-in-law,

I have nothing but the utmost respect for individuals who can their own produce. For me, it's too much time and effort, though I love the end results. I shop at farmers' markets to reap the rewards of others' extensive home-made efforts ;-).

Now, you are American, I am Canadian, so I'm just going to give you some basic advice that hopefully transfers across the border. You obviously know about the benefits of farmers' markets for attracting people to a homemade product, but at Christmas time there are also a lot of co-mingles or trade shows dedicated to hawking homemade products such as crafts and baking. Watch your local newspaper for information on upcoming events. For trade shows and craft fairs, just as in farmers' markets, there is usually a cost involved to set up shop, but your product is seen by tons of people.

Now, if these pickles are as good as you say they are, why not consider marketing them to local grocery stores? I've seen many products on the shelves of my local grocery store toting the slogan "Homegrown". I've even seen individuals set up at the front of grocery stores. It may not just be grocery stores you target, but what about health food stores (especially if you do not use preservatives) or country craft or gift shops? It never hurts to ask if they will put the product on your shelf, for a small percentage of the profit. You should consult with your local municipality in regards to marketing products in this way; you may be required to get a business license or adhere to specific guidelines.

Another option is to take advantage of the success and convenience of the Internet. Start up your site, and start marketing the product. Your start-up costs will be a little higher as you'll probably need a web designer, shipping materials, postage, credit card fees, etc... it all depends on how web savvy you are. You can also market your product on on-line auction sites like ebay, where the highest bidder takes the product.

That's my advice; let's see if the readers have anything to add.... Email [smoore@ausu.org](mailto:smoore@ausu.org) to submit your advice to the pickle-loving daughter-in-law.

*Sandra*

# Primetime Update

Week of November 14, 2003

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

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

## Friends

Rachel and Monica fight over who will receive the ugly painting from Phoebe's apartment. Joey and Chandler go through a lit between their two careers, while Ross gets rejected by the grant committee (his girlfriend's ex) as well as his girlfriend.

This week, Monica and Chandler "tidy up" for a home visit from the social worker who will decide whether or not they're the right people to adopt a child. However, the social worker turns out to be one of the women Joey "didn't call the next day." When Joey stops by to visit, they first lie that he's not their friend, then hide him in the attempt to make him leave without the social worker's knowledge that he was there. When the trick doesn't work and the woman catches him, Joey "cleverly" turns the situation around accusing *her* of not calling *him*. When the discussion is over, the social worker informs the Bings that they'll make great parents, and takes her leave. At the end of the episode Monica answers a phone call through which she's informed that they've been accepted as parents, and now only have to wait for the baby to come.

Rachel forbids Ross to take Emma to the park. She is then forced to tell him of an episode when she was four and got her hair caught in a swing. Ross convinces her to come with him and Emma, and while there, he gets kicked in the head by another kid on a swing. Rachel freaks out, and threatens to take Emma home, but Ross makes her confront the childhood fear by getting on the swing herself. In return, she insists he must confront his fear by holding a spider. In the end, both freak out, and that's what we're left with.

Phoebe and Mike plan their wedding. They realize that they're going to spend a massive amount of money, and instead choose to give the money to a children's charity, and get married at city hall. But after talking with Monica, Phoebe comes to a new revelation and decides that she wants all the perks of a gigantic wedding. The couple goes down to the children's charity, and with much attitude from the man behind the counter, takes their money back. Later at the coffee house, Phoebe is rationalizing her decision by saying that she didn't have much as a child, and so she deserves a big wedding, however realizes that she took money from children who are now what she used to be, and insists on returning the money. However, the snarky guy behind the counter is sick of her games and rejects the check. Mike and Phoebe leave with the intent of one day returning to make an even bigger donation.

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

## Survivor: Pearl Islands

Last week, Burton and Lill returned to their former tribes which later merged and, because Lillian betrayed her former Morgan tribe, voted out the former Morgan tribe's leader, Andrew Savage.

This week Lillian celebrates the spirit of revival she feels with her new tribe while Ryan O ponders his fate, as he, next to the ousted Savage, is the strongest former Morgan member. On a fishing expedition, Ryan propositions Burton to join him (Ryan), Tijuana, Darrah, and "hopefully" Lill in getting rid of Rupert, Sandra, and Christa.

