

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

Vol 12 Issue 2  
January 14, 2004

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Buying in to prescription drug advertizing

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# THE VOICE

Jan 14, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 02

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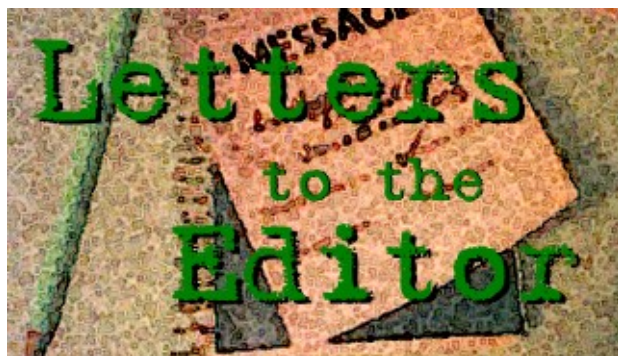
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We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org), and please indicate if we may publish your letter in the Voice.

[ed. The following letter was posted in the AUSU forums, concurrent with being submitted to The Voice, and prior to publication. Publishing a letter that has already been printed and publicly discussed is redundant and I realize that Voice quality is not maintained by reprinting dated forums posts. I was unaware that the letter was in circulation until the eve of publication, despite the fact that most of the questions within are addressed to me.

Some of these items are also far in excess of letter length limits as they are taken verbatim from the forums posts. I have chosen to print these items, rather than refer readers to the forums, to counter comments suggesting that AUSU might be attempting to censor negative feedback. I'd like to make it clear that this is not the case. The Voice letter lengths have been set because readers have indicated a preference for concise comments. Feel free to contact me if you feel otherwise.

As always, The Voice welcomes your questions, comments and suggestions on all topics. I am extending the suggested length limit to 400 words. Articles on all topics are also considered].

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Dear Editor,

I'm flattered that you chose to include yet another story on the reasons why I quit in this week's edition of the Voice; you've given it a lot of coverage. Yet, you've never ASKED me why I quit; you just guessed and passed that guess on to the Voice readers (December 17th). I QUIT BECAUSE I WAS TIRED OF ALL THE CRAP! I joined council to help students, and due to a personal vendetta a certain council member had with me for questioning their spending and their actions this was no longer going to be possible. I also felt I could do more to help students, and councilors, on this side of the fence, as a non-councilor. Nothing was getting done but "picking sides". Why I left council should be crystal clear by now to you, to Council and to the students.

Now on to a "real" important issue, I wonder why the issue of the President's reprimand from the November meeting did not get **any** coverage in the Voice? In fact you did not report on the November meeting at all, that's odd! It's your job to tell us students what's going on. According to Ms. Maguire's article last week:

*Tamra Ross Low, the editor of the Voice, is also attempting to ensure that stud-*

## THE VOICE

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Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

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

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*ents know what is going on in the Student Council. So far she has been keeping us informed of major events in her editorials.*

I assumed the Voice was supposed to report on the actions of ALL of council. If the mayor of my city, Ralph Klein or Paul Martin had a motion of reprimand brought against him, I'd sure want my newspaper to inform me.

Why did you feel it was not important to inform the students of that incident, but it was important to give a lengthy report into the December meeting when I handed in my resignation? This article was based on your implications as to why I quit (December 17th, 2003) and you then again also provided input into Ms. Maguire's article last week? One last question, why did Ms. Maguire not contact any other councilors, only Ms. Jabbour (and you the editor of the Voice)? Ms. Jabbour states in Ms. Maguire's article that the wrongdoings of councilors should stay private:

*She (Ms. Jabbour) also believes that when a member is removed the only information that needs to be disclosed is the fact that the member was removed and what policy violations they committed. In her opinion, putting too much focus on negative events and all the details involved results in wasting time and overshadowing other positive things that the council is doing.*

Shouldn't the students, who employ the councilors, know "how" their representatives are spending their money and representing them? If councilors make mistakes or perform unethically the students should know! Now, I just finished reading the latest edition of Alberta Views and I wonder if the President of AUSU is representing the interests of the administration at AU or the students?

*The most serious issues facing Athabasca students this year are tuition and the effects of Bill 43. Our institution is in serious trouble, since it receives far less funding than campus-based universities, due to the Alberta government's funding formula, which is based on percentage of infrastructure. Our administration has tried to find ways to cope with this, such as asking for exclusion from the tuition fee policy under government regulation; however, the majority of the student representatives have not been able to support this.*

I don't know if I even want to go into this one, but I'm pretty sure that ALL of council does not agree with Ms. Jabbour's comments. If AU is removed from the tuition fee policy, I'm pretty sure a lot of AU students may not be able to afford to continue at AU and they lose all of the little predictability they currently have for what their tuition will be from year to year. From what I remember of my time on Council every AUSU councilor was against tuition increases for AU students but one, can you guess which councilor sided more with AU administration? What is going on here? The needs of the students should come first to AUSU not the needs of the AU administration!!!! BUT, all that was described in this Alberta Views article was the frustrations faced by poor AU administrators, not the problems and frustrations faced by the AU students, those that AUSU represent [sic]. Who cares about the students in BC and Quebec who are having a hard time getting students loans to study at AU and the students who do get loans but eek [sic] out a pitiful subsistence on the money provided while trying to raise a family. Yeah, AU is in a tough spot considering they are practically a world-wide monopoly in providing distance learning to nearly 30,000 students with no traditional brick and mortar costs. I'm a little appalled that AUSU chose to have that printed in a publication.

This need for secrecy that the President keeps trying to convey is completely against democratic principles. This is a favorite quote of mine from Ms. Maguire's article:

*The President also expressed some concerns she has with the disclosure of detailed information about the wrongful acts of Councilors. First of all, she believes that such information should not be presented on the main AUSU website because it is accessible to the entire Internet community. She believes that it would be unfair to place such information in a place where it will show up in Internet searches for the entire world to view.*

Government committees place meeting minutes on-line, other student unions (who are campus-based I might add) place their minutes, their agendas, AND their budgets on-line. The "whole world" is not who wants to see AUSU council information, it is the AU students! The clubs can be put behind a log-in accessible by AU students, why then can't the minutes? Council needs to start acting more democratically and actively attempting to encourage student input and participation by on-line surveys for major decisions and regular updates. Most importantly the reports of the Executive, the minutes from the meetings and the financial budget NEED to be accessible by the students.

In closing, I think Shannon Maguire's article was good, but more information sources should have been consulted, primarily other councilors. I'm really glad to see other students taking an interest in their student government.

**That's my two cents,  
Sandra Moore**

## RESPONSE TO SANDRA MOORE FROM THE EDITOR

I think you gave us the whole dollar! However, there are many false and misleading statements in your letter and in several cases you have given your own perspective on information rather than directing readers to the official documents which are easily accessible online. If the readers will bear with me, I'll address these points one at a time...

**"I'm flattered that you chose to include yet another story on the reasons why I quit in this week's edition of the Voice; you've given it a lot of coverage. "**

There have been two articles - one by me; one by a student contributor. The latter was prompted by your own public posts on the issue and the vast majority of the information on this issue has been presented by you. You stated that your intent was that students talk about your post, and someone took you up on it. I think the relevant comment here is, "be careful what you ask for..."

**"Yet, you've never ASKED me why I quit; you just guessed and passed that guess on to the Voice readers (December 17th). I QUIT BECAUSE I WAS TIRED OF ALL THE CRAP! "**

I did not make any attempt to say why you left, nor do I know. I relayed the facts about the meeting, and the motions to be considered.

The majority of the council meeting was set aside for you to speak to council and observers. I attended, prepared to take notes on your presentation, but you did not show up. I also sent you a request to have your input in the student written article, but you declined again. I won't chase you down if you do not wish to comment when requested, but you know where to find me.

Thank you for clarifying the real reason you quit.

**"Now on to a 'real' important issue, I wonder why the issue of the President's reprimand from the November meeting did not get *any* coverage in the Voice? "**

Editorial, v11 i51 (<http://www.ausu.org/voice/archives/articledisplay.php?ART=2378>). Ms. Jabbour's reprimand was revealed in the first paragraph.

You are correct that the November meeting was not covered directly. Of the two controversial items presented at that meeting, which do you think I might be realistically accused of having avoided?

1. A voted and passed motion of reprimand against one of my employers
2. An extensive and highly provocative motion of dismissal against another of my employers, which was still pending?

I'm curious about your assertion that a reprimand is a "real" important issue, in relation to the resignation and subsequent controversial forums posts of another councillor.

**You didn't "report on the November meeting at all, that's odd! It's your job to tell us students what's going on."**

You are misrepresenting my job requirements under the Voice policy, which you had input into. It is not in my job description to report on the goings on of AUSU. In fact, up until a few months ago the Voice policy stated that the editor answered to AUSU regarding what was published in The Voice.

It was only in a recent policy update that I was officially granted the ability to publish items without AUSU input. You were involved in drafting the new policy, and you are aware that it contains no provision that I must cover AUSU events. I am responsible only to provide a column where AUSU can freely publish press releases and any other content they wish.

I do believe, however, that the Voice should cover these issues, and I do so myself quite often. Once again, any one who wants to try out for the position of council reporter should contact me at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org). You will be well compensated. I would not mind more than one council reporter, to gain a variety of perspectives.

But Sandra, it is dishonest for you to misrepresent my duties and responsibilities. It makes it appear as though I'm not doing the job that I was hired to do. Instead of telling students your interpretation of my duties, you could have referred them to the publicly posted Voice policy: <http://www.ausu.org/bylaws/policies.php> It's policy 9.01.



Students are free to comment on this policy and suggest any changes they see fit. Keep in mind that the purpose of having official documents available to the student body online is so that we can refer students to the primary sources of correct information, rather than presenting opinion and conjecture on these matters, which brings me to your next point...

**"I assumed the Voice was supposed to report on the actions of ALL of council."**

My duties are not affected by your assumptions.

You were on council for several weeks after the November meeting and as my employer made no comment about my lack of coverage of Debbie's and your reprimands until now.

**"This article was based on your implications as to why I quit (December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003)"**

I made no suggestions as to why you quit. The circumstances in which you quit are very suggestive.

**"One last question, why did Ms. Maguire not contact any other councillors, only Ms. Jabbour (and you the editor of the Voice)? "**

A blatant lie - I know of no better way to put it. Ms Maguire has clarified in her response [below] that she wished very much to contact you for your side of the story, and I was looking forward to reading your comments in her article. I would like to add to Shannon's explanation:

When Shannon told me that she had emailed you and Debbie for both sides of the story, I realized that your AUSU email address might already be shut down. So, I contacted a council member and obtained your home email address. I emailed you way back on December 16th to let you know that the article was being written, and to inquire if you had received Shannon's list of questions. I said I would email them to your home address if you didn't get them. You responded to me on December 17th, acknowledging the article and stating that you did not receive the list of questions, which I forwarded to you immediately. I also then received confirmation that your AUSU address had not yet been shut down, so you should have received two copies.

I admit that I did not follow up to ensure that you got the questions, but certainly you were informed that the article was being written, that the impetus for the article was your recent forums post, and that your input was being sought. You were well aware of how to contact me if you did not get the questions. I informed you in my original email that it was entirely up to you if you wanted to reply to Shannon, and that you could contact her directly. I left the ball in your court once you confirmed you were aware of the article.

I'm deeply disappointed that you have left this fact out, and implied that Shannon did not seek your side of the issue.

**RE: The *Alberta Views* column you refer to.**

Please see the AUSU press release in this issue, and further coverage in the next Voice. I am awaiting comment from the university to complete my coverage.

**"Yeah, AU is in a tough spot considering they are practically a world-wide monopoly in providing distance learning to nearly 30,000 students..."**

I suspect that the hundreds of other distance education providers - including the Open University UK (<http://www.open.ac.uk/>), the worlds' largest provider of distance learning with over 150,000 students - might object to the notion that AU holds a worldwide monopoly on this form of learning. This almost sinister (and grossly inaccurate) image of AU is easily as damaging and negative as the one you quote from *Alberta Views*.

