

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

February 4, 2004  
Volume 12 Issue 5



## *Nature Notes: Faunal Adaptations*

*The value of evolutionary advantages is not always apparent at first glance*

## *Remembering a less than perfect mother*

## *Is there a doula in the house?*

*The conclusion of last week's interview with a doula*

### *Plus:*

*From my Perspective*

*Dear Heather*

*Canadian Fedwatch*

*Primetime Update*

*Flicks & Folios*

*and much more...*

# THE VOICE

Feb 4, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 05

## Welcome To The Voice PDF

*The Voice* has an interactive table of contents. Click on a story title or author name to jump to an article. Click the bottom-right corner of any page to return to the contents. Some ads and graphics are also links.

## FEATURES

### EDITORIAL PAGES

## ARTICLES

**NATURE NOTES - FAUNAL ADAPTATIONS**

*Zoe Dalton*

**REMEMBERING A LESS THAN PERFECT MOTHER**

*Barbara Godin*

**IS THERE A DOULA IN THE HOUSE - pt 2**

*Sara Kinninmont*

**FMP: FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

*Debbie Jabbour*

**THE GLEASON BROTHERS**

*Wayne E. Benedict*

## FICTION FEATURE

**POETRY BY...**

*Bill Pollett*

## COLUMNS

**SOUNDING OFF** - Commercials we hate; toughest AU courses

**PRIMETIME UPDATE**

*Amanda Lyn Baldwin*

**NEW: DEAR HEATHER**

**TAKING NOTES: EYE ON EDUCATION**

*Debbie Jabbour*

**CANADIAN FEDWATCH!**

*Karl Low*

**AUSU THIS MONTH**

**FLICKS & FOLIOS:** Weekend at Bernies

*Laura Seymour*

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VOICE EVENTS LISTINGS**

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

**CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS**

*The Insider*

## FROM THE READERS

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**CLASSIFIEDS!**



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.

**Response to Shannon Maguire's "Where Has All The Fat Come From", v12 i04, January 28, 2004.**

I really appreciate Shannon's comments, but, and perhaps it's just the psychology student in me, why does everyone seem to ignore the mental and emotional baggage involved in weight loss?

I have repeatedly been uncomfortable with the prospect of being slim due to an asinine inner belief that I will be attacked by crazed men ... there is no use telling me how dumb that belief is. I know. It occurs as a fear to many of us who have been raped or abused. The mind needs to be dealt with, whatever the issue, before our weight will come off permanently.

**Laura Seymour  
AUSU C.R.O.**

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## THE VOICE

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800.788.9041 ext. 3413

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# EDITORIAL PAGES

## THIS WEEK

### Where you live...

AU students are situated all around the world, and on every continent [well, probably not Antarctica, but you never know!]. A reader suggested that it would be interesting to receive articles from AU students about the place where they live - sort of a city profile. If any reader wants to send in a brief article about their home town, city, or country, contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for details.

### 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. Did I mention we pay?

### Tutor Bios

I've been asked why I never run bios of AU tutors in The Voice. The reason is that AUSU already does these. Check out the AUSU tutor page at: <http://www.ausu.org/tutor/index.php>. A new tutor bio will be posted this week. If you know of a tutor you would like profiled, write Mac McInnis at [mmcinnis@athbascau.ca](mailto:mmcinnis@athbascau.ca).

### Student Bios

Student bios are another issue. We do run those, and love to get them! If you are an AU student, willing to be profiled in The Voice, contact me at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org).

### Now I understand how Urban Legends begin...

I'd like to begin by stating that this editorial is most certainly not about Sandra Moore, her resignation from AUSU council, or any council activities relating to that issue which has long since been hashed out, and re-hashed in other forums. This is about misconceptions, misinformation, and the curious way in which articles can so easily be re-interpreted (and even reinvented) as a result of public commentary.

A few weeks ago, I wrote a council meeting report [v11 i51] where I stated that VP Moore had resigned from council, that there had been two motions on the table, and that another councillor had departed. I have since been told that the article revealed the AUSU side of the story, but not Ms. Moore's side, and that in my coverage I made statements about why Ms. Moore resigned.

The actual report, however, did not even broach the subject of why she resigned, and what it did contain was an account of the factual occurrences which should not have sides. If council passes a motion, has a discussion, or revises a policy, then that is what happened, and that is the only 'side' that was given.

Not a single item on the motion of removal against Ms. Moore was even mentioned, let alone commented upon by council! So no sides of that particular issue have been given, to date (at least not in *The Voice*).

Two weeks after my report [v12 i01], a Voice writer wrote an article in which she stated her personal opinion on one of Ms. Moore's forum posts, and then she went on - for the bulk of the article - to explore issues which recent events had brought to light. Specifically, she talked about how council should be informing students of important changes in council, how confidential information should be presented, etc.

Again, I have heard that this article contained the council point of view on Ms. Moore's situation.

This is even more curious, since Ms. Maguire is not on council.

But, it has been argued, AUSU President Debbie Jabbour, and I, a council employee, commented about Ms. Moore's resignation within Ms. Maguire's article.

In reality, Ms. Jabbour did not make a single comment - not one - about Ms. Moore, her resignation, or any of the issues that were brought out in the motion of removal. Further, my own comments were confined to the issue of getting AUSU Council Meeting coverage for *The Voice*. The bulk of the article was a philosophical discussion on how sensitive material should be protected and presented, and in this context Ms. Moore's posts were simply a catalyst for discussion on larger issues. No council views on her situation were given.

Nevertheless, I've been questioned as to why we both commented on Ms. Moore's situation within the article.

I've been so confounded by this, that I've asked people: What is the AUSU side of the story, as presented in *The Voice*? So far, no one has been able to answer this (I'm not saying it's unanswerable).

It seems to me that readers have read comments in the AUSU forums regarding what was contained in the Voice articles, and these statements have taken on a greater reality than the content of the articles themselves. I've heard three times that I've given reasons why Ms. Moore resigned from council. It is strange that those who have made these comments aren't sure what those reasons are.

It seems as though people simply believe that this has happened, based on the principle that no one would refute something, unless it had actually been said!

Given that we are an audience of university students, I would hope that going to the source would be the first step when concerns about an article are raised. In other words, read the article! Surely if someone told me that a writer had made a racist comment in an article, I would read the article and try to locate that comment before branding the writer as racist!

I love it when people ask questions about Voice articles, and even when you disagree with something I have said, but I have a request for you: before asking about the content of an article, please read it. I can't comment on what someone else wrote in a totally different publication or public forum. If you wish to question or refute any particular statement that I have made, or which the Voice has presented, please do. If you hate my coverage of an issue, that's fine too. I work for you, after all.

But before suggesting that our coverage of an issue has been one sided, check to see if any sides have been presented at all! Remember, the purpose of a council meeting report is to report on what happened at a council meeting.

I realize that students may be feeling confused right now because of many vague and suggestive statements made by ex-council members, stating that council is corrupt. However, those comments have not been followed up with any further information or proof, which I think makes a very clear statement. Disgruntled ex-employees are not an uncommon thing, for a student council, or for any business. I understand, though, that students get worried when they are not sure if claims of corruption are true or not.

I think the answer to that question lies in a critical reading of the accusations, and a search for any proof of said allegations. If no details are given, is it really something you can believe? Would you include such angry and vague suggestions of facts within one of your term papers? I wouldn't. Nor would I want to publish them in *The Voice*. Keep in mind also, that when there are no actual details given to back up complaints, then there is nothing that council, can refute!