Upon returning from the aforementioned fishing trip, Burton presents an electric stingray to the tribe. Not too long after, Tijuana comments on the massive amount of food available to her since the merger.

The first individual reward challenge consisted of shooting marbles from a slingshot at targets (plates). Competing in groups of three, the first person to hit all three of their own targets and consequently light a fire at the top of their tower, moves on to the final group of three of which the winner receives a reward. So, the final three are Ryan O, Lill, and Rupert, of which the "mighty Blackbeard" (Rupert) is victorious. His reward is breakfast, which he can take for, or give to someone else. Since Burton gave Rupert immunity last week, Rupert returns the favor by giving him this week's reward. AND, since Lill and Burton went head to head in this challenge (and because Burton can't take Rupert) Burton chooses to take Lill with him to enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, bacon, eggs, sweet rolls, orange juice, and beautiful scenery. The two share the meal, as well as chatter, during which they agree to go to the end by getting Rupert off ASAP.

At camp, Sandra and Christa also contemplate getting rid of Rupert, likely because they know they can't beat him, but conclude with the point that Rupert (and Burton) feed them.

The immunity challenge goes against what everyone desires. It's an elimination game. Answering a question correctly gives each tribe member the chance to place a coconut into a tribemate's holder. Five coconuts knocks them out. So, when it is down to Rupert and Christa, my hero prevails once more, and wins the sword. What's funny is if everyone wanted so badly to get rid of Rupert, why hand him immunity?

Since none can follow through on their true desires, and honestly the only thing that would allow anyone besides Rupert to be the sole survivor, we watch five former Drake members along with Lill; vote off the former Morgan tribe's only guy left, Ryan O.

Next week, Rupert has trouble sleeping, talks of strategy while gathering water, an anxious Lill, and the selfless giving of one tribe mate to another.

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

## **The Bachelor**

Last week was the fantasy dates, and we said to bye to the overly mature and more than ready to bear children, Mary.

This week was totally inconsequential to the show. The Bachelor: The Women Tell All. If you watched it, like me, you wasted your time.

Next week is the FINALE! Bob takes Kelly-Jo and Estella home to meet HIS family, and then spends time veggin' with both before he makes his final decisions. Then, does he propose? Does she say yes? Who gets the final rose? "Tune in next week for the two hour season finale of... The Bachelor."

*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!

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## NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

*By Karl Low*



### The Alberta Advantaged

Athabasca University's importance to the Alberta Provincial Government was once again outlined in a recent press release. The Alberta Government proudly proclaims in the headline that "The official launch of eCampus Alberta means Alberta's post-secondary students will have access to courses offered by institutions throughout Alberta, without having to leave their hometown." As if to say that students didn't have access without having to leave their hometown before.

Of course, Alberta's contribution to the eCampus initiative is only a "one-time" contribution of approximately \$900,000. So, now that it's set up, the various colleges and technical institutes will get to learn a little bit of what Athabasca University is going through.. that is, that by reducing your total expenses, the amount the government gives

you and the amount they allow you to charge are both reduced at the same time.

This in a time of a 1.9 billion (yes, that's with a "b") dollar surplus, of which over 550 million will be going into the government slush fu.. I'm sorry, "sustainability" fund. Remember that one? That's the fund that allows the government to sustain unrealistic budgets based on over-estimating the price of natural gas and oil.

Welcome to the idea of life long education being reserved for the Alberta Advantaged.

Getting back to the point, however, what's stunning about this announcement is that there is absolutely no mention that high quality courses are already available for students to take across Alberta from the comfort of their own home – and yes, many of these courses are online.

But then again, why would they want to point that out? After all, people might look at Athabasca University and start asking the embarrassing questions of why this Alberta funding is "one-time", and why more money wasn't invested into an institution already handling this type of learning.

### Your Money Studying Fat Kids

The Government of Canada has announced funding of \$138 million to go to Health Research projects in Ontario. From this funding, 329 research projects will go ahead over the next one to five years.