**"Government committees place meeting minutes on-line, other student unions (who are campus-based I might add) place their minutes, their agendas, AND their budgets on-line."**

Yes they do. And so does AUSU. Granted, the page was only posted this week, but you've known that it's in progress for about a month. I'm unclear on why you claim to not know this.

Anyone can access the minutes for the past year through a link on the AUSU front page. Please login before selecting the link, or you'll have to be redirected to the login page. Anyone can email me at [webmaster@ausu.org](mailto:webmaster@ausu.org) if you have any trouble with the minutes files. Write council if you would like other information posted online.

## COMPUTER POLICY

One last thing - I noticed in the forums that you have mentioned that you dislike the council policy allowing councillors to purchase computers with council funds. This is an excellent topic for discussion and an issue that has sparked some controversy. In fact, I will be asking council for more information on the status of this policy. But isn't this the policy (7.17) that you proposed, wrote, and submitted for review at the May 29th council meeting (<http://www.ausu.org/council/minutes/council-2003-05-29.pdf>), and approved at the July 11th meeting (<http://www.ausu.org/council/minutes/council-2003-07-11.pdf>)?

Fascinating.

I'm not as interested in why you left, as in why you never addressed any of these concerns at a council meeting when you had the position to make changes. Had you brought them up at a meeting, and had council not listened, then I'd have an easier time understanding your position.

**Tamra Ross Low**  
Editor in Chief

## RESPONSE TO SANDRA MOORE FROM SHANNON MAGUIRE

I have a few answers to the questions in Sandra's post, and a few comments as well. First of all, the article was not intended to be another article about why Sandra quit the council, and I'm sorry if that is the impression it made. The primary intent of the article was to discuss the issues that arose from not just that event, but all of the events that have occurred in council recently. This is also why I did not discuss the reprimand against the president which was already mentioned in the article that I referenced in my article. The few places that I did go into detail on what happened were only because I felt it was necessary to discuss the issue.

Secondly, I did attempt to consult Sandra about the issues. I in fact sent her the same e-mail that I sent Debbie, but I sent it to her AUSU e-mail. Tamra Ross Low advised me that Sandra's AUSU e-mail was probably no longer working, and she agreed to forward the e-mail to Sandra's personal e-mail on my behalf. I was going to include this fact in the article, but I did not and still do not know why I did not receive a reply. For all I know the e-mail got lost in the vast internet somewhere or was accidentally deleted. Who knows? In retrospect I probably should have followed up but it was Christmas and my family was all home so of course it was not on the top of my mind. By the time I had received Debbie's response and started to write the article I did not have time to try again to contact Sandra and wait for a response because in my opinion it was already getting old and delaying it anymore would have made it really old news. Instead I decided to take the information I needed from her posts on this discussion board, which I copied into my computer before they were removed.

I also had a long discussion with Tamra Ross Low who was involved in some of the recent conflicts mentioned in Sandra's first post and who has also been attending all of the council meetings. Although there were no direct quotes in the article from her she did help to give me another person's perspective on the situation. I also thought about contacting Nicholas but since no one else has had much luck lately and because I figured that he probably has enough people trying to contact him already I decided not to.

Another reason why I did not contact everyone is because I am still a busy student, and as such I did not want to read lengthy comments from all nine councillors and Tamra Ross Low. I thought that I had enough information for the article I was writing and I tried to make it as impartial as possible. Speaking of Tamra Ross Low I think that she is doing a great job of covering council activities in her editorials (and she actually did mention the reprimand against the President in her article), and I did not say anywhere in my article that it is her job or duty to report these things. The reason that she is doing this is because no one else is. She is an extremely busy person who does a lot of paid and non paid work for AU students, so I think that we can be thankful to get whatever coverage she gives us. Hopefully, more students will start attending council meetings and write about them so that we will have even more coverage in the future.

Thirdly, I agree with Debbie's statement that when a councillor is removed all we need to know is which councillor was removed and what policy violations occurred. If some people want more details then they can ask the councillors who will let them know, but there is no need to make a general announcement of every little thing that happened. Dwelling on nitty gritty details may be entertaining but it serves no useful purpose. In my opinion one of the reasons why Sandra's resignation has received so much attention is because of the fact that every little detail was exposed on the discussion board by Sandra herself which has lead to more curiosity about what happened and why.

Furthermore, all of the circumstances surrounding the resignation and the fact that another councillor was removed at the same time was bound to receive more attention than the President's reprimand. The case of the President's reprimand

was also more cut and dry. She had a motion of reprimand against her because she requested an expense payment before it was approved. The motion was considered at a council meeting, passed and placed on her record. I think that Sandra's situation received more attention because there were more details and therefore more questions.

Moreover, the motion was not dealt with at a council meeting, so we had no final decision made by the council on the matters that were exposed in the document that Sandra placed on the discussion board. Maybe these things should have received the same amount of attention, but we can't change that now. It does give us something to think about for future articles though. I would also like to clarify that when I spoke about the President's concern about placing information on the internet I was speaking of the MAIN AUSU website not the student secure area. I had hoped that using the words "main AUSU website" would indicate to people that I was not including the student secure area of the website. My intention was not to have people think that the President thinks we need secrecy in these matters. When I read her comments on the recent events I did not feel as though she was trying to hide anything from me and I did not get the impression that she wanted to keep secrets from the students. I wanted to write an article that dealt with some issues that I felt were raised by recent events.

I hope that what students will take away from the article is the idea that they can ask questions and let the Council know what they want and what they don't want. I also hope it will encourage more people to get involved and write about their involvement so that other students will have a better idea of what is going on. I did not want the students to focus on the people mentioned in the article just the ideas.

**Shannon Maguire**

### **THANK YOU TO SHANNON MAGUIRE**

Thank you to Shannon Maguire for giving a student perspective on the activities of the student union. I would like to address the questions brought up in the article. The following are personal observations and opinions and not necessarily the consensus of council.

1. Is the AUSU Council giving students enough information about their activities?

Right now, many provisions are being made to inform all of you about Council activities. Maybe there are some policies that you do not agree with, maybe you don't even know what the policies are. Check them out on the home page under "AUSU Bylaws". If you want to know what is happening within Council check out the online meeting minutes under "AUSU Council" or attend a Council meeting. It is not up to Council to decide if we are giving you enough information, it is up to you to decide. Check out all the documents available to you and make an informed decision.

2. Does the AUSU Council need to change the policy that states that motions of reprimand and/or removal are private documents?

Motions of reprimand and removal are serious charges. Should AUSU members be informed of the whole process? That is a difficult question. Again, review meeting minutes and other available documents and let us know what you think.

3. What is the impact of these events on the image of the AUSU Council?

AUSU Council is working on a continual basis to develop new services and improve on the current ones. That being said, how do you see the current Council? Do you feel free to criticize or make comments about council activities? Do you feel you are being presented with all points of view? If you feel something isn't right, speak up! Complacency is never an alternative to criticism.

With elections coming up it is interesting to note that not one person on the current council was elected by the student body. Not enough people ran for Council to necessitate an election so whoever ran got on (other than Teresa Neuman, Ryan Wagner and myself, we were voted in by Council to fill vacant spots). Although Council does a great job serving the students, and AUSU offers vital student services, maybe it's time a democratically elected council serve the students.

**Stacey Steele**  
**AUSU- Councillor**

**Please see this week's Editorial Page for an opportunity for students to have input into this issue.**



# EDITORIAL PAGES

## THIS WEEK

**A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW** - Sara Kinninmont investigates the dangers of buying in to prescription drug advertising...

**WHEN YOU'VE SEEN BEYOND YOURSELF** - Time is the measure of all things, and the Beatle's opus, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, has weathered the years beautifully. Lonita Fraser looks back at how the Beatle's challenged the music industry and society itself with their paradigm for change...

**HERE'S THE THING - AN INTRODUCTION TO ME, MY CREATIVE GENIUS AND MY BISEXUALITY** - New Voice contributor, Carole E Trainor, reveals the unique pain that comes with clarity, and understanding, and society's pervasive misunderstanding of what it is like to be gifted...

## Welcome the new Voice advice columnist

This week, say hello to *Dear Heather*, the new Voice advice column. Feel free to write Heather with all of your questions about life, learning, love, or whatever else you need to know.

## Council reporters wanted

The Voice needs reporters who are able to write clear, critical and balanced reviews of what goes on at AUSU council meetings. Meetings take place about once a month, and may be attended by teleconference from almost anywhere in the world. Inquire with the Voice editor at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) if you would like more information on this opportunity.

## It's time for you to Sound Off

I've foregone my editorial this week since I think you've probably had enough of me in the letters column this week! Also, there have been suggestions that AUSU and The Voice are not telling you all that you need to know. The problem is, these statements have come largely from council itself! Surely it's up to the students and readers to determine what they want to know and ask for it.

I'm really curious how students view their student council following the recent controversy.

Are you worried? Do you want to know more? Do you just wish people would shut up?

I want you to tell me how you feel about AUSU for a Sounding Off column to be run next week. This is your chance to say how you feel, and what you want from the council that you pay for.

I'll even send a lovely ceramic Voice coffee mug to the first three respondents. How's that for incentive? Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with your reply or any questions. If you are too shy to appear in print, let me know anyway. Feel free, also, to comment on the recent Voice coverage of council events.

**Tamra Ross Low - Editor in Chief**



## Here's Your Chance to Get Involved! AUSU Elections 2004

Dear AU Student:

Have you wondered how you could get involved with your Students' Union? Have you wanted to play a role in shaping the experience of AU students? Here is your chance! It is election time again for the Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU). Elections will be held on March 20, 2004 so get to your post office or computer and send in your nomination for AUSU council today. Send nominations by e-mail to [president@ausu.org](mailto:president@ausu.org) or mail to the AUSU office at 10030 - 107 Street, 2nd floor, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3E4 Attention: President. For further information, call 1-800-788-9041 ext. 3413.

Anyone submitting a nomination must be a registered student of AU at the time of the nomination as well as at the close of the election and must remain a student at AU throughout his/her term on council. Students, as defined by the AUSU by-laws, are those who are currently enrolled in an AU course, or who have completed a course within the past six months. If course extensions have been purchased, the revised end date is used to calculate student status.

As stated in the AUSU By-Laws, "Any Active Member in good standing may submit to the Council a self-nomination together with the individual's written consent to act, if elected" (Article 11\_Elections, Section 2-Nominations).

"Member in good standing" means an individual who is a member of the AUSU in any of the categories of membership prescribed in the By-Laws, has paid all fees, and has not been subject to disciplinary action from the University or the AUSU.

Students must submit their name, student I.D. number, address and/or e-mail address, and the individual's written consent to act along with their nomination. Deadline for self-nominations/nominations is January 17, 2004.

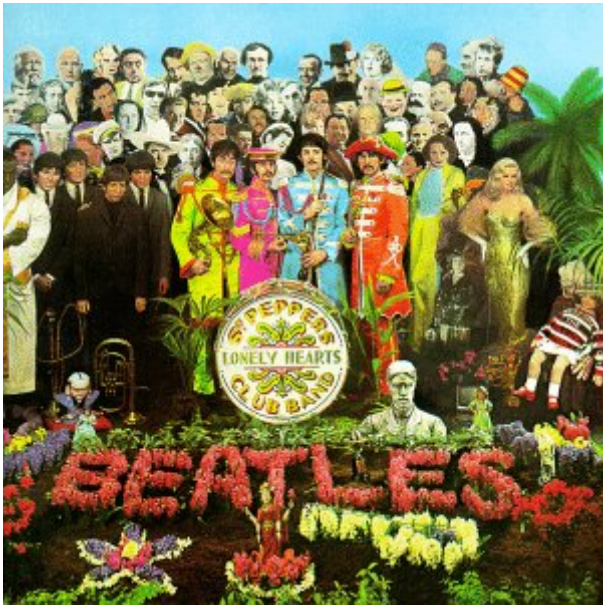
All self-nominations/nominations will be acknowledged after the closing date. Nominees will be given an opportunity to withdraw their name from the list of nominees provided their notice of withdrawal is received by the last day of January, 2004.