I'm waiting with great anticipation along with the rest of you for one ex-council member to follow through on his promise to present us with some shocking information about council (I'd even do an interview, if he wants). It's all very mysterious! Until he does provide this information, however, I don't think I'll be putting much stock in vague and angry claims. In my two years with council, there has been a long list of people who have become angry with council and made a lot of ugly statements (six out of seven of them are ex-council members who left under uncomfortable circumstances). It comes with the territory, and this won't be the last time it happens, no matter who is on council.

Fortunately, the result of this has been that I have received several replies to my request for council reporters. Three students, who have no ties to council, have said they are interested in reporting on what happens in council meetings, and I'm looking forward to presenting their coverage to *Voice* readers in the near future.

If conflict and accusations are what it takes to build a student interest in the activities of your council, then it's hard to say that the negativity is all bad. It would be really unfortunate if a student in need did not feel that they could go to their student union for help, or to their student magazine with a negative comment about council. But, if the larger result is that you are now all quite interested in what council does (and the large number of candidates for the upcoming election suggests that this is so), then something very good has come of all this! It is very encouraging to see so many new faces on the ballot this time.

Oh, and since it can't be said enough - your *Voice* editor is not a member of AUSU council. Any views expressed in *Voice* editorials are my own.

That's it for me today... after 2 weeks of freezing my can off, I'm going out to make a snowman and enjoy the sun while it lasts!

**Tamra Ross Low - Editor in Chief**





# NATURE NOTES

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

## Faunal Adaptations: The Fascinating And The Befuddling

Turn on the television on any day at any time, and you will be sure to find at least one show featuring animals; open any book, and there will almost surely be at least one reference to animals.

While it may seem that we live in an entirely human-dominated world, animals are in fact all around us: in reality, in myth, and in symbolism. Animals have continued to fascinate, to entertain, to command people's attention throughout time, and while the relationship between humans and non-human animals has not always been one of respect, it has throughout time remained one of awe.

What is it about the animal world that so fascinates us? Is it the seemingly endless diversity of species, the similarities in form or behaviour between so many animals and ourselves, or the marvelous ingenuity of design that pervades the animal kingdom? Undoubtedly, each of these factors plays a role in our unending interest in the world of animals.

The Kingdom *Animalia* is broken down into the categories of *Phylum*, *Class*, *Order*, *Family* and, most familiar to the layperson, *Genus* and *Species*. This kingdom, to which we humans also belong, is filled with creatures so strikingly different from each other that within such a grouping can be found everything from the delicate, sessile sponges of the sea floor to the mighty elephants of Asia and Africa. While sponges and elephants, Amoebas and humans are linked in this classification system at only the most general level, such linkage indicates a common ancestor, one organism from which we, through a process of evolution, all emerged. Yes, it is true that we split off from this shared ancestry many, many aeons ago. But how, and why?

Evolution, the process in which organisms undergo alterations in behaviour and form, is understood as being intricately linked with something called natural selection – better known to many as the scenario of survival of the fittest. As a result of natural selection, any given organism is considered to be that which is best adapted to the environment as it is in that place, at that time. As the environment changes, so must the organisms dependent on it if they are to persist.

One of the most intriguing aspects of zoology, or the study of animals, is investigating exactly that: the adaptive features of animals in relation to their environment. Some adaptations seem so logical, so ingenious, that one can hardly believe evolution is thought of as a random process.

Take the English moth species that, during the industrial revolution, transformed from a light beige colouration to a dark charcoal colour. Why such a change? As the trees on which this moth rested became increasingly covered in airborne soot, and thus changed from a light bark colour to black, beige moths were suddenly maladapted to their now-changed environment. These light-coloured moths were no longer well-camouflaged, and became easy prey for a predator on the lookout for a tasty snack on a sooty tree.

The story goes that over time, those moths which by random mutations of the genes emerged from the pupa darkly coloured, and thus well-camouflaged on the soot-covered trees, were best able to survive in the changed environment in which they found themselves. As survivors, it was these dark moths that were able to reproduce, thus creating more moths just like themselves, and eventually creating a strain different from that common in pre-industrial times. This moth can be seen to have gone through a rapid evolutionary process in which, through natural selection, a randomly-generated dark coloured moth became that best able to survive and reproduce. An evolutionary event witnessed in our own time: Fascinating without a doubt.

What about those creatures that sport what can only be thought of as some kind of maladaptation? What can be said about those species with features that just don't seem to fit their environment; how can the presence of their particular way of coping with their surroundings be explained in the evolutionary terms discussed above? One of the most common situations in which are witnessed what appear to be maladaptations is where a species utilises more than one habitat type. Picture the seal, sea lion, or walrus: exceedingly clumsy on land or ice, but magical swimmers in their primary habitat: the sea.

Another of my personal favourites is the Red-necked Grebe. A phenomenal swimmer and quite a flyer, this diving bird seems equally at home in the water as in the air. But goodness gracious, whatever you do, Grebey, do not make a touch-down on land. This bird, which occasionally ends up on *terra firma* as a result of accident or miscalculation, will find itself land-bound, unable due to its specialized, lobed toes, to move about on the ground. Wildlife rescuers are, from time-to-time, called upon to relieve these poor birds of their land-locked state, and to replace them to their primary habitat: the water. Without such assistance, the unfortunate Grebes would have perished, stranded and alone on foreign soil.

From an evolutionary perspective, is the lobed toe then a maladaptation, something which makes the bird rather ill-suited for its environment? The Grebe, which frequently must fly above land in its travels from one water body to another, is literally stranded if it miscalculates and ends up on the ground. How, then, could one say that the Grebe is best suited to its environment?

The answer lies in looking at what, in fact, comprises the main environment of the Grebe as a species. The lobed toe is *the* feature that makes Grebes such strong swimmers, such strong divers, and such successful underwater hunters. Thus while the lobed toe acts in a maladaptive capacity while the bird is on land, any negative impacts it may have in the occasional Grebe's life is more than made up in the population by being a decidedly positive adaptation to life in the water. Thus, when trying to understand an animal's adaptations, we must always ask, 'adaptation to what?' The Grebe is perfectly adapted to life in the water. The presence of land between the water bodies to which it is so well-adapted is simply a royal pain in the occasional individual Red-necked Grebe's life...

Ah evolution, something to ponder on these long winter evenings, something to remind us of the never-ending wonders of the outside world as we remain huddled inside in a state of quasi-hibernation. Constant, ever-changing, and resulting in endlessly novel forms of life, evolution in the animal kingdom is something to behold. Sometimes amusing, occasionally baffling, the adaptation of animals to their environment is always awesome. Here's to a continuing fascination with the animal world, and a growing recognition of the wonders our kingdom has to offer.

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*Zoe Dalton is a graduate of York University's environmental science program, and is currently enjoying working towards a Master of Arts in Integrated Studies with Athabasca U. She can be reached for comments or questions at [zk\\_dalton@hotmail.com](mailto:zk_dalton@hotmail.com).*

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# REMEMBERING A LESS THAN PERFECT MOTHER

Barbara Godin



May 10, 1979, it seems like yesterday, yet it seems like a lifetime ago. I guess it's both. That was the day I said goodbye to my mother for the last time. I always refer to her as my mother, not mom. I guess because she was a mother to me, not a mom. Mom's are there for you. They make you feel safe and cared for. Mothers are just that, your mother, a word, a title. I wished she had been more of a mom.

I was born late in her life, although by today's standards to have a baby at 34 isn't considered late. However, in 1953 women traditionally had their babies in their twenties. I was the fourth and youngest child. Perhaps she was tired of taking care of children by then, I don't

know. Possibly being a woman alone with four children in the early 1950's was too hard for her. My memories are of always yearning for my mother to visit me, take me home, love me, accept me, and I guess maybe in her own way she did do some of those things, as much as she could anyway.