Three of those projects were chosen to be highlighted as exemplifying the Canadian Institute for Health Research's broad range of research projects. These include such laudable projects as working to de-activate chemotherapy resistant proteins to allow better cancer treatments and research into stopping the progression of Alzheimer's disease. The third one chosen to be highlighted, however, is a research project on "studying factors that affect children's appetite such as body composition, physical fitness, food variety and television viewing in order to address the growing problem of child obesity."



Basically, it is looking at the question of why children eating so much and getting fat. This strikes me as one of those brain-dead studies to which the answer is obvious: because being kids they don't know any better, and the parents let them.

Daytime talk shows have looked at this, bringing on pre-teen children who are astoundingly obese, and most of the time the problem is very simple. Parents who simply make no attempt to control their own children's diets, and in fact often work to enable the kids to become fat.

So we don't need a study for this, what we need is to get the parents of these kids in a room with Maury and a clue-stick.

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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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## TOWER OF TERROR (1997)

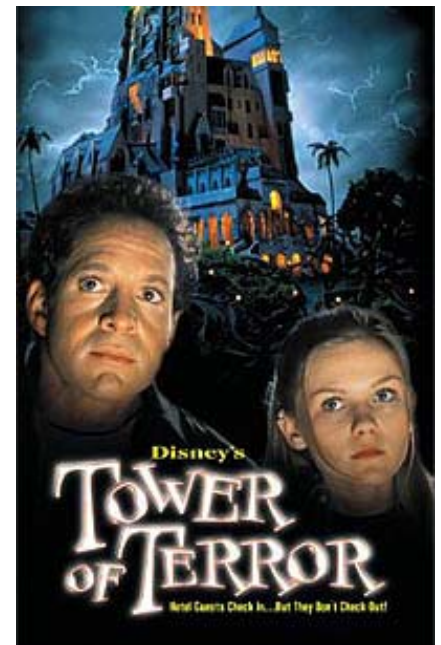
### Film Review

By Laura Seymour

Well, Hallowe'en was coming up soon when this flick aired on the Family Channel, so, the TV world decided to look up "scary" in the film purchase books. This film is a harmless Disney flick, but it's entertaining and well done. I'd consider it ok for some of the older children out there as long as ghosts don't scare them.

The story begins with the demise of five people in an elevator in the Hollywood Tower Hotel in 1939. This is shown in glorious color and the character reactions are shown in a quick, well-shot scene or two. A small child star, Sally Shine, is at the center of it all. Her harsh and uptight looking nanny is with her in the elevator. In with them are the elevator operator and a fancy dressed young couple. All are destined for the top floor and are silent as they rise. Outside the hotel is a loud and scary thunderstorm. It crashes and cracks and the five people suddenly disappear shortly after 8 p.m. Where they went and what happened to them has been a mystery for 60 years, and the hotel has been deserted since then.

Still sexy, Steve Guttenberg, plays Buzzy Crocker, a flunked out journalist who used to have what it takes to be a hard-boiled reporter. Lately, he's only been able to sell stories he makes up to the world of tabloids. Those tabloid stories are enough to pay the bills but it's not his real choice for work. Enter Steve's biggest and most worshipping fan, an older lady who gushes about his appreciation of the occult and the stories he unearths. She tells him she was the child of the owners of the hotel at the time of the 1939 accident. She has been waiting all these years for someone to solve this case but she kept quiet because "no one



would believe me." She convinces Buzzy how important this would be for his career and he finally starts to see how he might use this story to put himself back on top.

A still very young Kirsten Dunst plays Buzzy's neice, Anna. More or less roped into trying to solve the ghostly situation rather than really wanting to be there in a ghostly old hotel, she grudgingly goes along with uncle Buzzy.

Buzzy goes to the hotel to have a look. There he meets Dewey, played by Mike McDonald. A hilarious and gifted actor, Mike often guest-starred on *Whose Line Is It Anyway*. Here he plays a flunked out car mechanic and the grandson of the elevator operator who disappeared. Since Dewey can't fix a car worth beans he makes "his living" by touring people around the hotel at Hallowe'en... but he won't go inside.

Buzzy however senses a chance to get back on the front pages so inside he goes. Inside the once luxurious old hotel are cobweb-covered Art Deco pieces, and of course a few ghosts. It is the ghosts of the elevator incident that Buzzy winds up seeing with his very own disbelieving eyes. This convinces him to research the story further.