Debbie Jabbour, President - Athabasca University Students' Union

## WHEN YOU'VE SEEN BEYOND YOURSELF

### *Sgt. Pepper's, a Vinyl Revolution*

Lonita Fraser



For Christmas someone gave me the DVDs of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Who's Tommy*; both exceedingly strange films in their own right – one a messianic pinball odyssey, the other a candy-coloured slap on the wrist to bratty children and the greedy. Watching them both made me very nostalgic for another strange film, *Yellow Submarine* – an animated fantasy of the Fab Four saving Pepperland from the Nazi-like, music-hating Blue Meanies – which led me to watching it and thinking about its origins, and the doors those origins opened up musically.

In 1966, the Beatles announced their retirement from live performance; after becoming bored with touring, and realising that the need to perform their songs in front of an audience was also restricting their ability to make music. They wanted to create an album that would do the touring *for* them. They retired to their Abbey Road studios and produced *Sgt. Pepper's*

*Lonely Hearts Club Band*, an album that was so densely produced that it *couldn't* be performed live with the technology of the time. In each song, the Beatles tried to take their music, and by extension popular music itself - and its audiences - somewhere it hadn't been before; somewhere they'd begun to go previously with their albums *Revolver* and *Rubber Soul*, and where the Beach Boys had begun to go with the release of their album *Pet Sounds*.

*Sgt. Pepper* was a boundary pusher of what was possible, both conceptually and actually, for popular music and its performers. It began expanding the vocabulary of popular music not only by including orchestration, more complex melodies, cultural themes and influences, sampled sounds, tape looping, etc. (many of these sounds were on-the-spot studio innovations from George Martin, and even equipment tampering), but also by allowing people to realise that such things were possible. Record albums in general also began to become works of art in their own right, created and crafted rather than merely a recording of a performance. The evolving view of what the album could be and accomplish, helped give rise to *Sgt. Pepper* earning the reputation as the first concept album; an ill-deserved label in the sense that it carried no cohesive theme throughout its entire song base, other than that of experimentation. The Beatles had attempted to make it a whole concept, but gave up after the first couple of songs - the rest having no discernible theme, and the album's "bookend" feel is kept alive by the reprise of the opening song near the end of the record.

Years before the band had broken new ground by writing their own music, pushing other musicians to follow suit, and *Sgt. Pepper* continued that tradition of originality. Lyrically many of the songs are deceptively simplistic, yet they are highly symbolic and metaphorical. In form as well as content it also breaks new ground. It was the first album to include the lyrics on the sleeve. This called attention to the words as a separate entity, an element of the creative work having its own merit just as valid as the other components, and showing, even, that lyrics can stand on their own as poetic works without their musical bed. The audiences become far more aware and conscious of the content of a song, and other artists become more conscious not only of the content of their own work, but also the content of the work of others. Musicians began to be seen as something more than mere performers of instruments; they are now creators, artists, and craftspeople.

The attitude of experimentation was not confined merely to the physical appearance of the album and its content. The album encouraged, and reflected, the same attitudes societally. The 60's were an era of experimentation with mind-altering and expanding drug use; free and open love; protesting against the

stuffiness and rigidity of the past and the institutions created by the established authority figures of the day; protesting against military actions abroad that many felt the west had no part in; and so on. Musicians, and people in general, began to realise the vast areas of choice and freedom that were now opening up to them. People began to realise not only what changes could be made, but also that change itself was possible - radical change.

The album may have been aimed at the Beatle's traditional audiences, but it wasn't to be handed to them only; it was meant to take them somewhere new. Most current popular music doesn't do this; it doesn't provide any challenge - good or bad - as it's designed for people to like it without any effort. Because of its level of newness and experimentation, Sgt. Pepper's wasn't intended as a mass-market, moneymaking commodity – something else one can't claim about most current popular music. The wide appeal of The Beatles would ensure that anything they produced would have an audience, but would by no means ensure that release any success - financially, critically, or popularly.

The album appealed to the musicians and audiences who were ready to go beyond what popular music had been offering them, to experimenters, rebels, those looking to grow past or thwart traditional music-makers, cultural leaders, authority figures, and anyone afraid of challenge to the status quo; those who would be offended by its free-thinking, musical experimentation, and non-Western themes and sounds. This album had challenged the dominant culture by espousing a spirit of experimentation and change, and encouraging those same things in others. The album, and the men who created it, challenged traditional musical styles and uses, beliefs (personal and cultural), personal habits and rights (drugs, sexuality, religion, etc.), attitudes, and morals.

The film that album gave birth to, *Yellow Submarine*, is an innovator and groundbreaker in its own right – but that's a story for another day.

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*Lonita has been an AU student since early 2002, and is studying towards a Bachelor of General Studies in Arts & Science. She enjoys writing, creating websites, drinks far too much tea, and lives in hopes of one day owning a plaid Cthulhu doll. The most exciting thing she's done so far in her lifetime is driven an F2000 racecar, and she's still trying to figure out how to top that experience. Her personal website can be found at <http://www.lonita.net> and what you can't find out about her through that, you can ask her via email: [lonita\\_anne@yahoo.ca](mailto:lonita_anne@yahoo.ca)*

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## 2003 Tuition and Education Amounts Certificate

### **Update from Athabasca University Financial Services...**

Athabasca University Financial Services is pleased to announce that the official 2003 Tuition and Education Tax Credit Certificate (T2202A) forms will be made available on-line to all eligible students.

The forms will not be mailed out and instead are on-line in printable format for all students to access. Please visit AU's web site at:

**[www.athabascau.ca](http://www.athabascau.ca)**

for further details on obtaining your tuition and education tax credit information for your 2003 tax return.



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Only students who can afford to pay exorbitant tuition fees will be admitted. Graduate degrees images of shattered  
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In December, The Voice said goodbye to the popular Dear Sandra column, and AU students lost one source of valuable advice. This week, we are pleased to introduce *Dear Heather*, your newest source of advice on life, learning, love, and more... Send your questions to [advice.voice@ausu.org](mailto:advice.voice@ausu.org) to be featured in an upcoming column.



## *Dear Heather,*

I'm a new Athabasca University student. I've been out of school for the last 22 years, and I think I've forgotten how to study. I feel like I'll never learn everything in time for my exam. To make matters worse, I've never done a course by distance ed and I feel like I'm completely on my own. Help!

-Sheila R., Newcastle, ON

Dear Sheila:

Don't despair! Many AU students have been out of school for a long time, but the vast majority succeed at their courses, so I'm sure that you will, too!

Here are some tips:

Don't look at that 800-page textbook and think that you need to learn the whole thing. Most courses cover only a portion of the material in the text. Read all of the assigned chapters, but focus on the objectives in your student manual or study guide. This is what you'll be tested on, so

memorizing anything else is a waste of your time.

Usually, each unit of a course builds on the previous ones. So, as you work through the course, don't move on to the next unit until you understand the material in the current one. This will keep you from becoming confused, and will make studying for exams much easier.

Don't ignore the diagrams in your textbook. For years I read the text and barely glanced at the diagrams. Since I started paying attention to them, I've discovered that they often help me understand and remember the material I'm reading.

Take advantage of all the study aids at your disposal. These include (but are definitely not limited to) your tutor, the CD-ROM in your textbook, videos from the AU library, and practice tests. Different students have different learning styles, and it helps if you discover yours. If you're studying chemistry, you may find you learn best by using a molecular model kit so you can visualize a compound. Other students benefit from reading the material and then quizzing themselves on the objectives, while still others learn by writing out notes. Use your local library or bookstore for specialized study aids: flash cards, study guides, books that explain the subject in simple terms (like the "For Dummies" and "Made Simple" series)- there are even grown-up colouring books for subjects like anatomy!

Fill in the dates on the study schedule in your student manual, and then stick to it: in addition to keeping you from falling behind, this will also help make the course less intimidating by breaking it into manageable sections.

There are lots of great books out there on how to improve your study skills. AUSU offers a number of helpful publications at no charge to students: visit their website at <http://www.ausu.org/publications/> to see what's available.

Good luck with your studies!

**Heather**

*E-mail your questions to Heather at [advice.voice@ausu.org](mailto:advice.voice@ausu.org). Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality: your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. Heather is an AU student offering objective advice to her peers; she is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.*

# HERE'S THE THING

*Carole E Trainor*

## An Introduction to Me, My Creative Genius and My Bisexuality



Here's the thing: I've been tested. I'm not HIV Positive, but I do have an IQ that is within the "creative genius" range. My retention level is rather amazing. (if I do say so myself). My ability to assess, absorb, perceive, discern and create new thoughts, patterns, images is truly exceptional. I am also a word warrior. (Need a word? I have plenty to spare. I am never without words).

I am difficult and headstrong much of the time. I am perceived as being egotistical. I am outraged by injustice. I cry at the thought of animals suffering in heavy rainstorms (How can I be egotistical?). I am unusual. I

feel sadness for the world. I would sacrifice myself first. I spend a lot of my time alone.

My mother didn't know what to make of me, as a child. I would cry when she made me wear shoes. I couldn't stand the feel of my coat when it was buttoned up and confining my body. Rules were very threatening to my spirit. Rules that were enforced without reason terrified me. Authority based on fear and force terrified me. It was in the realm of the intellectual that I found my safety and my solace -- not as insulation from life, but as passion and drive toward all that which affirmed and nurtured and freed life.

Brilliance is not thought to exist in the minds of children. I was accused of stealing other peoples ideas all the time when I was young. My ideas were too big. I learned to act like someone far less than who I really was. In high school, I rebelled. A teacher threw me against a wall one day, and asked me what my "effin" problem was. I stared him down with the intensity of my mind.

Ordinary conversation confuses and disturbs me. People and everyday conversation confuses and disturbs me to the point of angering me. I don't get the point of most social interactions and social niceties. I say things too bluntly for most people. People are hurt and wounded easily by things I never intend to say or do. Most of the time, people are unaware of the insult their everyday gestures, denial and conversations bring onto me.

My energy is intense. I want conversation that will plunge me to the bottom of the sea. I want physical and mental labour that will use up my excessive energies - labour that will hook me, engage me and sustain me. I want to transform the world with the energies I harness. Rarely does ordinary conversation do this for me. I write and I work and I walk and I day dream. I want to go to bed tired. I don't want to work on "relationships." I don't know what people are talking about when they say this kind of thing.

People rarely hear me out so I am misunderstood most of the time. People don't have the time to take a thorough look into the vastness of my intellectual designs. People ask me if I saw Trista and Ryan get married. They want me to say "yes" or "no".

I am often seen as someone who sets herself above others. I am not that. I would never choose this degree of intellectual isolation, or this degree of intellectual heftiness. I have too much respect for others to set myself apart for the sake of satisfying an ego need. People are, generally, very wrong about me.

I have intellectual clarity. My mind is luminous. It would be horror to ignore this kind of gift just so the egos of some can be satisfied. It would be stupid - a dishonour to the entire universal design. But people ask this of me all the time. They perceive me as defective. They want me to see the world in their way. They want to break down the complexity of me.

What I see is not what I want to see (Can I say this enough?). What I see is simply what I see: many times what I see is a sky without fog. Complex theories are revealed to me while sitting in the bathtub, or sunning my face on the lawn. It is not frightening to me. But often I cry because I know there is no one around me that is at all interested enough to share these kinds of magnificent revelations for which I have such thirst and passion.

I am bisexual, meaning I have no sexual preference for gender. Gender for me is like eye colour or hair colour. It isn't something that identifies me or defines me. My gender is the shape of my genitals; the roundness of my breasts - that's all. I can make no sense of gender being an identity.

As a bisexual human, I am set apart. As one of the "intellectually gifted," I am set apart. People don't want conversation that plunges the depths of the ocean or passion that climbs the heights of the stars. People don't want to know how tender I am in my love for both genders, or how logical. People think I am insulated by the genius of my mind. They think I am on an upper rung of some ladder. People don't understand the vulnerability and nakedness of mind (How can a body be insulated by its nakedness?)

People don't want to hear about gender as a trait or as a cosmetic detail, but it is to me. Neither do people want to hear about superior mindedness as being child-like and humbled and innocent, but it is to me. Arrogance inflicts horrible pain. Arrogance is opposed to genius and to childhood. Children see with naked minds. People don't want to hear that.

( I go to bed tired on nights I try to figure the arrogant, commonplace mind ).