My visits with her were wonderful. I believe she tried to make up for all the lost time in those brief interludes. They say smell is one of the strongest trigger of memory, I suppose that's why I will always remember my mother's smell, a combination of perfume and cigarette smoke. During our visits she was very affectionate, hugging and kissing me. For those moments, I felt I belonged, she really did love me. "Can I come home to be with you?" I would ask, hoping maybe this time I would be able to be with her. "Soon dear, soon." She would say, as she attempted to distract me. "Do you want a manicure, how about if mom does your hair?" I always allowed her to do this, although the tears struggled to fill my eyes.

These brief visits ended far too quickly. We were both emotional when it came time to say goodbye. I never knew when I would see her again, although she would tell me she would come again in a couple of weeks, I knew in my heart it would probably be longer. My heart ached as I watched her leave. It always took me a few hours to be able to talk to anyone after these visits. I just needed to be left alone.

As the years passed, my feelings of yearning changed to hurt and anger. I stopped waiting for her, or believing that I would ever live with her again. Although I still looked forward to her visits, I pulled back a bit. I knew I had to protect myself from my mother. For some of my other siblings the pain was too much, they became angry and could not forgive. Therefore their relationship with her became simply one of visits on special occasions, like Christmas or birthdays.

When my daughter was born, my feelings for my mother changed, as I suppose that would be normal. Your perception of everything changes when you become a parent. Your view of yourself, your family and your parents comes into question. As I held my tiny baby girl, I felt overwhelmed with emotion. How could my mother not feel those same feelings? Maybe she did and couldn't deal with them. Maybe she was aware of her own inadequacies and felt it would be better for me to be raised by other people who were better equipped to take care of me. I just wanted to be with her, but I didn't have a voice. I vowed never to allow my daughter to feel the pain I had felt. She would always have her mother with her, I would do everything to make her feel loved, secure and accepted.

My daughter was six years old when my mother died and she has only fleeting memories of her grandmother. She is now a grown woman with children of her own. Although at times we have had a difficult relationship, as most mothers and daughters do, I believe I did accomplish most of the tasks I set out to do as a parent. I still often think of my mother, and when I look back I think she did teach me an invaluable life lesson - how to be a good mom.

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

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*For the first part of "Is There A Doula In The House", see last week's issue of The Voice [January 28, 2004 - v12 i04].*

**I know you consider yourself a feminist. How does being a doula fit into or complement those beliefs?**

Being a doula is all about empowering women to reclaim the birth environment experience, and to be in control of what they want through the pregnancy, and through the birth into motherhood. It's giving the power back to them, so they can be the ones making the decisions and doing the work themselves. That's why I don't think that c-sections are a great option when they're optional because it makes you passive. You lay back, you get gassed, and they take the baby out of you. You're not a part of the process. You don't do it yourself.

**It's happening to you.**

It's happening to you. You become a patient and a thing. You're not an active participant.

**Plus, it becomes more medical too. It becomes surgery.**

Absolutely, and there's huge risks and complications with any kind of major surgery like that.

**It seems as though lately that there has been a resurgence of women wanting to give birth more naturally and, even more so, wanting to have home births. Even Pamela Anderson has been quoted as saying she gave birth naturally to both of her children at home. It's almost as though it's become chic again. Why do you think that is?**

Well, I don't know about the famous people and celebrities and that crap, but...

**That's just an example to show how if someone like Miss I'm-Silicone is wanting to have a home natural birth that it's become so much more mainstream.**

I think it's because of what doulas do, helping to support that natural birth environment. It's not because a doula's gonna do some magic and all of a sudden you're going to have this perfect birth. It's about being supported and feeling prepared and being comforted and reassured and told you know what you're doing. You're making the decisions yourself. It's having someone to talk to about it.

**And that it's normal.**

Yeah, normalizing the process. You're more likely to be able to get through it on your own without drugs or complications. Who wouldn't want that? Who wouldn't want the empowering experience of completing the process yourself and being able to reclaim it?

**Do you think that some sort of cultural shift has happened recently that has contributed to more expectant mothers choosing to have more natural births, or is it simply more in the media than it has ever been before?**

Doulas are getting much more well-known now. There's only been education and a support network of doulas for five-to-ten years. It's growing a lot, and doulas are working really hard to get the word "doula" out into the public conversation, and to become more well known amongst medical staff, so that when you arrive at a hospital the doctor knows what you're there to do and what your role is. As far as a cultural shift, no, not so much. I don't think so. It seems little is still known about doulas and natural delivery. And you know, TV shows like "The Baby Story"...

**I was just going to ask you that.**

They don't do much for the promotion of natural childbirth.

**Although, there was an episode with a doula on it.**

Yeah. Okay, one.

**What are some of the biggest misconceptions about birth, that shows like "The Baby Story" seem to promote?**

That's a huge question. It's like the whole approach to birth in the Western world. Right now, the medical model of birth is that pregnancy is treated like an illness, an illness that should be managed by "expert" medical staff. It's not that they have misinformation, that they're necessarily wrong about the processes of birth, but there's a major lack of trust of the woman in control, major lack of trust for a woman's body to give birth to a baby naturally.

**In general, there seems to be a fear surrounding it for a lot of people.**

Huge fear.

**In terms of the pain.**

I guess it's the mistrust that a woman can't birth a baby without some kind of assistance, without someone telling her what to do, or some sort of intervention or medical equipment and things to make it happen for her. There's misinformation out there, and mistrust. Science has done a good job of medicalizing the whole process. People who have never been at a birth, or experienced birth, their conception about birth... conceptions... ha ha ha... their concepts of what birth is like is what you see on "The Baby Story."

**It seems people have generalized and simplified the process down to one type of experience, that all births are the same. They're going to be very painful. Is that what you mean? The medical community also, how they're trying to encapsulate it into one common experience?**

And it's wrong. You could write a whole doctorate on that question.

**Is there one thing you would tell a woman planning to conceive about the birthing process?**

I would tell her to read a lot, get as informed as she can, to trust herself, and trust her body. I mean you can't trust something if you don't understand it, right? Just putting blind trust into something is frightening. That's why people don't generally trust the birthing process because they don't know about it. Get as educated as you can, talk to other pregnant women, read a lot, watch videos, and do on-line research about different approaches to birth. The more informed you are, the more you can make a solid decision and stick to it, and feel confident about it because you've done your homework. That's what I would tell her.

**How has being a doula affected your own feelings about having children?**

Well, I don't know if it's affected them that much, except that before I'd even been at a birth people would tell me, "wait until you've been at a birth, you're not going to want to have kids anymore. It's going to scare the crap out of you." But when I see a woman giving birth, when I experience that with her, it makes me want to do it. I see her in pain and in fear, and triumphing and birthing her baby, and I think, "yeah, I wanna do it."

**Again, it's that misconception coming up about the fear and the pain, and everyone likening it to a terrible experience just to get over with, and now I have the baby.**

Which, in the end, is the outcome, right. I don't think it's necessarily made me want to or not to have kids anymore than I'd been thinking before being a doula, but it definitely doesn't discourage me from it.

**I think we've covered it all. Is there anything you want to add?**

There's one point I forgot to say. Back to the first question of what is a doula, what you do and what's your role. A whole part I forgot to even mention is the postpartum part. Some doulas are strictly birth doulas. You can also be a postpartum doula, which I also am, as well as being a birth doula, but some women are just postpartum doulas, not birth doulas. A postpartum doula goes to the home, works with the mom and dad, or other mom, whatever, in their home to help them out, usually just for the first few weeks or months. Helps them with things like learning about baby care, help with breast-feeding, help with minor housework, accompanying them to doctors appointments, things like that when they need a bit of extra help. It's like having an extra helper around the house, but one who happens to have a lot of knowledge about newborns, healing after birth, postpartum depression, and stuff like that.