When Buzzy tries to interest a former newspaper boss in the story, she does some investigating herself. Following up on the name of his source, she visits the sanitarium the woman lives in and discovers that Buzzy's source is the sister of the little child star who died in the elevator...and she HATES her sister. Meanwhile Buzzy still believes the old lady. He recovers the book the old lady told him was hidden in the hotel and they all start to study its complicated spells and dark messages.

Buzzy hires "an actress" to play the nanny in the elevator for a photo to sell for some more quick bread and butter. A young and pretty gal shows up but doesn't look the part. That's ok with Buzzy who thinks she's gorgeous. He gives her the part and merrily snaps pictures of her. Later we find out, in a delightful twist, who she really is. I won't spoil it for you.

Eventually the newspaper boss and Buzzy team up with Anna and Dewey to solve the whole problem. At first Dewey won't go into the hotel but when Dewey's grandfather asks Buzzy to pass on a message of needing his grandson's help, it changes his mind.

The gang meet up with the original lost souls and we begin a very "who dunnit" grilling session. Characters reveal one another's little secrets and confessions are made. Eventually the young child star, Sally, asks them to change their fate by fixing the elevator so they can get to the top floor.

No one knows how to fix the elevator...except Dewey *is* a mechanic. After a quick grandfather to grandson plea, Dewey works on the ancient equipment and gets it going.

Little does anyone know that in the basement the "fan" of Buzzy's is busy conjuring up her spell to kill her sister all over again!

Does it work? Of course not! This is Disney! But the finale is well done and the film is taut and well made—as most Disney productions are. Have a good bit of fun and see this film, but don't expect too many spooky happenings. It's friendly for most youngsters.

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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. (Psyc).*

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# The Net Nerd's Profiles



**The Kobe Bryant defense fund folded and now you need a new cause? Go quick to [www.deregulationnation.com](http://www.deregulationnation.com) !**

A lot of you out there have heard bits and pieces about Bill 43. Perhaps you've seen the poster in *The Voice* or you've been hearing about it here and there. Well this is the website to go to: *DeregulationNation.com* is brought to you by CAUS (the Council of Alberta University Students, of which our own Shirley Barg is chair!) and ACTISEC (the Alberta College and Technical Institute Student Executive Council).

This website is dedicated to the education of post secondary students about Alberta's Bill 43. *Deregulationnation.com* is reader friendly and describes Bill 43 in a way no politician could hope to do.

On the home page the sections are divided into "Issues", "Events", "Get Involved", "Media Kits", "Contact" and "Discuss".

There are also links to the CAUS and ACTISEC websites. Under "Issues" this site discusses why we need to learn more about the implications of Bill 43. For example, it explains how the lifting of the tuition cap would affect Alberta students; how the government can "audit" democratically elected student councils (isn't that up to the students?); how the academic freedoms of universities will be undermined by government (i.e. college professors will not be able to conduct "pure research"); and it also discusses the effects of the bill on distance education. Under this bill, there would be no limit on the tuition for distance ed courses.

Under "Events" you can see what's going on in the province to challenge Bill 43. Look at "Get Involved" for contact information to write to representatives of the various Alberta student organizations, and a handy form letter you can fax to Alberta Learning Minister Lyle Oberg. Under "Media Information" there are several convenient documents where you can learn more about Bill 43.

This website is organized, informative and easy to understand. Here is a call out to all AU students nationwide: Let *Deregulationnation.com* help you to get involved!

**Neat Stuff:** You can go to "Discuss" to go to the U of A's "web board" or the U of C's "thought swap forums" to talk about Bill 43 with other students. Of course you can also do that here on AUSU's own discussion forums.

**Not So Neat Stuff:** The only crappy part about this website is that it reminds you about the government's poor attitude about post-secondary education. But with a little effort we can change that.

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*\*/5 I may be in trouble if I give this site anything less than 5, but that's not the reason I'm giving it the full rating. There are a lot of petty causes that people try to recruit followers for. Often university students are so disenchanted with these types of causes that the meaningful ones get lost in the shuffle. *Deregulationnation.com* shows students that they can work for a significant cause and one that actually means something. Kudos to CAUS and ACTISEC for *Deregulationnation.com*.