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*Carole E Trainor is the editor of the Canadian Feminist Compilation, "And I Will Paint The Sky." Her articles and poems continue to appear in various newspapers, magazines, creative and academic journals throughout Canada. Carole's work will be enjoying a much broader readership in 2004 thanks to various Feminist and GLBT magazines/zines in the US and the UK. She lives in Nova Scotia. She can be reached at: [trainorcarole@hotmail.com](mailto:trainorcarole@hotmail.com)*

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## VOICE MERCHANDIZE INTRODUCTORY SPECIALS!



The same Voice mugs and fleece jackets that you have seen pictured as prizes on the Annual Reader Survey page, are also for sale at great introductory prices.

Own your own Voice logo merchandize, and let everyone know that you are a student of Canada's premier distance education provider!

The Voice coffee mug is a white fired ceramic with a two colour Voice logo on both sides.

front, slash pockets, and a drawstring waist cord. Worn alone, it's perfect for spring and fall, and with a wind breaker on top, it's a light, cozy winter jacket.

The Voice logo fleece jacket is soft, cozy arctic fleece in moss green with navy trim and a matching navy embroidered Voice logo on the breast. It features a full zip

Because these jackets are a special purchase, we only have the one colour combination, but they are available in roomy small, medium and large sizes. Don't delay, quantities are very limited.

Mugs are just \$8 each, and the jackets are \$35 each until the end of January. Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for information on shipping costs and for ordering information.





North Americans are undeniably pill-poppers. As a culture, we've grown accustomed to looking for a quick fix or the next "miracle" pill. Not surprisingly, the number of prescriptions sold annually has skyrocketed over the last decade. What has happened over that time to warrant such a spike in sales? Has our collective health deteriorated so dramatically in ten years that a huge increase in prescription sales is warranted? The answer is no. But there are companies out there that would like us to believe that very thing, and they're achieving this with savvy marketing campaigns. And therein lies the answer.

What has changed in the last decade is that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) relaxed the regulations surrounding the pharmaceutical companies' advertising policies. They decided that the companies could advertise directly to the public instead of strictly to medical professionals. The impact was immediate. According to IMS Health Canada, Canadians filled 291 million prescriptions with a price tag of approximately \$11 billion in the year 2000. Those numbers average out to about nine prescriptions per person in the country, an increase from just six a decade ago (1). Skyrocketing drug sales are a testament to the success of the various marketing campaigns. With patients demanding prescriptions for drugs they've seen on television, we're becoming a population of pill-poppers. All the more disturbing is that we're popping pills that we don't know the first thing about; at least not anything beyond what the drug company wants us to know. The obvious question becomes, how safe and necessary are these drugs?

It was in 1997 that the FDA took steps to relax pharmaceutical companies' advertising regulations. Immediately, advertisements flooded television and magazines. In the year 2000, companies like Pfizer, Glaxo-Wellcome, Schering-Plough, and Merck, spent nearly \$500 million on advertising during primetime on television (2). Today, it is nearly impossible to turn on the television and not be affronted by various ads touting the virtues of: Viagra, Zoloft, Zithromax, Celebrex, Paxil, Differin, Flonase, and Diflucan, to name just a few. The ads have an insidious side, making the consumer believe that these drugs are a necessary part of a long and healthy life. Through the happy and healthy-looking actors in the ads, drug companies perpetuate the myth that drugs are necessary to achieve this kind of life. The message is that we become defined by our illnesses, but we can be rescued from this less-than-ideal life and be empowered if we ingest any one of these drugs. A good example of this is the promotional style used in ads for Pfizer's allergy medication, Zyrtec. The allergy sufferers in the ads are defined simply by the allergies they suffer from. One woman is a "pollen-mold-dust" and with the help of Zyrtec, she now "enjoys the great indoors" (3). She was able to break through the confines of her allergies with one small pill, and because of it she is a new person, no longer the "pollen-mold-dust," but a lover of the "great indoors." It is this kind of freedom that the pharmaceutical companies aim to entice buyers with. They aim to sell a lifestyle, not only a drug.

The pharmaceutical companies' financial success is a testament to the power of marketing. In the past few years, it is estimated that over 20 million Americans sought medical advice after being exposed to a pharmaceutical company's marketing campaign (4). On one hand, the ads can be applauded for creating awareness and encouraging people to seek treatment. On the other hand, they create a climate ripe for breeding hypochondriacs, with the result being an overly medicated society. The ads make it easy for someone to see themselves in the symptoms, and, once they do, it is highly likely that they will go to their doctor to ask for treatment -- treatment to the tune of whatever drug they saw on the television or in a magazine. The overall proof is in the fact that more and more patients are entering their doctors' offices with the names of specific drugs that they want prescriptions for. Such actions have to be attributed to the marketing campaigns due to the fact that the average North American is not, in all likelihood, reading medical journals.



Once the big drug companies have cornered all the markets, medicating people with existing conditions, and over-medicating those with mild conditions, where can they expand their business? Their only recourse is to medicalize things that aren't traditionally treated with prescription medication. PMS, shyness, and even the act of urinating, all have become conditions to be treated with drugs according to the pharmaceutical companies. Their goal is to try to create a false need. They are trying to create a market for their products by inventing a new disorder or condition. Somehow, shyness has morphed into "social anxiety disorder." The symptoms of this new and highly common disorder include: blushing, shaking, sweating, and a pounding heartbeat. All of the so-called symptoms are fairly banal, and have likely been experienced by everyone at some point in their lives, yet the makers of Paxil are trying to cash in on this by stigmatising these symptoms and making people believe they are serious enough to call for medication. The makers of Sarafem, essentially Prozac with a feminine-sounding name, are trying to cash in on PMS. The only hurdle being that PMS doesn't sound dire enough to warrant anything other than a Pamprin or an Advil. Sarafem, however, is meant to treat a disorder called "premenstrual dysphoric disorder" or PMDD. Markers for this disorder include intense mood swings and various physical symptoms right before a woman's period. How this is any different from PMS remains a mystery.

If you don't suffer from a shyness problem or one related to some form of PMS, don't be discouraged there is certainly a drug out there for you -- perhaps Detrol. The makers of the drug have cornered the overactive bladder market with their new pill. A person may have "overactive bladder syndrome" if they need to urinate more than seven times a day. Is more than seven times truly abnormal, especially if we're meant to drink eight glasses of water a day? Who gets to decide what is deemed normal? The pharmaceutical companies? Regardless, experts have called the drug "useless" and have found it made "no significant difference when compared to a placebo" (5). Pharmaceutical companies are trying to cash in on invented conditions knowing full well that we, as a culture, will buy into it.

The reality is that companies like Pfizer, Glaxo-Wellcome, Schering-Plough, and Merck, are in the business to make money. With that in mind, consumers must remain realistic and somewhat wary of drug companies' claims. Most of the studies done on prescription drugs are paid for by the pharmaceutical companies themselves, and as a result are highly biased. If the results of the study are published, often the negative aspects are suppressed or overlooked intentionally, and all the positive aspects are highlighted. Every year the FDA approves between 20 and 50 new drugs (6). In the past, doctors used caution with new drugs, waiting and watching for possible side effects once they were out in the marketplace. Today's aggressive advertising practices don't allow for that type of leeway anymore. Patients will inevitably go to their doctors with requests for the latest "miracle" drug.

As a result of shorter FDA trials, skewed studies, and a mass consumption of new drugs, there have been tragedies. A perfect example of this is the situation that arose out of the two diet drugs Fen/Phen and Redux. In 1996, these drugs were touted as "miracle" weight loss pills. They seemed to encapsulate the hopes of overweight America: a quick fix. Sales reflected this hope. Thousands upon thousands of people went to their doctors wanting a prescription for a drug they hoped would change their lives, and sadly it did for many. It is estimated that between 1 million and 5 million people in the United States took one of the two drugs at some point (7). A short year after the drugs were released, they were pulled off the market when evidence surfaced that the drugs had caused damage to the users' heart valves. There were even a few deaths. Many people's lives were irreparably changed as a result of being sold a "lifestyle" in a pill. The tragedies aren't limited to Redux and Fen/Phen; those ones were simply played out in the public eye. The question becomes, as a society how much do we really know about the drugs we are ingesting? Chances are we only know what the drug companies want us to know.

Unfortunately, there is a huge power imbalance in the medical community. The power is tilted very much in favour of the drug companies, and as a result consumers and patients suffer from their lack of knowledge and the abundance of false information. There are no "miracle" drugs, and consumers should be wary of anyone who offers one. North Americans need to educate themselves with information other than the pharmaceutical



companies' brochures or advertisements, as well as learn to ask questions. Overall, they should simply stop opening their mouths and blindly accepting the bitter pill the pharmaceutical companies would have them swallow.

- 1 Priest, Alicia. (2001). Possible Side Effects. *The Georgia Straight*, p. 17-21.
  - 2 Bittar, Christine. (2001). Prescription Drugs. *Brandweek*. (Vol. 42, Issue 17). p. SR22.
  - 3 "Zyrtec." (2001). *Shape*. (Vol. 20, Issue 10). p. 49.
  - 4 Bittar, Christine. (2001). Prescription Drugs. *Brandweek*. (Vol. 42, Issue 17). p. SR22.
  - 5 Priest, Alicia. (2001). Possible Side Effects. *The Georgia Straight*, p. 17-21.
  - 6 Donatelle, Rebecca J. & Davis, Lorraine G. (2000). *Access to Health*. (6th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.
  - 7 Donatelle, Rebecca J. & Davis, Lorraine G. (2000). *Access to Health*. (6th ed. ). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.
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This column focuses on a wide range of issues affecting post-secondary students. 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**

### Foreign Students are University Cash Cows

A recent news article alleged that Canadian universities are using foreign students as "cash cows", noting that record numbers of foreign students are enrolling in universities, while those same universities are raising admission standards to limit numbers of local student applicants.

The University of Manitoba, for example, had a jump of 40% foreign student enrollment in one year, and the University of Alberta saw an increase of 17%. At the University of British Columbia, an initiative to deliberately increase foreign enrolment has seen increases of more than 200 percent since 1996. Although international students still represent a fairly small fraction of the total, they account for a significant dollar contribution, since foreign students pay about triple the tuition Canadian students do.

These universities travel the world to recruit international students, but they insist that the high tuition paid by foreign students is not the primary motivation. A representative for the U of A stated that universities must attract the best and brightest graduate students from not just Canada but from around the world, adding that international students expose students to "other cultures, other languages and other ways of thinking."

A rather weak argument, when you consider that in every province except Manitoba, the number of students seeking to enter university is growing faster than government funding to universities is able to accommodate them. As universities raise admission standards and turn away students, foreign students become an attractive "cash cow." When a university has a choice of providing a spot for a Canadian student or one who will pay three times the tuition - the choice seems logical.

The greatest numbers of international students are in the graduate programs - at the U of A international students represent only 3.2 percent of undergrads, yet they comprise 20 percent of graduates! When limited graduate spots are already subject to intense competition and high admission standards, one has to wonder what the total effect of this policy will be a few years down the road. Educators are already predicting a huge shortage of PhD's in Canada, and its hard to imagine that the policy of increasing foreign graduate students will do much towards solving that problem.

AU, because of its open admission standards, could theoretically admit unlimited numbers of foreign students without ever displacing Canadian ones. However, our international enrollment is relatively low, and of course international students can study at AU without ever leaving home!

**Source:** *Edmonton Journal*, January 7, 2004. "Canadian students losing out as schools seek foreign scholars: Universities deny foreigners serve as cash cows". CanWest News Service, Ottawa



I can still recall the first cigarette that I choked back. I was eleven years old and a friend and I got hold of a package of Peter Jackson cigarettes from somewhere. We went into some bushes and each lit one up. We coughed and sputtered and both soon felt very ill, but with perseverance we could inhale, blow smoke-rings, and generally look as cool as other smokers. Now I realize that nothing looks quite as silly as a child holding a cigarette (except maybe an adult, who should know better, holding one); but back then, in my own mind, smoking made me as cool as John Wayne.

By the time I was into my teens I had changed brands several times and was up to about 30 cigarettes per day. Even in those days it was an expensive habit and I was far from flush with cash. I'm not proud of the means in which I was forced to feed my addiction. They ranged from collecting discarded cigarette butts and rolling the charred tobacco in Zig Zag papers, to stealing money from my father's wallet to turn over to the tobacco companies (and government in the form of taxes). My father would "preach" to me about the hazards of smoking and there were always real-life examples to drive home the point, but when you're young you feel invincible and immortal; I shrugged the warnings off.