**So, it doesn't just end.**

That's right, yeah. I like the fact that I can work with the mom all the way through. I can be her birth doula and keep working with her at home. When I get to work with the moms all the way through, I know them better,

they know me better, they trust me. We already have a relationship. I know exactly what happened at the birth because I was there. The whole birth process and experience really affects the mom and baby's well-being in the first few weeks, for example, breast-feeding. Complications that arise with breast-feeding are often related to the birth experience. It's really helpful if I've been there and know what happened. I'm not having to guess or rely solely on what she tells me. Postpartum care is another huge part of it. It's equally important as the birth part.

**So, that it is a holistic experience and not just an ends to a means, like something you have to suffer through to get this baby.**

That's right. A means to an end?

**Yeah. That's what I meant.**

It honours that birth is a major, major event in life and it's very sacred. It's not a process that happens to you, but something that you are a part of. I just love to witness and honour it, and support women to do it with dignity.

#### **Resources:**

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

Doulas of North America (DONA) [www.dona.org](http://www.dona.org)

DSA of BC [www.doula.com/bcdoulas/](http://www.doula.com/bcdoulas/)

Midwives Association of BC [www.bcmidwives.com](http://www.bcmidwives.com)

vaginal birth after caesarian [www.vbac.com](http://www.vbac.com)

Association for improvement of maternity services in BC [www.aimsbc.org/links.asp](http://www.aimsbc.org/links.asp)

Gloria Lemay- midwife and doula educator [www.glorialemay.com](http://www.glorialemay.com)

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## **SPEECH FROM THE THRONE LACKS SUBSTANCE**

### ***Students search for meaningful solutions from federal government***



**Edmonton** – Today, Paul Martin announced his agenda in the Speech from the Throne. While much was said about post-secondary education, students are struggling to find meaningful solutions for the issues they face.

"It is important that the federal government is acknowledging issues like student debt and technology costs," stated Shirley Barg, CAUS Chair. "However, the proposed 'solutions' do not seem to fit with the problems that were identified."

"Giving first-year students grants is not a good way to deal with student debt," argued Chris Samuel, CAUS Vice-Chair. "There was no mention of the Debt Reduction and

Repayment Program. There is nothing new to help students who are already struggling under heavy debt loads."

Students' groups, including CAUS, have been advocating for earmarked funding for post-secondary education within the federal transfer payment to the provinces.

"Dedicating transfer payments for post-secondary education is the most immediate thing Paul Martin could do to improve students' quality of life," said Barg. "Unfortunately, he was the Finance Minister who got rid of dedicated payments, and he's not giving students effective solutions."

The Speech also demonstrated intent to move toward the commercialization of research from universities.

"While ideas that come out of academic institutions might prove to be profitable, that does *not* make it acceptable for the federal government to treat institutions of free thought as if they were businesses," stated Samuel. "When corporate interests begin to compete with principles of academic freedom, there is a problem."

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

**For more information, contact:** Shirley Barg, CAUS Chair: 780.461.4948; Melanee Thomas, CAUS Executive Director: 780.492.1976

**gone**

i remember when we were parked  
out by the reservoir  
you told me of a ghost you'd seen  
walking through the woods

don't look  
it's gone already

the best times are when you're happy  
and don't know why  
you just smile and think of        nothing  
for awhile

don't look now

**exile**

the old wolf sleeps with loaded pistols  
his burning thoughts whisky-fuelled  
tumble into crystal darkness

sometimes he drinks with exiled princes  
in a bar near the reservation  
he admires the tattoo  
on the breast of the stripper  
shows her the devil  
on his back  
smokes smuggled camels  
from across the border  
says come spring he is going back  
to the girl with the orange dress

the nights up north  
are an empty goldmine  
winds howl like dogs in hidden shafts

the old wolf sleeps with loaded pistols  
the old wolf thinks  
of going back



# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

## Freedom of Speech

By Debbie Jabbour



Last week I did not submit an article for my "From My Perspective" column in *The Voice*. After more than two years of writing regularly and rarely missing an issue, I found myself unable to write. Partly it was due to stress and overload and just needing a break. But the more important reason I chose not to write was because I was wrestling with the notion of freedom of speech and the consequences that can occur when someone takes offense to something you've written. I found myself wondering whether it was worth it. I've always advocated for

freedom of speech, believing that a writer cannot be afraid to state an opinion due to fear that their words may have negative personal consequences. On the other hand, if these negative personal consequences could have long term effects on one's reputation and status in the community - is it really worth it?

Journalists can face even more serious repercussions. A short while ago, journalistic freedom in Canada came under attack when the RCMP raided Ottawa Citizen journalist Juliet O'Neill's home and office. They arrived at her home at 8 AM January 21 with a search warrant, seeking to locate the identity of the person who had leaked confidential documents about the Maher Arar case to her. They blocked off her home with crime scene tape, then for five hours, ten RCMP officers searched her home. They dismantled shelves and rummaged through underwear drawers, seizing paperwork and computer files, in what O'Neill herself called "a slow-motion robbery" (O'Neill, January 24). Government representatives insist that they respect freedom of the press but needed to balance the "nation's right to uncover journalistic sources in the name of national security" with the confidentiality right of individual journalists (Ottawa Citizen, January 23/04). Charges were pending against O'Neill under the Security of Information Act, with a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison, but these charges have apparently been dropped.

O'Neill's case is not that unusual, unfortunately. But even if there are no serious consequences, a writers open themselves up to criticism, and need to be prepared to have a very thick skin. I often read letters to the editor in the *Edmonton Journal* where readers are less than complimentary (if not downright rude) if they disagree with something a writer has said. Our *Voice* editor can likely attest to how difficult it can be at times to please all readers, and I know she too has sometimes faced criticism for a particular choice of words or for stating an unpopular opinion. Words can be easily misunderstood, and a writer may inadvertently offend readers. A particular word choice can completely change the intent of an article or commentary, and sometimes attempting to explain oneself after the fact just makes matters worse. Sometimes readers bent on criticism do not differentiate between the person and the words - so a writer who is attempting to provide an alternate side to a story, or who is trying to generate debate, may be ridiculed or negatively judged for holding an unpopular opinion - when this is not necessarily their personal view.

I believe an important role of the media is to inform, get people thinking about issues, and to generate debate by presenting different sides to a story. I think controversy is an important part of responsible reporting in the media. Reporting that only presents one side of the issue is not responsible journalism and I think it assumes that readers do not possess sufficient intelligence to decide matters for themselves. Unfortunately media bias is a powerful tool that can be used to mislead the masses.

I subscribe to the *Edmonton Journal*, and I often find CanWest Global newspapers to be quite one-sided and biased in their reporting. Although I personally consider the *Edmonton Journal* to be politically biased, I find it very interesting to read about the many fights the newspaper has engaged in over the years in the interest of freedom of speech. According to a 100th Anniversary Issue on November 11, 2003, the *Edmonton Journal* fights "for access to information, defining itself as a watchdog and critic, defender of freedom of the press and access to information that should be public."

In 1938, the *Edmonton Journal* won the Pulitzer award for its campaign against the "Accurate News and Information Act," an act introduced by Social Credit Premier William Aberhart. This legislation would have forced Alberta's newspapers to publish official replies to any news story the government deemed inaccurate and to reveal all their sources to the government. The Journal fought the case all the way to the Supreme Court and the act was overturned (Simons, 2003).