**Rupert's probably going to get voted off so you don't need to watch Survivor anymore and Average Joe reminds you too much of the guys you used to (or still) date. You need <http://dsc.discovery.com/fansites/amchopper/amchopper.html> or <http://dsc.discovery.com/fansites/monstergarage/monstergarage.html>**

Heads up for the *OCC*! The *Discovery Channel* fansite for *American Chopper* is beyond reproach. What is *American Chopper* you ask? Well this is a real reality show, not a bunch of strangers thrown together and made to eat weird stuff or go on phony dates (which look almost as uncomfortable as real ones). This is a show about *Orange County Chopper* a bike shop that's run by a father (Paul Sr.), one son that designs the bikes (Paul Jr.) and another son that answers the phone and pops bubble wrap (Mikey). They design and build custom choppers that kick the ass of any other bike out there (just so my friends and family will still talk to me- I didn't include Harleys in that comparison).

If you've never seen the show you should still check it out. It's bikes, bikes and more bikes. Go to "Episode Guide" to find out what you've missed or to recap what you saw. To get a more up close and personal go to "Meet the Guys" for more information on the real people in *OCC* (Mikey's bio is the best one). "Photo Gallery" has tons of pictures and descriptions of the bikes ( "TrimSpa" is my favorite), and in "Talk About It" you can post and answer messages about the show (interesting fact: Paul Jr. goes by "occ1", Mikey goes by "tomwaits", and Paul Sr. is "Paulsrocc").

You may not like bikes, you may not like the bickering that goes on between Paul and Paul Jr., and you may not even get *The Discovery Channel*, but check out this site anyway.

**Neat Stuff:** On "American Audio" hear audio clips of Mikey answering questions such as "How come your dad doesn't yell at you as much as he yells at your brother" or Vinnie answering questions like "How did you feel when you got to ride the Firebike first?"

**Not so Neat Stuff:** Reminds you that you won't be able to have the skills to build bikes like these or have the cash to buy one.

**Rating \*\*\*\*\*/5** Did it sound like I was going to give a 3?

**Now for the other *Discovery Channel* gem <http://dsc.discovery.com/fansites/monstergarage/monstergarage.html>**

Don't know anything about cars? Can't even change your own oil? Well, neither can I but that didn't stop me from getting excited over a set of wicked rims on the "Mercedes/Handicap Car" on Episode 28. *Monster Garage* takes an ordinary vehicle, like a Mustang, and turns it into a lawnmower. My favorite is the "Sling Ray". Go to "Vehicle Specs" to see all the many machines these guys have made. How do they do it, you ask? Well mechanically inclined men and women apply to be on the show. Then a select group is picked for each episode to be the team to work on the next "monster". Again, even if you're not a gearhead this site and show rock!

This fansite has everything the *American Chopper* one has plus more. Go to "Meet Jesse James" to find out more about the show's tattooed chopper-building star. Check out "My Monster Gallery" where anyone can post pictures and specs of customized cars (some cool stuff on there). Under "Music" you can listen to the tunes categorized by each episode. Take the "Gearhead Test" and see where you stand, or apply to be on the team at "Get on the Show". Lots of stuff here for everyone. By the way, this is the only show that everyone in my house aged 4 to 30 will watch!

**Neat Stuff:** Play the "Build a Car Game" and "Mystery Monster Game". I didn't do too well, but it was still fun.

**Not so Neat Stuff:** Still looking.

**Rating: \*\*\*\*\*/5** See the *American Chopper* rating.

## 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.



# NEWS FROM AU

Contributed by *The Insider*

## AU's online MBA added to Financial Times' list of top EMBA's

by CIM staff



*CIM Executive Director, Dr. Peter Carr (right) was at Convocation June 13 to watch students graduate from one of the world's top 75 EMBA programs, according to the Financial Times of London.*

Athabasca University's (AU) Executive MBA has been included on the prestigious list of the world's top 75 EMBA programs by the Financial Times (FT) of London, England.