One of the people that my father worked with got cancer in his lip, which was removed. The surgeons tried to make him a new one by slicing into his shoulder muscles and sewing his lower face onto it hoping that blood vessels would diffuse. They'd planned to rebuild his face but the cancer spread and he died. A father of some of my friends was a life-long smoker who finally got cancer in one of his lungs. He had it removed and his prognosis was good, as he could have survived on his remaining lung for many years. But he couldn't beat his addiction and continued to fill his remaining lung with smoke. About a year later he was dead. A woman that lived in our condominium complex smoked like a chimney and I remember that she would defensively blow her stack at the mere inference that anyone might curtail her "right" to smoke anywhere and anytime she liked. She got throat cancer which resulted in a stoma. Defiantly, she sucked her cigarettes back through that stoma until the day she died—about 6 weeks later.

No doubt these events impressed my teenaged mind. It made it clear to me that "old" people die; whether of cancer or something else. I continued to feed my nicotine habit while weight-lifting, running, and otherwise keeping "healthy". By outward appearance I looked the picture of health, but by the time I was in my late teens and early twenties I was up to about 50 cigarettes per day. My father has an old hunting video from those days and I, as a 19 year old, wave into the camera with a hand stained the yellow tinge of chammy leather from the smoke. When I finally decided that enough was enough I was 21 and smoking 2 1/2 packs a day of unfiltered cigarettes. Lucky for me I have an innate stubbornness akin to that of a bull and once I'd made up my mind; that was it. I quit cold turkey and suffered through four or five days of physical withdrawal symptoms, emerging out the other side a non-smoker.

They say there's nothing like a reformed (enter condition here) for rabidly turning on the object of his or her addiction. That, I admit, is true in my case. Once I had freed myself from my own smoking addiction I jealously guarded my lungs and resented bitterly any inconsiderate smoker who insisted on polluting the air that I breathed. In most instances the solution was simple, I would leave. However, in some cases my departure was not possible; at work, for instance. I incurred a three-year battle with my employer who had no smoking policy at the time. I was forced to sit in the cab of a locomotive with one, two, or even three people puffing away on their cigarettes. As I was driving the train at the time, I couldn't very well leave them to their vices; but I also wasn't about to breathe their second-hand smoke either. The result was a very disturbing and long-lived battle between myself and a few others on the one side, and the majority of my co-workers and the

management of the company on the other. In the end a no-smoking policy was implemented; that was about eight years ago.

At the beginning of December 2003, one of my former co-workers -- a man whom I respected and whose company I enjoyed -- was diagnosed with throat cancer. He had been a smoker. He underwent surgery and was recuperating from it when he suddenly died of surgical complications between Christmas and New Years. He leaves behind three small children, a wife, and many other who loved him. He was thirty-nine years old. I am thirty-nine years old. Some of the deceased smokers that I mentioned *supra*, and other examples that I have omitted, were in their thirties, forties or fifties. When I was a teenager people in their thirties seemed pretty old, like they'd already lived a long life. Now I realize that they were oh so young when addiction to tobacco robbed them of...everything.

As I grow older and more of my acquaintances succumb to tobacco-related diseases my anger grows. I am angry at the sheer strength of the tobacco addiction that maintains its hold on thousands of its victims unto death. I am angry at the tobacco corporations that continue to manufacture and distribute a deadly product in the face of overwhelming empirical evidence of its destructive nature. And I am angry at the provincial and federal governments for enabling the continued sale of tobacco products throughout our society; and for reaping enormous tax benefits from the sale of products that cost our Country dearly in resources as well as lives. But even more powerful than my anger is the sadness that I feel in watching people close to me struggle with addictions that will likely lead to their deaths unless they can find a way to defeat them. Unfortunately, I know all too well that quitting smoking is much easier said than done -- but it is far from impossible. If you smoke, quit; if you don't, don't start.

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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 Athabasca University. He is a fulltime first-year student of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. For a more detailed writer bio, see The Voice writers' feature page under 'About The Voice'. If you would like to send article-feedback to Wayne, he can be reached at [wayneben@sasktel.net](mailto:wayneben@sasktel.net)*

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# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Graduate Studies Begin!

*By Debbie Jabbour*



I first became aware of the Master of Counselling program about four years ago when I responded to a questionnaire assessing interest in the development of a distance Master of Counselling program at AU. I then forgot about it until several months later. One evening I received an email that appeared to be related to this questionnaire, but did not contain any helpful information - in fact it looked like a test email of some kind. In short order, I received dozens of copies of the same email. If you responded to the email, it would bounce back with dozens more. I quickly realized there was a technical problem and did not respond, but other

recipients were not so quick to catch on. My inbox was soon filling up rapidly with angry responses, demanding that whoever was sending these messages stop immediately. Of course, any response or attempt to explain would generate even more messages! The email deluge went on for several hours. I tried contacting the university help desk, but there was no answer. In desperation I even contacted the then-president of the AUSU, hoping he might be able to help.

Finally I gave up and shut my email down for the evening. The following day a message of apology came out to all who had ended up buried under this repeating email bounce. I just took this all with a sense of humour - realizing that with technology these things can happen. It was heartening to at least have confirmation that the Master of Counselling was being worked on and might soon become a reality. Some time later more concrete and valuable information began to arrive, with the announcement that the program would finally become a reality with a first intake in January, 2002.

At the time I had just barely become a full time student at AU, so I knew I still had a few years ahead of me before I would be entering any master's studies. I figured if I worked really hard I could graduate in 2001 and make the first intake in 2002. I soon realized this would not be possible, so I set my sights on graduating in 2002, hopefully making the second intake of the Master of Counselling in January of 2003.

My hopes were high for this alternative plan, but it soon became apparent that I was not going to make a June 2002 graduation date. I had joined student council early in 2001, and by the end of that year had been elected president. The heavy AUSU workload set my studies back a year, so I resigned myself to waiting a bit longer. Early in 2002 I contacted Sandra Collins, the director of the Master of Counselling program, to ask if I might be admitted to the program if I was still completing my undergraduate degree when I applied. I thought I could finish up the last few courses by December, and be ready for January, 2003. To my great disappointment, I was told that unless I had actually completed my degree when I applied, my application would not even be considered. Sandra explained that because the program is a collaborative one with two other universities, I could not expect the same type of flexibility I was used to at Athabasca University. Due to high numbers of applications to the program, entrance requirements were very strict, and the admissions committee would not consider any applicant who did not already hold a 4-year undergraduate degree.

I was very upset, but finally resigned myself to having to wait yet another year. As it turns out, that was probably a good decision, as trying to push to finish in June that year would have taken a serious toll on my health and family.

This spring, knowing I would be graduating in June 2003, I once again investigated the program thoroughly, in hopes of finally being able to apply. By now the website had far more comprehensive information than in

previous years, and I was able to get a good sense of what would be involved in master's studies. I had most of the website memorized by the time I actually started to fill out the application forms! As I went through the application process, I was feeling somewhat apprehensive. I knew I would be graduating with good marks, but the program requires more than academic excellence. It also requires a significant amount of experience in the counselling field, and I knew I was deficient in that regard. Although I had plenty of prior learning and informal experience in counselling, I didn't have a strong work-related counselling background. I knew my acceptance into the program could be affected by this, since preference was given to those with at least three years counselling experience.

Part of the application process required three referees. Each referee was to fill in a specific referral form that could only be accessed once I had applied, and they were to send the form directly to the program in Calgary. Asking for references is a funny thing. You don't always know what to expect, and I sometimes feel like I'm imposing on people by asking. Because this reference required that the referees had to answer a specific set of written questions and send the document directly to the University of Calgary, I had to trust that those I asked would follow through. My first two references responded immediately and sent me a copy of what they had filled out and sent in, but the third, my supervisor at the addictions help line, did not. In fact, as the deadline approached I became worried that she had not even done the reference, so I contacted her. Good thing I did, since she admitted that she had forgotten. This didn't really surprise me, since my employers at the help line had never been particularly supportive of my university studies. I respectfully asked if she could possibly do it immediately and courier it. She agreed, but I had to reimburse her costs. I then waited in a panic, hoping that the reference had arrived at the University of Calgary in time. I checked my bank account every day, since I figured that if my application cheque cleared that would be a sign that everything had been received successfully. Finally the cheque went through, and I subsequently received confirmation that all components of my application had been received, and that a decision would be made in August, 2003. So I settled down to wait patiently for the next three months, hoping all would go well. It was a long wait.

Next week: Part two

Some statistics on the Master of Counselling program:

- First year of the program: 2002 (January intake).
- The program has received approximately 350 applicants each year in 2001, 2002, 2003 (applications received in spring for a following January start date)
- 60 students were admitted in the first pilot group in 2002
- Second intake for 2003 totalled 100 students, and 115 have been admitted for this January, 2004.
- Goal is to admit 100-120 students every year
- Admission criteria includes minimum academic requirements, and those with a minimum of three years counselling-related experience are given preference
- Minimum academic requirements include:
  - four year academic undergraduate degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA on the last two years of the program
  - Minimum of 9 credits in psychology
  - Approved prerequisite coursework for Learning, Developmental Psychology, Counselling skills.
- The first pilot group is due to complete the final course requirements in December, 2004 and will convocate in the spring of 2005.

Master of Counselling program info: <http://www.abccounselored.net>

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

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## AUSU Release Long Live Athabasca University!

The current issue of Alberta Views Magazine contained a short article on Athabasca University with comments from the AUSU President, Debbie Jabbour.

It's always great to see our university being mentioned by the media and our Students' Union approached for comments about our school. The downside of this article, however, was that it included some unfortunate wording that may give the impression that AU is in serious trouble financially.

AUSU Council wants to reassure students that we firmly believe AU will be around for a long time to come. The university's past performance as a stable, highly reputable academic institution, and its plans for continued growth and recognition across Canada and beyond make us completely confident in AU's viability and longevity. That's why we've invested our education dollars in Athabasca University, and will continue to do so.

With the Alberta government's funding to universities not being high enough to cover the costs of inflation, all institutions in the province suffer from some degree of under-funding. AU is not alone in this situation.

However, with AU's different educational structure it doesn't always fit as well into the government-funding framework, as do physical-based institutions. This point was the intent behind the AUSU President's statement in the magazine article. AUSU Council apologizes for any misconception about our university that may have resulted from the article.



**Are you an artist?**

**AUSU supports  
the arts!**

AUSU is interested in purchasing original works of art from students for promotional purposes. These promotions may include: gifts from AUSU to graduates at convocation, tokens of appreciation for volunteers, special presentations, etc.

The works of art must:

- be created by an AU student
- have a value range \$0-\$500
- be accessible or easily transportable to Alberta

If you are an artist of any kind who creates a product you feel we would be able to use for such a purpose, contact:

Debbie Jabbour  
[[djabbour@ausu.org](mailto:djabbour@ausu.org)].

Supply a description of the object, a picture if you have it, and its market value.

# The Net Nerd's Profiles



Hate English classes, love English classes? Either way you'll want to check out this site.....  
[www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)

*Shall I compare thee to an overdue English assignment; Thou art more frightening and annoying...* Excuse me, I digress slightly. I have taken exactly one university level English course. Being a life-long reader I thought I might actually enjoy it. Ok, you can quit laughing now. The only good thing about that class was guessing which imagery the professor would link to sex. As it turned out, that was everything (that man could find something dirty in a Dr. Suess book, well in *Green Eggs and Ham* I think we all can). Upon happening onto this website, the memories of dissecting crappy and pretentious poetry began to haunt me. Until recently I haven't been able to fully appreciate a good poem.

*Poets.org* is brought to us by The Academy of American Poets. Basically this site is everything poetry (of the American variety anyway). For the sake of simplicity (Or is it?-insert evil laugh here.), I'll split up the main points of the site in terms of their appeal to different audiences.