The incident with Juliet O'Neill would have brought back memories to Journal publisher J. Patrick O'Callaghan. In April 1982, three days after Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms became law, officers entered the Journal office with the intent to search and seize all business files, editors files and books. Unlike the O'Neill case, they had no search warrant, but instead used the Combines Investigation Act, claiming they were acting as part of a federal investigation into media ownership. Again the Journal took the matter to the Supreme Court, winning a decision that the search was a violation of privacy and property rights. In yet another landmark case, the Journal argued against a law that kept court records private, and the resulting Supreme Court decision stated that, "a democracy cannot exist without freedom to express new ideas and to put forward opinions about the functioning of public institutions." (*Edmonton Journal*, About Us).

This determined fighting for free speech and freedom of the press is supported legally through Advocates in Defence of Expression in the Media (AdIDEM), an organization dedicated to the "protection and enhancement of free expression in Canada and abroad." It's heartening to know that journalistic freedom of speech and media law have strong advocates in this country. But its also discouraging to see continued attacks on freedom of speech, such as that experienced by Juliet O'Neill.

Freedom of speech and free expression is coming under attack in different ways due to the advent of the Internet. In recent months I've become increasingly conscious of issues of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the implications of publication on the Internet and personal privacy. Universities are traditionally bastions of free speech, and open debate is the hallmark of the university experience for both academics and students. Students have the right to free speech, and the right to speak their mind on subjects that may be highly controversial. This has often led to problems. Students at Concordia university in Montreal discovered this two years ago, when several of them exercised their right to speak out on the topic of "Palestinian human rights." The resulting backlash resulted in suspensions and student uprisings (*Briarpatch Magazine*, 2001).

This begs another question - what if exercising one's freedom of speech in the press causes harm to others? Where is the line crossed between free speech and words that harm or slander an individual or group? We've seen this taken to extremes too. Salman Rushdie's Satanic verses comes to mind - a case where the writer's opinion of Islam has resulted in a death sentence. But should sensitive topics be avoided and never discussed or debated in case someone is offended? The written word will always be susceptible to misinterpretation and misreading of intent. How do we avoid upsetting or offending readers by our words?

There are also instances where an individual represents a group. Sometimes their words are taken to be the words of the group, when this is not necessarily the case. Many may recall the words of Premier Ralph Klein during the BSE crisis, when he commented that the farmer whose cow tested positive for the disease should have just "shot, shoveled and shut up" instead of following the protocol and reporting the sick animal to authorities (CNEWS Canada). In the media furor that followed, many in Klein's government were quick to distance themselves from his ill-chosen words, to ensure that the public did not assume that this was a PC policy. Most reasonable people, however, knew that Klein's comments had no relationship to government policy. They realized that he was stating his own opinion - an opinion that, while unpopular, was held by at least some people in Alberta. Personally, I respect an organization in which individual members are free to express what they think and feel. It gives me confidence that all opinions and sides are being heard and considered, not just those of the majority. I would be somewhat suspicious of a group where everyone is always in agreement. This is particularly true of university groups, where freedom of speech is a core value.

As students at a distance university, we have an additional dimension to the whole issue of freedom of speech. We rely on electronic communication to a very high degree, including email and online forums/chatrooms. Our student newspaper/magazine is unique in being one of the very few (if not the only) such publications that are exclusively online. When we state our opinion to other students in a virtual hallway, if we communicate a controversial idea in a forum or email, or if we write an article, letter, or commentary in our student newspaper, that opinion ends up on the largest possible worldwide forum - the Internet.

To that end, a small item in Saturday's *Edmonton Journal* caught my eye. It was only a few paragraphs long, but the message was chilling in its implications. The item carried the title, "Defamatory e-mails cost Toronto man \$75,000." Over a period of six months in 2002, Nick Weir posted some 48 messages on an Internet chat room. The chatroom involved was part of a website devoted to stock holdings, and access requires a member sign up. This particular chat room was dedicated to discussion of stock holdings in Vaquero Energy Ltd., a Calgary oil and gas company, and the messages were directed at Vaquero Energy's President and CEO, Robert Waldner. Messages accused Waldner of "running the company for his own benefit" and compared him to Adolf Hitler and Osama Bin Laden, calling him "insane, retarded, a moron". In the court decision, Court of Queen's Bench Justice Adele Kent ordered Weir to pay \$65,000 in damages and \$10,000 to Vaquero. She wrote that the messages were "particularly vicious," and that the emails "severely attacked his reputation." What compounded the matter, according to the judge, was that the defamation "took place on the Internet, where publication is worldwide and instantaneous" (*Edmonton Journal*, January 31/04).

So where does that place us? As writers published on the Internet; as students discussing things on online forums whether private or public; as council members debating controversial topics in meetings reproduced online; as students commenting on the opinions of other students via email or in forums; as students giving feedback to the student newspaper - we are all potentially in a position of possibly saying something damaging about someone, or of having something said about us, that will end up on the Internet, "where publication is worldwide and instantaneous" causing significant harm to an individual's name and reputation within a very short time. With such legal precedents as the one above, any of us could find ourselves in a courtroom facing charges. While in this particular case it may seem like Weir's comments were blatantly defamatory, words are subject to interpretation by the reader. A relatively innocent comment could be taken as something quite different and a writer could unintentionally cause harm or offend. I find this sobering.

As students, as writers, we need to feel free to state our opinions without fear of negative personal consequences. Freedom of speech is a core value of a democratic society. Freedom of speech within a university is essential. But with freedom comes responsibility. Ubiquitous privacy laws are drafted in a futile attempt to protect our privacy - even as the Internet exposes us and lays us bare. Once something is published on the Internet - it's out there for anyone to read, download, and forward. The Internet has changed how we communicate, and it has changed our ability to express ourselves freely.

- *Ottawa Citizen*, January 23/04. O'Neill 'clearly' no criminal: PM. "We are not a police state," Martin insists; charges now unlikely. Mark Kennedy, Mike Blanchfield & Anne Dawson. [www.canada.com](http://www.canada.com)
- O'Neill, Juliet, January 23/04. A slow-motion robbery: When the RCMP came to a reporter's home to search for her confidential sources of information, not even her most personal belongings - or her privacy - were spared. *Edmonton Journal/Vancouver Sun*, [www.canada.com](http://www.canada.com).
- *Briarpatch Magazine*, December 2001. Backlash on Campus: A student union is under attack for being too successful at organizing resistance to the corporate agenda. [www.briarpatchmagazine.com](http://www.briarpatchmagazine.com)
- Simons, P. (2003). In defence of the public's right to know: The Journal's unrelenting defence of freedom of the press has helped shape Canadian law and won international acclaim. *Edmonton Journal*, November 11, 2003.
- IdIDEM. Advocates in Defence of Expression in the Media. [www.ididem.org](http://www.ididem.org)
- Edmonton Journal, About Us. [www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/info/about.html](http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/info/about.html)
- CNEWS Canada. September 17, 2003. Klein says "shoot, shovel, shut-up" on mad-cow crisis wasn't meant literally. Judy Monchuk: [www.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2003/09/17/195328-cp.html](http://www.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2003/09/17/195328-cp.html)
- *Edmonton Journal*, January 31/04. Defamatory e-mails cost Toronto man \$75,000. Alberta Digest.



Here are more responses to the questions: Which commercials anger you the most? and Which AU course is the toughest?