The annual Financial Times rankings are based on responses to two questionnaires: one for the business school and the second for alumni who graduated in 2000. Many factors contribute to the

overall rankings including: alumni career progression; percentage of alumni salary increases; percentage of international faculty, board members, and students; percentage of faculty with doctorate degrees, and the quality of faculty research.

"As part of our strategic mission to become the world's best online graduate business school, we must compete with the world's best EMBA programs, many of which are delivered in highly traditional formats," says Dr. Peter Carr, Executive Director at CIM. "Our application of technology to graduate management education has not only provided a higher level of student to student interaction, but has also given our students the flexibility to complete a rigorous, high quality program of management studies while maintaining commitments to work and family."

Five Canadian business schools made this year's FT list, with Athabasca University's Centre for Innovative Management being the only Canadian business school west of Ontario to appear in this year's rankings.

"We've achieved great success across Canada in a relatively short period of time," Carr notes. "We must now continue our drive to improve all areas of our school - by increasing our faculty, enhancing our research, expanding our international reach and by launching a doctoral-level program. We look forward to the work ahead, knowing that the AU MBA is the world's leading online MBA program."

Launched as the world's first online MBA in 1994, AU's program is the only fully online Executive MBA to be included in this year's list. The FT ranking brings new international recognition to the Alberta-based business school that now offers Canada's largest Executive MBA program.



### Library FAQ's continued

**Q:** I often have questions from students about the best way to contact the library. Is there a preferred method?

**A:** We're happy to receive questions from students via e-mail or telephone. We also have web forms available at <http://library.athabascau.ca/contacts/index.html> that students can fill out and submit to us. When a student is

interested in obtaining a large number of items from us, we prefer the request to be made by e-mail or in a web form instead of by telephone as it saves us the time of writing all the sources down. Our e-mail address is [library@athabascau.ca](mailto:library@athabascau.ca) and our telephone number 1-800-788-9041, ext. 6254 (within North America) or 780-675-6254 outside of North America.

**Q:** Is there a way to search the entire library Web site?

**A:** Yes. Our search function has recently been changed to a Google search. It searches all the content on the AU Library website.



## AU SPIRIT fills holiday calendar

*These helpful elves demonstrate where people should place their Christmas donations.*

The newly revamped Athabasca University SPIRIT committee has created a long list of Christmassy events to make this season cheerful and bright for AU staff.

Twenty-three people have booked tables at the annual AU Arts and Crafts

Fair, scheduled this year for 3-8 p.m., Nov. 28 at AU Central. "A" Cafe is staying open late that day to serve a special dinner and goodies. The young and young-at-heart are invited to join Santa for pizza crafts, games and entertainment at a Children's Christmas Party, Dec. 14, to be held at the Athabasca Community Centre from noon to 3 p.m. AU staff are also invited to partake in appetizers and socializing at a Christmas Fete, scheduled for Dec. 17 in the Governing Council Chamber.

For those who want to get in on some Christmas giving, the SPIRIT committee has set out three boxes near the entrance of AU Central. Those interested in exercising the "true meaning of Christmas," can drop warm winter wear in a box headed for the Athabasca Native Friendship Centre; non-perishable food items in a box designated for the local Food Bank and; new toys in a box that will be picked up by the local Santa's Anonymous effort.

According to SPIRIT committee member, Cathy Haub, contributing to these causes is a good way to celebrate the season. "It's nice," she said. "And it makes you feel good."