If you are a student, here are some sections you may find useful:

- "Find A Poet"- Just what it says, find a poet. Pictures, biographies and other information on over 450 poets. Concise and interesting biographies, plus links to other sources about a particular poet.
- "Find a Poem"- I'm beginning to see a pattern here. More than twelve hundred poems. Go ahead and search them.
- "Discussion Forums"- Didn't check them out, sorry. But the forum is there if you wish to use it.

If you are a teacher (or want to be one) check out this section (my sister phoned me up the other day in a panic over a lesson plan for her teaching internship. After much discussion and research on this site, she is teaching one lucky class Gwendolyn Brooks', "We Real Cool".):

- "Online Poetry Classroom(OPC)"- Most of this information is geared toward the high school level. But given the love affair high school teachers and university professors both have with poems like "My Last Duchess" and "Richard Cory" (took them both in Grade 11 and university and wish never to read them again), this section is good to check out for all levels. Some things included are: "OPC Workshops", "National Poetry Map" ( an interactive map where you click on a state and find out all the poets, writing organizations etc. for that place), "Teacher Resource Center", and "Curriculum Units and Lesson Plans". Great poetry resources for educators and students.

If you are a really bored person with lots and lots of money you may be interested in these sections:

- "Academy Gift Shop"-Couldn't find a Maya Angelou limited edition ceramic plate (come on Bradford Exchange!), but stuff like books and National Poetry Month t-shirts are all for sale..
- "Become a Member"- Give them money and get books, magazines and a poster.

*Poets.org* was actually a lot of fun. It was interesting to read the biographies of all the people who wrote such dull poetry (hell hath no fury like a bored university student scorned!). Ok, most of the poems were pretty good

and there are a ton of contemporary poets and poems. So even if you aren't taking an English class there is still a lot to gain from [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org).

**Neat Stuff:** All the poet biographies and poetry searches are great. Tons of links and resources on individual poets.

**Not So Neat Stuff:** Not a lot of Canadian or international poets here. Well, what did you expect from a website brought to you by the Academy of American Poets?

**Rating \*\*\*\*\*/5:** I really like this site. Lots of content and well laid out. Who would have ever thought poetry would be interesting? For an entertaining evening at home, go through the poems and find as many swear words and "bathroom" words as you can. Play it as a drinking game, use it as an example of literary realism but take the activity for what it is: an excuse to act ten-years-old again. If you want more Canadian content try [www.poets.ca](http://www.poets.ca), it's not near as comprehensive but there's a maple leaf on the page.

### Planning a road trip? You cannot miss [www.roadsideattractions.ca](http://www.roadsideattractions.ca)

This website is just what it says, a list of various roadside attractions in Canada. These are not of the heritage monument variety though, but more of the big, bold, "world's largest" variety. Some may find them obscene and a waste of money, but this site celebrates them.

You can search the various roadside attractions by province, alphabet, and by type. What types of roadside attractions are out there, you ask? Animals, transportation, sports, people, and of course crustaceans. Yes folks, the roadside attractions of Canada much resemble an episode of *Sponge Bob, Square Pants* (actually I do mean that as a compliment).

In Alberta, you can see "Pinto MacBean" in Bow Island and the "Vulcan Tourist and Trek Station" in, of course, Vulcan. Travel to Ontario to see "Husky the Musky" in Kenora, "Ms. Claybelt the Cow" in the Township of Dymond, and all the fish and lumberjack statues you can handle. My favorite by far is the giant fiddle in Cavendish, PEI. Just a note to the people of South Dildo, Newfoundland: Having a giant whale head statue does not detract from the name of your town.

I've always wanted to plan a roadtrip, but didn't know where to start. Now I've decided the journey will begin at the world's largest bathtub in Nanaimo, BC.

This website honors the giant deer statues, grasshopper painted pump jacks, and cowboy statues that grace our noble country. Maybe it's time we did too.

**Neat Stuff:** For every attraction, there is a picture that goes with it. For all the potato statues in Canada, it was nice to know that each of them have their own personality.

**Not So Neat Stuff:** It would have been nice to have a description of the roadside attractions, in particular why they have been chosen to represent a town or area. But I have to admit that some, like the giant Labatt Blue beer can in Edmonton, need no explanation.

**Rating: \*\*\*\*\*/5:** I really loved this site. It's easy to navigate and entertaining. Please go to [www.roadsideattractions.ca](http://www.roadsideattractions.ca) when you plan your next trip, to get a laugh, or if you want to embarrass your friends from Macklin, Saskatchewan (bunnock anyone?).

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# CANADIAN FED WATCH!

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## NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

*By Karl Low*



### Defence Research Flowering

One of the reasons why I am a proud Canadian is that we do things just a little bit differently from a good portion of the world. As a case in point, the Defence Department has released a spot-light on one of its Research and Development projects.

The research, being done by a University of Alberta professor, Dr. Faust, is on flowers. No, not flowers that release poison gas or send out electromagnetic waves to confuse incoming missiles, or anything even remotely "James Bond"-like (which to be honest takes some of the fun out of it for me). Rather this research is on flowers that have the ability to detect mines.

Basically, these plants have some sort of gene in them so that when growing in the presence of common chemicals that you'd find in a mine, such as TNT, the colour of the leaves or petals changes to indicate it. No doubt as research continues, they may even find a way to have the colour change selectively, in effect pointing to the mine.

Of course, since it takes many weeks for a plant to grow and be affected by things in the ground, this is obviously not something that we'd be handing out to the troops as they head off to war, but rather for use in extended peace-keeping missions. And this is why I'm a proud Canadian. Even our defence research is devoted more to developing peace rather than fostering death.

I just pity the poor guy who has to plant these things.

### For the Kids and the Bucks

The Government of Newfoundland & Labrador is promoting a contest for youth all across Canada. The contest is open to youth from 14-18 years of age and has a grand prize of \$2500.00 and a prize of \$750 for one entry from each province and territory.

The contest is called the "Test Your Financial I.Q. Contest" and requires an essay of 500 –750 words answering the question "It's your future. How are you going to pay for it?"

No conditions are applied to how the prize money is to be used, but given the theme of the contest, it should be easy to figure out something.

So if you have kids that you think should be earning their keep already, here's a way to get them started. Who knows, they might help you learn something in the process as well.

### "Shoot, shovel, and shut-up" coming home to roost?

As I reported on some time ago, Prime Minister Klein made a comment at an agricultural conference in Montana suggesting that the mad cow situation in Alberta was not that bad, and that it was only because the farmer concerned was unusually ethical, so did not "shoot, shovel, and shut-up" that the entire issue was any type of concern.



Of course, with the recent discovery that the case of mad cow or BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) found in the United States actually stems from a second cow in Alberta, and the ranchers in question have blamed the occurrence on the feed (which leads to questions about any cattle bred from or coming from that ranch), perhaps Premier Klein will come to regret those ill-advised comments all the more.

After all, countries looking at Alberta can now justifiably question whether Premier Klein's remarks were not right on the money - perhaps the farmer who declared it was unusually ethical, as this second case destroys the governments claim of BSE being contained to a single, isolated incident.

Beyond that, the Alberta Government's statements to its own citizens can be questioned, as when looking at their release on this recent issue, you'll notice a sidebar that tries to answer the question "Is Alberta's beef safe?" Our government's answer is "Yes, Alberta beef and dairy products are safe for consumption. Alberta's food safety system is among the best in the world. Detection of this case is proof of the effectiveness of our surveillance and monitoring systems."

This would be well and good except for the one minor concern that our system did not detect this case. The US system found the case, and managed to track it back up to Alberta. Our detection system, in this particular case, was completely worthless. So this is proof of its effectiveness? I suppose it is if you place the effectiveness of those systems at zero.

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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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**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.



# Primetime Update

**Week of January 09**

**Amanda Lyn Baldwin**

**Missed your favourite shows? No problem. Primetime update gives you the rundown.**

## Friends

After having at least a month off, we finally get a new episode. This is much to my relief, since reruns are killing me.

On the last new episode, Monica and Chandler got the exciting news that a chick in Ohio was considering them as the adoptive parents of her unborn child. This week, they go to meet the woman and a mix up with the agency has them pretending to be a doctor and his reverend wife. When they eventually reveal the truth to the woman, she storms out of the room, refusing to even consider them anymore, and Chandler must turn on the charm to win back the chance to be a father. He is successful, and the show ends with the couple's warm embrace. Next week we see "The One Where Chandler Gets Caught."

Rachel and Phoebe talk Ross into letting them redo his wardrobe. After he puts his full trust in them, Ross wears a pink sweater on his date (the bags got mixed up and Ross took Rachel's bag). Needless to say, the date ends before it begins.

Joey, oh wonderful Joey, convinces Phoebe to give him her friend Sara's phone number, urging that he won't leave her hanging like he has many of her other friends. However, she takes a French fry off of Joey's plate, and the theme becomes "Joey doesn't share food!" In the end, however, Joey eats her entire dessert while she's in the bathroom.

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

## Survivor

The new All Star Season begins the first Thursday in February. I'm looking forward to characters such as Richard Hatch, Rudy, Sue, Colleen Haskell, Colby (hot!), farmer Ted (?), Rupert, and of course Jon! When I know more I'll let you know.

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

## The Bachelor: SEASON FINALE

The show and the endless weddings and interviews are over; however a second season of The Bachelorette will be coming soon, starring another reject, Meredith. We all remember the 30 year old make-up artist originally from Portland, Oregon, who currently resides in Los Angeles and pulled a celebrated pity party. She had the chance to date and possibly marry a wonderful guy (Bob) but after her grandmother died she dwelled on it. She even took Bob on a date to her grandmother's grave...get real Hun! Anyhow, she'll bring us a whole season of fun, I'm sure.

The Season Premiere is Wednesday, January 14th, 2004, 9pm/8c. (What the hell does this mean anyway? If it's 8 p.m. central time then it should be 7 p.m. Alberta time, but it's most likely on at 9 p.m. our time, or even 10.)

**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)!**



## The Eugenics Wars II

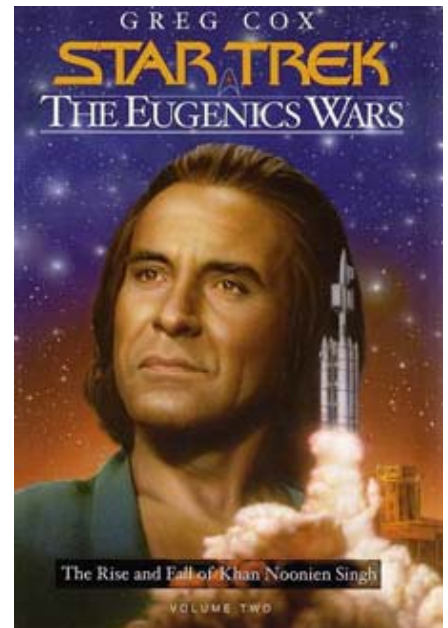
### Book Review

By Laura Seymour

Remember last year I reviewed the first book in this original Star Trek series? Well... I finished the second book with as much relish as the first. It's not that the book is so supremely clever in plot although it has many good ideas — that isn't my thrill. It is Greg Cox's writing that gets my attention.

The second book picks up, naturally, almost where the first book ended. Khan Noonien Singh has now scraped into his twenties and is still a hot-tempered and arrogant genetically enhanced guy — only now he is more dangerous...and has followers.

Gary Seven is a lot older than in the first book and he's not with his beloved cat, Isis. Roberta has taken over most of the work on the assignments — although Seven appears throughout the book when needed. Headquarters has been moved to Scotland after the original location in New York City is all but completely destroyed by an angry Khan. "Temper temper," just doesn't work on egocentric genetically enhanced supermen!



Khan has acquired new toys to frighten the world with ... some of which make Hussein's reputed Weapons Of Mass Destruction look like Lego. He's got new followers including an amazingly beautiful and intelligent Egyptian woman who by description makes most of the rest of us women look like fast food leftovers. Her final scene is amazing and virtually impossible to guess.

Again, Cox has managed to bring in characters from the original *Star Trek* series. Not just the original cast and crew, although he does that and does it well, but also characters named in various episodes. My favorite character being introduced this time is Jackson Roy Kirk. If you're a first series junkie you should get those delicious jokes right away!