It's not the content, usually, it's the constant repetition that drives me bonkers. Case in point - the current Wonder Bread spot where the kid is reading ingredients from the bread and the mother is making up answers from thin air. (Niacin? It makes you nicer...)

It was cute the first couple of times I saw it, but I've been saturated. I watch a morning news show from 6:30 till 7:10 every weekday morning, and I see this thing at least 4 times! ENOUGH ALREADY!

On the local TV news, we have a car dealer who pays for 8, yes eight, 30 second spots in a one hour show. EVERY ONE THE SAME COMMERCIAL!

The list of examples is endless. It's just as bad on the radio, if not worse.

So here's today's quiz for the marketing folk in the audience - if you advertise aggressively enough that your potential (or even current!) customers become so annoyed that they decide not to buy your product, was the campaign a success? Take your time - I'll just repeat the question every 7 minutes until you answer.

**Andrew Bell**  
**Peterborough, Ontario**

TV ads...ohhhh man I have to agree with you Tamra, those Swiffer commercials are awful! Have you seen the grinning woman on a swing who flings her hair around talking about how some guy named Bobby, in her childhood, wouldn't give her the time of day? Now ...all because she uses the right hair color...she's pleased to grin at me, swing her hair and say she doesn't care. ACKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKK! This is nonsense. I'm SO annoyed when women trained in the overuse of diction for TV ads are prepared to sell me on the concept that a hair color will transform me into a raving beauty that no man can resist! Look, ladies, I'm happily married and if he has a problem with a grey hair showing....let him deal with his balding head first! And I wouldn't intentionally look for any of the chumps I thought were cool when I was a kid...I've no doubt they're fat, married, and wrinkly now!

I also want to point to the Anatomy and Physiology course Biology 230... excuse me does anyone READ these textbooks before they hand them out? Unfinished sentences...dreadful English usage and blithering jargon throughout! I am SOOOO sorry I signed up for this course. I am LITERALLY praying nightly to want to do this course... and I'm sorry, it's not working.

I have had to buy other textbooks that speak plain English and explain to me what the course text isn't. I have heard from another student of this course... she used flashcards as well as other books to get through. I'm apparently not alone!

**--Laura Seymour**  
**(Craniosacral Therapist and Traditional Usui Reiki Master)**

Which AU course do you think is the toughest, and why?

Write [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with your replies.



*Dear Heather,*

I work full-time, take AU courses part-time, and have two teenagers, so I don't have a lot of spare time for a volunteer work commitment. Do you have any suggestions about how I can 'give back' to my community with what little time I have? I am particularly interested in helping people with health problems.

J.L., Calgary

Dear J.L.,

Kudos to you for taking that first step- deciding to do something for the benefit of others. Fortunately, there are a lot of ways that you can help without giving up a lot of time.

One great way to make a difference in your community is to become a regular blood donor. This takes about half an hour, once every two months, and every donation can be used to help up to four patients. In Calgary and some other large communities, you also can choose to donate specific blood components (plasma or platelets) instead of whole blood. These procedures take a little longer, but they allow you to donate more often. Giving plasma takes a little less than an hour, but you can donate up to once a week, if you want to. Donating platelets takes two hours, and you can do this as often as once every two weeks. A lot of people donate during their lunch hour (a great strategy, since volunteers feed you soup and cookies afterwards anyway). Call Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-2-DONATE or visit their website at <http://www.bloodservices.ca/> if you have questions or to make an appointment.

Another great way to save someone's life takes no time at all: sign your organ donor card. Every day in Canada and around the world, people die while on the waiting list for a transplant. Although most Canadians think organ donation is a great idea, very few (shamefully few, compared to other countries) have actually signed their card. If you live in Alberta, there's one on the back of your provincial health card. If you believe in organ donation, take it out and sign it right now, before you forget. Make sure you mention this to your family members too, so they are aware of your wishes.

Signing up for the Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Registry also takes very little time and could put you in a position to save a life. All you do is call Canadian Blood Services, arrange to attend an information session, which takes an hour or so, and let them draw a vial of your blood for tissue matching. If you match someone who's waiting for a transplant, you'll get a phone call for further testing. The donation procedure itself is done on an outpatient basis, and most donors feel only mild discomfort and are back to work the next day. Right now in Canada, hundreds of people are waiting for a bone marrow transplant. Although most people on the registry will never get called to actually donate, it's a good feeling to know your name has been added to the list of those who are willing to help.

Finally, there are a lot of health-related volunteer opportunities that don't require a large or ongoing commitment. Sometimes help is needed for an annual or one-time event; once it's over you're done for another year. Other opportunities may allow flexible hours or involve work you can do from home. Check your local health authority's website (in Calgary it's <http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/employment/volunteers.htm> ) or look for an agency that recruits volunteers for a variety of organizations (such as Volunteer Calgary: <http://www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca/>) - they're sure to have something that will fit your interests and schedule.

Whatever you decide to do, enjoy the knowledge that you are making a difference in other people's lives. I find this makes everything else I do seem more worthwhile: as the immortal Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

Thanks for writing,

**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.*



## THE GLEASON BROTHERS

*Wayne E. Benedict*



My youth was filled with the stories of larger-than-life trappers, prospectors and homesteaders that lived and worked in British Columbia's interior during the early twentieth century. My mother's family lived in a small sawmill town called Penny which seems to have been the cross-roads for many an intrepid soul. Their stories of harrowing wilderness adventures were circulated amongst the residents and transient workers that passed through town. No doubt many of those stories became distorted and exaggerated almost beyond belief as they passed from mouth to mouth. Even so, they were incredible fodder for the imaginations of children and adults alike.

At an early age, my father began taking me into the wilderness. My first trip to the top of Penny Mountain was at the age of eight and I can still recall laying in my sleeping-bag within the rustic mountain-top cabin. I listened to my father and my uncle, wilderness author Jack Boudreau, discussing stories from "the old days". The flickering orange fire-light that escaped through cracks in the old pot-belly woodstove chased shadows about my bed as their voices painted pictures of grizzly encounters and other harrowing tales within my mind's eye. The knowledge that grizzlies lurked on the other side of the 14-inch logs which comprised the cabin's walls lent urgency to the stories. I'd not known it then, but a few years later I'd have my own tales to tell.

I liked to hear any and all stories that my seniors were willing to tell, and re-tell. Many of the most interesting were of two brothers named Chris and Frank Gleason. The Gleason brothers immigrated to Canada from the United States during World War One. They settled near Dome Creek BC and built eighteen cabins around the headwaters of the McGregor River. They hunted and trapped and survived off the land; and in the years they spent in the wilderness, they accumulated a vast number of adventure-filled stories. My father met the two brothers while working in Dome Creek in the early 1960s. Many years later Chris Gleason had retired to Vancouver BC, and my father and Jack went to see him. Inevitably the old stories were exchanged until Chris told a tale that my father had a difficult time swallowing.

Chris told of a day on one of his trap-lines. He had been collecting furs all day and his pack was fully loaded. He was on his way to one of the line-cabins to settle in for the night. Suddenly he heard loud thrashing and the gnashing of teeth further up the trail. Then he remembered that he'd set a bear-trap in that spot and he knew that a grizzly was caught in it from the distinctive sounds. Back then leg-hold bear traps were still legal, but they've since been outlawed as inhumane and far too dangerous (many trappers who forgot where they'd placed them, stepped into their own bear traps—an instant broken leg and likely death to a lone trapper). Chris knew that he couldn't carry any more fur and he didn't want to kill the grizzly for naught. He slowly approached the bear, which was obviously worn out from its struggles against the trap, until he could see that it had nearly chewed its paw off to escape. According to Chris, he dismounted his pack and took out his hunting knife. He cut a long, straight pole and tied the knife onto the end of it. Talking gently to the grizzly, he tentatively reached out with the pole and cut the remaining flesh that held the beast fast. Once freed, it stood,



stared at Chris for a moment, then slowly turned and retreated into the forest. In concluding his tale, Chris mentioned that he'd had the forethought to snap a picture of the beast just before he'd cut it free.