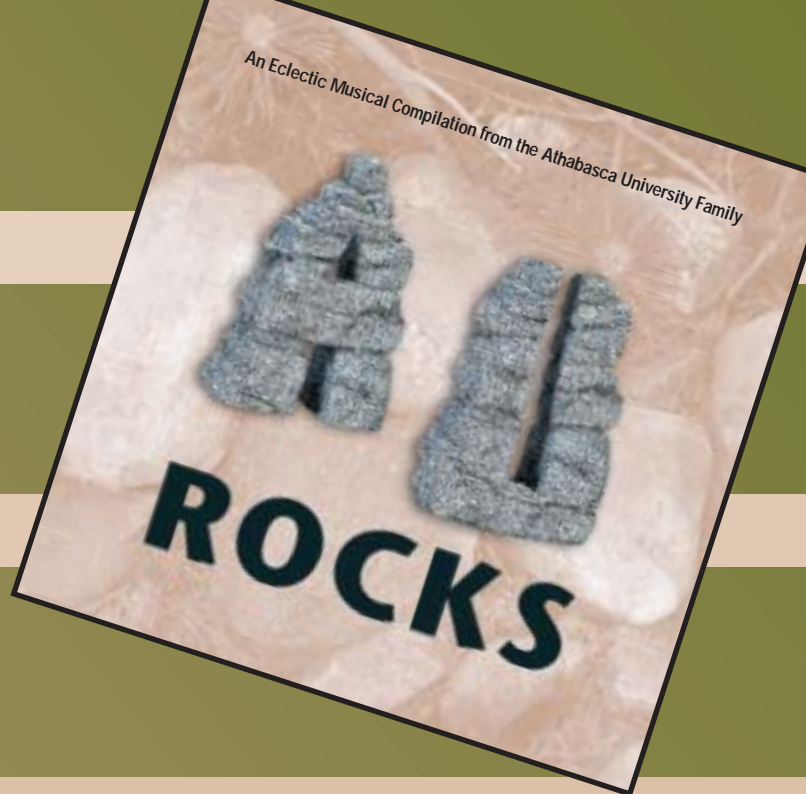
She added that planning events for fellow staff members is a great way to make things better for everyone who works at AU. The SPIRIT Committee is always looking for new members.

"I just joined because I'm a sociable person," she explained. "I love doing stuff like this, and it's fun to get together with people from other departments."

It's not difficult, either, Haub noted. "We just had our first meeting in October. Within the first week, we had everything done and rolling. You just have to balance it with your workload."

For more information on the Christmas Craft Sale, contact Marcia at [marciaw@athabascau.ca](mailto:marciaw@athabascau.ca) or Cheryl at [cfreh@athabascau.ca](mailto:cfreh@athabascau.ca). Those who wish to attend the Children's Christmas Party should RSVP to Julia McDonald at [juliam@athabascau.ca](mailto:juliam@athabascau.ca) or call extension 6736, indicating number of adults, number of kids, kids' ages and gender.

# Get Your AU ROCKS CD Today!



## Andy deLorme

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



## Erin Sullivan

Erin, an AU Student, provides vocals for the group, *The George Bushes*. This group is noted for its innovative songwriting, crisp harmonies and high-energy performances. *Contact: thegeorgebushes@yahoo.com*

## Dave Brundage

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



## Steve Boddington

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

## Dean Foster

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



## Terry Taylor

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

## Dirk Heydemann

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



## Sean Fulton

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

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

Proceeds from CD sales will be donated to Athabasca University scholarships.

Pick up your copy at Public Affairs and Communications in Athabasca or an order form is available at [www.athabascau.ca/aurocks](http://www.athabascau.ca/aurocks)

Price: \$12 (If CD requires mailing a \$2 shipping and handling charge will be added).





## 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**

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

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

# 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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## ANGELFIRE SCHOLARSHIP

**Value:** \$700

**Deadline:** January 31, 2004

**Administrator:** Datatel Scholars Foundation

**Notes:** All applicants:

### Instructions:

Applicants must attend a Datatel client institution (list available on Web site). Must be a Vietnam veteran during the 1964-1975 timeframe or be the child or spouse of such a veteran, or a refugee from Cambodia, Laos or Vietnam. Scholarship amounts vary from \$700 - \$2000. Please see the Web site for application details.

### Contact Information:

Datatel Scholars Foundation  
4375 Fair Lakes Court  
Fairfax, Virginia  
United States 22033

Phone: (703) 968-9000 ext 4549

Fax: (703) 968-4625

Toll Free: (800) 486-4332

Web Site: <http://www.datatel.com>

E-mail: [scholars@datatel.com](mailto:scholars@datatel.com)

Application Address: <http://www.datatel.com>





## **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.

**TEACH ENGLISH Overseas:** Jobs \$\$ Guaranteed-Great Pay. TESOL Certified 5 days in-class, on-line or by correspondence. **FREE** Information Seminar. **FREE** Infopack: **1-888-270-2941** or **globaltesol.com**

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

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