Khan decides to pull together his fellow supermen who were small children with him in India and have now all disappeared to try to change the world by themselves. Unfortunately, they don't want to be ruled by the Great Khan. He is kind enough to let them go, but not before my favorite Star Trek movie hunk, Joachim, decides to huck his latest murder gadget at one impudent speaker who dares insult Khan. Sadly, Joachim is badly wounded in the book, but true to "future" events in the *Wrath of Khan* film survives to serve by Khan's side.

These fellow supermen also decide that attacking Khan is a good idea, which makes for some interesting superman vs. super-bad-guy writing.

As usual Cox does a great job of weaving in events in our Earth history based on the times cited in the book. His additions include the opening of the Chunnel — the nicknamed connection train between England and France. The method of "blowing the place up" is quite unique and I wish I could send kudos to Cox for the clever idea, and Gary Seven's execution of stopping super imbecile.

The wind up with the book is well done and leaves you both satisfied at the two books but willing to read anything else the talented writer wants to add in another series edition. Failing Greg writing about the original

series characters mingling with Khan again, I may just have to disappear into one of his other selections in the future. Any idiot who can string words together can write a letter, but true crafting of words is done by writers like Cox who make it look so darn easy. The rest of us will just keep reading these writers and hope the bell goes off for us someday so we can write like them.

One thing I didn't like-- there seemed to be less of the original Star Trek cast thrown into this book. I'm willing to admit I love reading Cox's dialogue with Bones and other colorful characters from the '60s series. Here's hoping you'll love this second book too.

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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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## AUSU Job Posting

# Chief Returning Officer



The Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) represents AU students and their interests. The Union strives for a fair and accessible election process for members to the Students' Council. To this end, AUSU is seeking a student to fulfill the role of Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the 2004 AUSU General Elections.

### **Position Duties and Responsibilities**

The CRO's responsibilities, as outlined in AUSU policy, include arranging to receive, collect, and maintain ballots in a secure location, overseeing the counting of ballots with two (2) Scrutineers on March 21, 2004, notifying candidates of the results, and conducting the appeal process as required. The CRO reports to the Executive Director of AUSU and AUSU Students' Council.

### **Selection Criteria**

- Applicants must be currently registered as an AU student.
- Applicants must be bondable.
- Applicants must have strong organizational and logistical abilities.
- Applicants must be able to analyze and apply policy to ensure a fair election process.
- Candidates in the 2004 AUSU General Election are ineligible for this competition.
- Candidates must be able to operate out of the AUSU head office located in Edmonton, AB.

### **Remuneration**

\$500 stipend

### **Application Deadline**

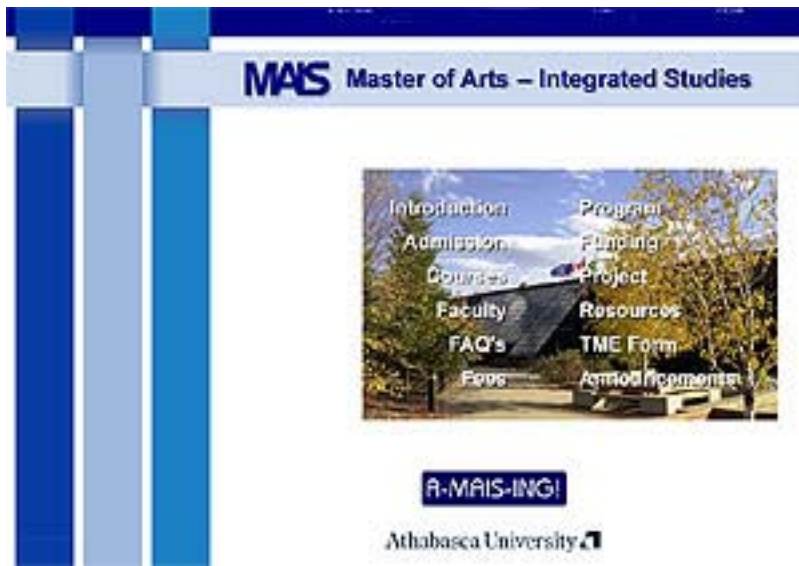
**Saturday, January 17, 2004.**

### **Apply to:**

AUSU, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor North Tower, 10030 – 107 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3E4

Phone: (780) 497-3413 or toll free 1-800-788-9041 ext. 3413

E-mail: [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org)



Right now you may be working on your undergraduate degree, or looking to begin one, and not necessarily thinking about what you're going to do when you have that well-deserved sheepskin in your mitts. Rather than simply jumping into the role of working wageslave, or perhaps while you're doing that, why not consider adding a second piece of sheepskin to the first, and working on one of AU's own Masters degrees?

AU provides a number of Masters programs, but one of the more interesting - and one of the newest - is the Master of Arts, Integrated Studies. The MAIS, like all

other AU courses, is offered through individualized distance study and grouped study, and is a 33-credit interdisciplinary program that allows a student to either choose a set theme already organized by the directors of the program, or to design their own stream of studies.

Course choices cover a wide variety of disciplines from anthropology, to governance, to English literature and language studies, to psychology and beyond. The MAIS also allows for prior learning assessment, so you can use previous work or education experience towards your degree credits. Only 18 of your 33 credits must be completed through Athabasca University itself, which leaves you free - with permission - to take applicable courses from other institutions. If you're not sure it's for you, you're free to take MAIS courses even as an undergrad, to see if the program is something you'll be interested in pursuing later on. Any MAIS courses you take as an undergrad can be applied to the degree should you enrol in it later, but entry into the courses is on a first come first served basis, and entry preference is given to MAIS students.

The MAIS homepage also provides some resources that would be useful for the current undergrad, such as documentation on how to run a successful computer moderated conference. I know that many of the 400 level courses at AU ask you to run conferences as part of your course requirements. The program even has its own newsletter, A-MAIS-ING, which is an excellent way to get acquainted with the staff and students involved in the MAIS, and also a good place to look for information relevant to program students.

If you're looking to further your education, and, like me, favour a mixed bag of courses to titillate varied interests, the Master of Arts - Integrated Studies degree might be the one for you.

MAIS homepage: <http://www.athabascau.ca/mais/>





## AUSU THIS MONTH



### TUTOR BIOS

AUSU provides tutor bios on the AUSU website, so that you can learn more about the person on the other end of the phone.

Tutors are selected for inclusion on the Tutor Bio pages by nomination from students. If you have had a tutor that you want to know more about, write Mac on AUSU council at [mmcinnis@ausu.org](mailto:mmcinnis@ausu.org)

and tell him who you want to see featured next.

### 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

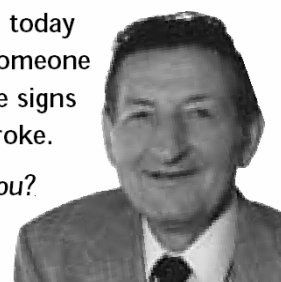
If you have a question for AUSU, or would like to get to know your council, drop by the chat-room [accessible through the 'Message Forums' option on the AUSU home page [www.ausu.org](http://www.ausu.org). You will need an AUSU web site account.] **Times are MST**

Mondays at 8:00 PM Councillor Karl Low

### Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor

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

*Do you?*



### STROKE WARNING SIGNS

#### WEAKNESS

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

#### TROUBLE SPEAKING

Sudden temporary  
loss of speech or trouble  
understanding speech

#### VISION PROBLEMS

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

#### HEADACHE

Sudden severe  
and unusual headache

#### DIZZINESS

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

Call 911  
or your medical  
emergency number  
immediately.



1-888-HSF-INFO  
(1-888-473-4636)  
[www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)





# Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

To list events in your area, e-mail [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the word "events" in the subject line.

## SEATTLE, WA

### Justice Education Forum

Justice Education Forum, sponsored by the Office of Jesuit Identity at the University of Seattle, will take place Thursday, February 05, 2004 (5:00 PM - 7:30 PM). It is also scheduled for Thursday, May 06, 2004 (5:00 PM - 7:30 PM), and both events take place in the Student Center at the Leroux Conference Center STCN 160).

The Justice Education Forum gathers Seattle-area leaders from many sectors and Seattle University alumni, faculty, staff and students for presentation and discussion about key justice issues facing our city, region, and state.

Contact Eddie Salazar at [jef@seattleu.edu](mailto:jef@seattleu.edu) or 206-296-6133 for more information. An RSVP by email is recommended.

<http://www.seattleu.edu/events/detail.asp?slD=1137>

## SEATTLE, WA

### The Great Theologians Series

The "Great Theologians Series" sponsored by the School of Theology and Ministry at the University of Seattle, will take place Sunday, February 01, 2004 (6:30 PM - 8:30 PM). It is also scheduled to take place Friday, March 05, 2004 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM) and Friday, June 25, 2004 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM). All scheduled dates are at the Pigott Building (Pigott Auditorium).

The School of Theology and Ministry brings renowned theologians to Seattle University to address the postmodern quest for renewed spirituality and the building of a responsible global community. Contact Sue Hogan at [sueh@seattleu.edu](mailto:sueh@seattleu.edu) or 206-296-5583 for info: <http://www.seattleu.edu/events/detail.asp?slD=1556>

## REGINA, SK

### InFringement Festival

From February 6-14, 2004 a festival of student-directed and produced one-act plays known as the InFringement Festival will take place at the University of Regina. For more information, see the U Regina events calendar: [www.uregina.ca/cgi-bin/WebEvent3.05/cals/webevent.cgi](http://www.uregina.ca/cgi-bin/WebEvent3.05/cals/webevent.cgi)

## WOLFVILLE, NS

### Visual Journaling: A Creative Transformation

Sponsored through Acadia University, there will be a workshop entitled "Visual Journaling: A Creative Transformation - Art Making" with Jamie Pratt and Judith

Leidl. It takes place Sunday, January 25th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wolfville Lion's Club located at 36 Elm Street in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. No experience is necessary. This course is for adults as well as young adults. Enrollment is limited. The fee is \$90.00 including materials as well as HST. Call: Judith Leidl (902) 542-2772 for more information Or send e-mail to: [morielfineart@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:morielfineart@ns.sympatico.ca)

## SUDBURY, ON

### World's best mountain films set to unleash adrenalin

Start Time: 15:00 - Ending Time: 19:00

On Thursday, Jan 15, at 7 p.m., several of the best movies presented at this year's Banff Mountain Film Festival will be shown at Laurentian University's Fraser Auditorium. Outdoor-oriented trade booths will be on display at 6 p.m. in the building's lobby. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door and may be purchased at Laurentian's Department of Active Living, Rocks, Kwik Way (on Lasalle Blvd), and The Outside Store. This event is hosted by the University's Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program. For information, please call Mr. Stephen Ritchie, interim coordinator of LU's Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program, at (705)675-1151, ext. 1046 or e-mail [Msritchie@laurentian.ca](mailto:Msritchie@laurentian.ca). <http://www.laurentian.ca/modules.php?name=Calendar&op=moduleload&file=index&type=view&eid=89>

## CALGARY, AB

### SF and Social Change Symposium

Futurevision is a unique gathering designed to bring writers, readers and critics of SF (speculative fiction) together to debate just how much science fiction and fantasy has contributed to social change. We have Robert J Sawyer, Candace Jane Dorsey, Timothy J. Anderson on board. We're looking forward to you joining us February 6-7, 2004. <http://www.mtroyal.ab.ca/events/sf/>

## CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI

### Women in Leadership Panel

The Women in Leadership Panel Presentation profiles Canada's regional female leaders. Successful women from a variety of industries will share their personal tales from the trenches and provide insight on leading a prosperous career. Designed to inform and inspire, members of this panel share their journeys to success with women who are embarking on their career paths. This event takes place January, 28th 2004 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the

Student Centre (Main Hall) of the University of Prince Edward Island. You can contact David Mossman at (250) 386-8500 or [mdave@womeninleadership.ca](mailto:mdave@womeninleadership.ca) for more information. <http://www.upei.ca/cgi-new/view.cgi?id=1487>

## **FREDERICTON, NB**

### **Ann Ireland Reads *Exile*; George Elliott Clarke Reads *George and Rue***

On Monday, January 19th, 2004 at 7 p.m., Ann Ireland will be reading from "Exile" at the University of New Brunswick's (Fredericton) Faculty-Staff Lounge, WCL Building. Admission is free.  
<http://www.unb.ca/news/event-details.cgi?id=820>