I can picture my father rolling his eyes in disbelief at the conclusion of that story. Anyone who has exchanged hunting or fishing tales can tell an "embellished" story from an accurate recounting almost every time. At the end of their visit, my father asked Chris if he had any pictures from the old days; the answer was no. But his wife remembered a shoe-box full of old negatives. My father borrowed them and had prints made up for Chris, Jack and himself. The pictures that accompany this article are two of them. The first is of Frank (on the left) and Chris Gleason, their packs loaded with fur; and the second is the picture that Chris took of that grizzly just before he cut it free of the trap. If you look closely you can see the bear trap at its head; the pole that Chris cut is barely visible in the upper right corner of the photograph. My father was surprised that Chris's story turned out to be true. There is no doubt that Frank and Chris Gleason were two outdoorsmen that were bigger than life—truly.

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Wayne E. Benedict has a varied career history and strong links to the Canadian labour movement. He is working part-time toward his Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations at AU. 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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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. If suggest a topic or a course alert for Taking Notes, contact [djabbour@ausu.org](mailto:djabbour@ausu.org)

**Debbie Jabbour**

### University No-Smoking Policies

In Alberta two universities have recently updated their no-smoking policies to further prohibit or restrict smoking on campus, and in and around student residences. Health and environmentally-conscious student unions at these universities have implemented smoking bans in all student-union facilities and events, limited sales of cigarettes in the student union building, and placed restrictions or bans on smoking in SU-managed bars/pubs. Many of these initiatives have been assisted by ASH (Action on Smoking & Health). ASH reports that according to Health Canada "30 percent of Albertans aged 20-24 are smokers," representing the highest smoking rate of any age group (Health Canada, 2002). They cite evidence that tobacco companies target post-secondary students with marketing strategies that include special event sponsorship, scholarships and on-campus product placements (Ling & Glantz, 2002).

Athabasca University was one of the first Alberta universities to implement firm no-smoking policies back in 1996 (U of A did so in 1994), and they consider the policy so serious that "smoking in prohibited areas" represents a non-academic misconduct offense subject to disciplinary action.

Of course, just banning smoking is not enough. Out of recognition that smoking is a difficult addiction to conquer, some universities provide smoking cessation programs for students and staff, and health plan coverage for stop smoking aids. This is an initiative that should be lauded and strongly supported.

Unfortunately, in spite of the implementation of no-smoking policies, most universities still do not have a policy in place that prohibits acceptance of donations and grants or sponsorship by tobacco companies. At Athabasca University the Donation Acceptance Policy is in the process of being updated. It requires that each potential donation is individually assessed to ensure compliance with certain guidelines.

But the question is obvious. Given the dire financial straits most Canadian universities find themselves in - will we ever see a widespread implementation of policies prohibiting acceptance of funding from tobacco companies?

- Action on Smoking & Health (ASH). [www.ash.ca](http://www.ash.ca)
- Health Canada, Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey Annual Results 2002.
- Ling, PM & Glantz SA (2002). Why and how the tobacco industry sells cigarettes to young adults: evidence from industry documents. *American Journal of Public Health*, 2002 Jun;92(6):908-16.
- Student Code of Conduct and Right to Appeal, Athabasca University

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# CANADIAN FED WATCH!

## NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

*By Karl Low*



### Institut Français? Excusez-moi?

The University of Regina is receiving over 20 million dollars in order to establish its new Institute francais, or basically, a French language section of the university. Of that funding 6.9 million comes from the federal government, and the remaining 13.8 million will be supplied by the Province of Saskatchewan.

While I do not question the value of helping people learn a second language, I always have to question the cost-effectiveness of spending federal money in creating a localized service when there's a readily available national service available that can accomplish the same thing. Yes, once again I am speaking of Athabasca University.

We have a French Program at Athabasca University that apparently works quite well. Language instruction is provided by various media, including oral exams done by telephone. Perhaps the Federal Government simply doesn't know about us? After all, spending 6.9 million in Saskatchewan will do much to benefit those people who happen to be in the area and able to go. But spending 6.9 million in Athabasca benefits anybody who can pick up a phone and in addition does not have the overhead of trying to start up a new program or institute.

Which seems to give national tax-payers more value for their dollar?

As we move into a new federal government, with a new federal cabinet, now strikes me as an excellent time to write your Prime Minister and your Member of Parliament and point out the benefits of Athabasca University being able to deliver a university education anywhere in Canada.

After all, a new government would certainly love to be able to say that they promoted national education in a real and tangible way, especially shortly before a national election.

### Money for Drop Outs

The Province of New Brunswick is providing \$150,000 to a program to help keep university students from dropping out. The funds are part of over \$618,000 that St. Thomas University has devoted to this project. Unfortunately, it seems the funds are geared toward providing academic advice and counselling, and thus not addressing one of the major reasons why students discontinue their studies – a simple lack of funds.

My other concern is that focussing too much on trying to keep students in university might ultimately cause the university itself to lower its standards or to funnel many students through an "easy" program route simply so that they manage to get their degrees.

University is hard, and some people simply are not made to have a university education (while being completely capable and successful in other areas). Sometimes it's better not to try to force a square peg through a round hole, no matter how many round pegs you want in the end.

## Casualties of War

When you sign up for an active military career in the Department of National Defence, you're signing up to put your life on the line. Four Canadians found out what this really means last week in Afghanistan. Only three lived through the lesson, and one civilian died as well.

I am never a big fan of military actions, but I recognize that sometimes they're necessary. I have more respect for the Canadian military's primary role as peace-keepers, rather than aggressors, than I do for the militaries of most other nations. Part of that respect comes from times like this, when our forces were hit by what appears to be a suicide bomber. My respect comes from knowing that, even after this, our men and women in Afghanistan can still be relied upon to treat the rest of the people over there with the respect that they deserve. My respect comes from knowing that these men and women are willing to risk their lives not just to defend Canada, but also to help give people of other nations the chance of knowing the peace and prosperity we live with every day.

So for those many students of AU who are serving in the military, my gratitude for your service. You represent us to the world, and you make us proud.

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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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## VOICE MERCHANDIZE - SHOW YOUR AU PRIDE!



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.

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 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.

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 February. Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for information on shipping costs and for ordering information.





# Primetime Update

Week of January 30

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

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

## Friends

"The one Where the Stripper Cries," will be on February 5th. (Before Survivor?)

*Friends airs on Thursdays at 9:00pm Alberta Time, on Global (channel 7 in Calgary)*

## Survivor - ALL STARS

Eighteen survivors, 3 teams of 6. The All Stars receive a top security escort to the island to ensure secrecy. The only information they have is the tribemates that surround them. They don't know who's on the other teams, or that a third team exists. Each team is given one machete and one pot/bucket for boiling water, as well as a map to the water hole, but nothing else. We'll look at the episode first on a team-by-team basis, then as a whole when they see each other for the first time.