On Friday, Feb 27 at 7 p.m., George Elliott Clarke will be reading from "George and Rue: A Novel in Blackened English" at the University of New Brunswick's (Fredericton) Ganong Hall Lecture Theatre. Free Admission.  
<http://www.unb.ca/news/event-details.cgi?id=822>

## **TORONTO, ON**

### **Kodak Lectures**

The Kodak Lectures is an ongoing international lecture series programmed by the School of Image Arts at Ryerson University in Toronto. Since 1975, a veritable who's who from the world of image making has graced the stage at Ryerson, including Dutch photographer and video artist Rineke Dijkstra, Canadian "cyborg" Steven Mann, German artists Bernd and Hilla Becher, and Oscar-nominated Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan. You may contact Robert Burley at (416) 979-5167 for more information. A list of the presenters can be found via their website.  
<http://www.ryerson.ca/news/events/imagesandideas/>

## **BURNABY, BC**

### **Teaching in Japan**

Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, B.C. campus) presents "Teaching in Japan", a three hour workshop providing an overview of teaching in Japan. Bring your questions and be better prepared for your upcoming experience, or come to explore. This event takes place February 7th, 2004 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Harbour Centre Campus, 515 West Hastings St., Vancouver. Fees for this workshop range from \$50 to \$120. Telephone 604-291-5117 or email [japanese@sfu.ca](mailto:japanese@sfu.ca) for more info.  
<https://my.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/WebObjects/mySFU.woa/3/wo/WYyTpus7WmcJEbi9kdPtt0/5.0.7.3.11>

## **PETERBOROUGH, ON**

### **Christian Bok; Jane Urquhart**

Christian Bok will be reading in the Writers Reading Series on Wednesday, January 14 2004 at 8:00 pm in The Pit at

Lady Eaton College. This event sponsored by Trent University.

Jane Urquhart will be reading in the Writers Reading Series on Wednesday, January 21 2004 at 8:00 pm in the Dining Hall, Scott House, Trill College. This event sponsored by Trent University.

## **PETERBOROUGH, ON**

### **Rooke Lecture Series**

The ROOKE Lecture Series presents Leonard Conolly, speaking on A Doll's House, at the Peterborough Public Library on January 29th, 2004. Leonard Conolly, Professor of English Literature at Trent University, is an expert on drama and a noted Shaw scholar. He has published numerous works on drama, including Bernard Shaw and Barry Jackson.

## **LOS ANGELES, CA**

### **The Karma of Questioning: Buddhist Studies in the Form of Philosophy**

Taking the Buddhist concept of karma as the exemplary issue, this talk will address the question of how critical philosophical questioning might be practiced within the context of Buddhist Studies. The presenter, Dale Wright, is a Professor of Religious Studies and Asian Studies at Occidental College. He teaches in the areas of Buddhist Studies, History of Religions, and Philosophy of Religion. The event, Sponsored by the Center for Buddhist Studies, Asia Institute, takes place Feb 27th, 2004 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UCLA (243 Royce Hall, Los Angeles, CA).  
<http://www.international.ucla.edu/buddhist/showevent.asp?eventid=1175>

## **BERKELEY, CA**

### **Emotions in Art and the Brain**

The conference "Emotions in Art and the Brain", takes place January 10, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Gund Auditorium, Berkeley Art Museum (2625 Durant Avenue). Presented by UC Berkeley's Minerva Foundation and the Institute of Neuroesthetics (London), the third International Conference on Neuroesthetics will consider a very slippery topic: emotions in art and the brain. Speakers from around the world will discuss the brain, emotion and aesthetic judgements; steps toward an evolutionary psychology of emotion; transformation through art and neurological coincidence; the neurobiology of creativity and emotion; and more.

The conference is open to the general public, but seating is limited and registration (free) is required. Visit the website to register.

<http://plaisir.berkeley.edu/index.htm>

To list events in your area, e-mail [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the word "events" in the subject line.



## **ATLANTIC UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITIES BIOLOGY CONFERENCE AND AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE**

**Mar 5-7**

The annual Atlantic Undergraduate Universities Biology Conference and Aquaculture Conference is being hosted by the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB), in Sydney, Cape Breton on March 5 - 7, 2004.

The AUUBC conference gives undergraduate students from the Atlantic Provinces the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas while experiencing a traditional academic environment. Students present the results of their research before their colleagues probably for the first time. This conference covers all of the disciplines that comprise the biological sciences. As well, the AUUBC conference is also held in conjunction with the Aquaculture conference. Aquaculture presentations and posters are held at the same time as the AUUBC conference, allowing individuals to attend either aquaculture or AUUBC sessions.

If you are interested in attending this conference, contact your local APICS biology committee representative. Follow the links on the website to get more information about registration, abstracts, instruction for presenters, schedule of events, accommodations, UCCB and who to contact if you need more information. Watch for posters in January, that will provide further details on the conference.

Deadlines: All abstracts must be submitted by February 9, 2004 and registration closes February 23, 2004.

<http://discovery.uccb.ns.ca/auubc2004/>

## **INTERNATIONAL CELTIC CONFERENCE**

**Oct 14-17**

From October 14-17th, 2004, the University College of Cape Breton will host the International Celtic Conference, Forging a Future for Celtic Languages and Cultures, under the direction of Robert Morgan, Laurent Lavoie, Hector MacNeil and Pierre Siguret.

During the 20th century, in America and Australia a significant number of languages have disappeared, the inescapable consequence of the assimilation since the seventies. The same has happened with the Celtic languages. Our conference is organized by four professors who wish to promote a genuine interest in Celtic languages. Professor Hector MacNeil teaches Gaelic language, Professor Robert Morgan is an historian, specialist of Cape Breton History, Professor Laurent Lavoie favours the maintenance of minority languages and teaches French and Professor Pierre Siguret is a scholar in French with an intense interest in Breton.

Call for papers: We are asking for papers from scholars from everywhere. The organizing committee will invite participants with the best proposals. Different applied methodologies will be presented around the question from psycho-linguistics, social linguistics, theories of language acquisition, community development and cultural promotion. Specialists of Celtic languages will be invited together with scholars on such threatened languages as Maorie and Mi'kmaq.

Entertainment: On each night of the conference there will be live entertainment: Celtic music, songs and poetry perpetuating the formidable Gàidhlig heritage still surviving in Cape Breton and in the various Celtic countries of the world.

For further information or contributions to enhance the intellectual and economic success of the conference, you may visit our website at <http://www.uccb.ca/index1.htm> or email [celtic.world@uccb.ca](mailto:celtic.world@uccb.ca)

## **JOURNEYMEN 2004 SYMPOSIUM**

**Jan 16-17**

On January 16-17 2004, the University of Guelph will host the JourneyMen 2004 Symposium. The Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition and Counselling Services hosts this two-day symposium focusing on "Exploring Paths of Masculinity." For more information on the symposium, or to register, call 824-4120, Ext. 53244 or send e-mail to <mailto:mmensprog@uoguelph.ca>. For a brochure about the symposium and an application form, visit <http://www.counselling.uoguelph.ca/counselling/update/smalljourneymenbrochure.pdf>

## **TRANSPORTABLE ENVIRONMENTS 2004: 3rd International Conference on Portable Architecture and Design**

**April**

Ryerson University in Toronto, will host the international academic conference; Transportable Environments. This will be the third in a series of conferences concerning portable architecture, buildings, landscape and design. It is being organized and co-chaired by Associate Professor Filiz Klassen of the School of Interior Design, Ryerson University and Professor Robert Kronenburg of the University of Liverpool, School of Architecture and Building Engineering, UK. The event takes place during April 2004, at the Eaton Auditorium, Rogers Communications Centre on 80 Gould. Contact Filiz Klassen at (416) 979-5000, ext. 6937 for more information.

<http://www.ryerson.ca/portable/>

## **NARRATIVE MATTERS 2004**

**May 20-May 23**

Organized by faculty and students from St. Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick, and featuring an array of keynote addresses and pre-conference workshops, Narrative Matters 2004 will take place from May 20 to May 23, 2004, at the Sheraton Hotel in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. The conference is a unique experience in which theorists and practitioners, researchers and students from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines will have the opportunity to enjoy conversation and together explore the importance of narrative - or story - in countless aspects of human life.

<http://www.stu.ca/conf/narrative/>

## **WITHINSIGHT 2004**

**Jan 21-24**

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)

## **CUTC 2004 (Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference) Delta Toronto East Hotel**

**Jan 22-24**

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).**

## **ideaCity**

**Jun 16-18**

ideaCity, a "meeting of minds", is an annual conference held in Toronto, Ontario. It brings together some of the most interesting and fascinating personalities of our time, for three days of stimulating conversation, performances, thought-provoking ideas, and other social events.

The conference is not centred around any one discipline or industry, and there are no keynote or panel discussions. In fact, scripted speeches are forbidden; as the website states: "Everyone is in on the common narrative." Rather than



the usual Q&A sessions after a speaker has completed their talk or performance, the conference has adopted the practice of long breaks between sessions (and nightly parties) that invite conversation between speakers, performers, and attendees.

**This year's presenters are:**

**Michael Adams** - (President and CEO, Environics, Author, Sex in the Snow)  
**Henry Aubin** - (Investigative Journalist, Author, The Rescue of Jerusalem)  
**Robert Bateman** - (Artist, Naturalist)  
**Jane Bunnett** - (Modern Jazz Musician)  
**Ken Finkleman** - (Writer, Director, Producer; The Newsroom)  
**Richard Greenblatt and Ted Dykstra** - (2 Pianos, 4 Hands.)  
**Derek Hatfield** - (Sailor, "Around the World Alone" yacht race)  
**John Ince** - (Lawyer, Advocate for a more sexually 'healthy' culture)  
**Robert Kennedy Jr.** - (Defender of the Environment, Lawyer, Author)  
**Laura Kipnis** - (Cultural Theorist and Author Against Love: A Polemic)  
**Anita Kunz** - (Editorial Cartoonist, Rolling Stone, The New Yorker)  
**Mers Kutt** - (Inventor of the world's first personal computer)  
**Sook-Yin Lee** - (Musician, Actor, Filmmaker)  
**James Lockyer** - (Lawyer; Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted)  
**Joseph MacInnis** - (Physician, Scientist, Businessman, Deep-sea diver, Author, Environmentalist)  
**Lewis MacKenzie** - (Commander, UN Peacekeeping Mission to 'Sector Sarajevo'; Author)  
**Gabor Mate** - (Physician, Author, When the Body Says No: The Cost of Hidden Stress)  
**Jaymie Matthews** - (Astrophysicist, Mission Scientist, The MOST project)  
**Paul Moller** - (Founder, Moller International; inventor of the Skycar)  
**Terry Mosher** - (Political Cartoonist, The Montreal Gazette; Cartoon Editor, Maclean's)  
**Robert Munsch** - (International Best-Selling Children's Author)  
**Cleo Paskal** - (Travel Writer, The National Post; Producer, Channel 4; Contributor, The Independent)  
**Irene Pepperberg** - (MIT Media Lab; Expert, Animal-Human Communications (Grey Parrots))  
**Lola Rasminsky** - (Avenue Road Arts School Founder; Advocate for Arts Education)  
**George Rizzsanyi** - (Guitar Craftsmen to the Stars)  
**Harry Rosen** - (Founder, Harry Rosen Inc.)  
**Eva Vertes** - (Scientist, Researcher, student at Princeton; made a significant Alzheimer's discovery at the age of 15.)  
**Paul Wells** - (National Affairs Columnist (and 'Back Page' occupant), Maclean's).

"In an age that seems to swing wildly between wide-eyed optimism and dire pessimism, perhaps our greatest challenge is to sustain a capacity for idealism. ideaCity is one small effort to establish a forum for the high ground of ideas and idealism." (ideaCity website)

This year's conference takes place from June 16th to the 18th in Toronto, Ontario. For more information regarding the conference, contact [jenniferm@citytv.com](mailto:jenniferm@citytv.com) or call 416 591 7400 x2475, or visit the conference website at <http://www.ideacityonline.com/>

*Provided by Lonita Fraser*

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

- **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/>

**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**

## 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

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

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

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