### Mogo Mogo

This tribe consists of:

Colby Donaldson – 29 years old, 2nd place in Australian Outback

Jenna Morasca – 22 years old, SOLE SURVIVOR of Amazon

Lex Van Den Berghe – 40 years old, 3rd place in Africa

Kathy Vavrick-O'Brien – 50 years old, 3rd place in Marquesas

Richard Hatch – 42 years old, SOLE SURVIVOR of Pulau Tiga (big naked gay guy)

Shii Ann Huang – 30 years old, 10th place in Thailand

Right from the start, communication within Mogo Mogo goes well. As all the girls know, Colby is still the hottest survivor ever. However, within the tribe a line is quickly drawn between the guys and girls; with the exception of Richard, who lets everything slide off his back. Finally in an attempt to actually survive on the island, Lex reminds everyone that there'll be lots of time to strategize later, right now they need to work on the shelter and the fire. The highlight of the scenes from Mogo Mogo is Richard's initial dip in the water, BUCK NAKED. And speaking a little more on Richard, he announces that he thinks he could start the fire without even blinking. This allows him to come off as cocky and arrogant. Richard's plan is to put too much effort into doing nothing. It's no wonder everyone wants to dethrone the king.

### Saboga

This tribe consists of:

Ethan Zohn – 30 years old, SOLE SURVIVOR of Africa (soccer player)

Jenna Lewis – 26 years old, 8th place in Pulau Tiga (2nd Juror)

Jerri Manthey – 33 years old, 8th place in Australian Outback (2nd Juror)

Rudy Boesch – 76 years old, 3rd place in Pulau Tiga (retired navy man)



Rupert Boneham – 40 years old, 8th place in Pearl Islands (2nd Juror)

Tina Wesson – 42 years old, SOLE SURVIVOR of Australian Outback

Within Saboga, there is a three way split between the alliances. Tina and Ethan team up together (the two previous winners on the tribe), Jerri and Jenna (the two young girls), leaving Rudy and Rupert (my two favorites) to form a pact to depend on each other. Exciting events at Saboga's camp include only the finding of a banana tree and Rudy's attempt to drink the contaminated well water with his claim that "I drank dirtier stuff than that." Hey, the guy was in Vietnam...I believe him. Also, Jerri tells the camera that her new strategy is to "keep my damn mouth shut."

## **Chapera**

This tribe consists of:

Alicia Calaway - 35 years old, 9th place in Australian Outback (1st Juror)

Amber Brkich – 25 years old, 6th place in Australian Outback (4th Juror)

Rob Cesternino – 25 years old, 3rd place in Amazon

Rob Mariano – 28 years old, 10th place in Marquesas

Susan Hawk – 42 years old, 4th place in Pulau Tiga (Big Mouth)

Tom Buchanan – 48 years old, 4th place in Africa (Pig farmer)

Chapera immediately finds their water hole, but also can't drink because it's contaminated. If they had fire they could use their pot to boil the water...but... Intent on building a good shelter Rob M climbs up a palm tree to hack off palm boughs. Simple Tom's comment is that there are too many ideas between them. After spending his first night without any sleep, Rob worries about the comfort of the shelter and refuses to concentrate on the fire until he knows that he'll sleep well on the next night. Rob's perseverance, however, leads to a confrontation with Alicia (who is concerned about the 6 thirsty people) and sparks begin to fly. Rob goes on to form an alliance with Amber. The only reason he gives for this is because she's beautiful. And then there was Sue. Wonderful Sue, the truck driver from Season One goes ahead and drinks the well water before fire can be attained to boil it. And, the mouthy chick has the nerve to say "I was in Canada for a while, and I drank the water right out of the lakes." As if Canadian water could hurt someone. Rob, however, gets mad that Sue might check out and leave the tribe hanging.

## **The whole picture:**

So, to sum up, none of the teams can get fire and therefore none of the teams have water...

At the Challenge (face the man of flame) Chapera enters, and is first introduced to Mogo Mogo. But All Stars would be right with only 12 competitors, so Saboga enters. Colby's face drops right off when he sees Jerri (whom he detested). AND, everyone is happy to see Rupert. Now we know the game is on.

In that challenge, all tribe members start on floating platforms, dive underwater to unhook a raft with fire on it, make their way to shore with the raft, lighting two more fires on their way. On land, they light a third fire and then drag their raft under a bamboo tunnel. They must light the last fire and cross the line to win. Two teams win immunity (the idol has two pieces); the third team goes to tribal council.

Hatch gets naked. Who would've guessed it?

From the start Saboga is way behind, likely because Jenna sits on the raft instead of helping to push. Mogo Mogo is the first to shore, then Chapera. But Chapera pulls up to be the first to cross the finish line followed by Mogo Mogo. Saboga completes the challenge, but last. As a mini reward for finishing first, Chapera lights the man of fire.

However, as the challenge was for immunity, the teams still have no fire.

As Saboga will go to tribal council, the rest of the episode focuses on them. Jerri and Jenna try to talk Rupert into getting rid of the two previous winners (Tina and Ethan) and Jenna tells Ethan that she wants him gone because he's already won once. Tina and Ethan stick together and try to get Rupert to get rid of Jenna and Jerri by making promises on their previous displays of honor and respectability. The argument is that Jerri and Jenna don't play like Rupert does and therefore he cannot trust them. The votes are divided two to two, with the unknown votes of the Rupert/Rudy alliance used as a swing.

At Tribal Council it's pouring rain. Jenna and Jerri collect water in hands/buffs. The conversation sits on Jenna's comment that she would never vote for a previous winner to win the money. Therefore the winners are a target because people think it's payback time.

Ethan and Tina vote for Jenna to go, everyone else votes for Tina. Thus, Tina, the 42-year-old winner of Survivor: Australian Outback, goes home.

The tribe looks forward to using their torches to start a big fire and boil water, but they're informed that the tribe's torches will remain at tribal council until they've made fire on their own.

Next week: No food, No water, and tongues turn white. The challenges are so tough, even the best of the best are breaking down. Rupert says, "It's killing me to be here."

***Survivor will air on Thursdays at 9:00pm Alberta Time, on Global (channel 7 in Calgary) THE SEASON PREMIERE WILL BE ON SUNDAY, FEB. 1, 2004, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SUPERBOWL.***

## **The Bachelorette**

Last week we went ATV-ing, horseback riding, and spent a miraculous evening in a Beverly Hills' Mansion.

This week we suffer the results of a Compatibility Test, which decides which men will go on each of the three available dates. The first is a one on one. The most compatible guy for Meredith is Ian who joins Meredith in Chinatown, LA. They share a Parade and then a Rickshaw to the restaurant. Ian tells Meredith that he wouldn't propose at the end of the show because that's not who he is. She seems upset that he's not quite ready for marriage. Later, it is revealed that Ian's mom passed away when he was three. Meredith relives the sorrow of her grandmother's passing (from last season) and I am disgusted once again by the pity party. The couple snuggles and kisses on a street bench until it's time to part.

The second date is with two guys - Todd and Ryan M. The threesome rides the rail to animal kingdom (Santa Barbara Zoo). On the train there is odd talk about "If you were a food..." Meredith calls Ryan a turkey sandwiche and Todd calls Meredith a s'more (graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallow). Ryan M talks too much; just want him to shut up. He goes on and on about something called synergy... Maybe he has ADD... Grow up!

The trio shares dinner by the giraffes and Meredith asks about other guys in the house. They talk about Rick, or more specifically, Ryan M tells Meredith that Rick called the situation a game.

The third date (with the remaining 7 guys) involves playing some ice hockey then watching a live game. First though, whoever scores the most goals on a professional goalie gets one on one time with the Bachelorette. Lanny, who has never hit a puck before, wins the one on one time. But later, Matthew asks for some one on one time. It is granted and Meredith tells him she thinks he's great and they kiss.

At the rose ceremony Meredith expresses that it's a little early to be making her decision, however, Chris makes her go to the deliberation room anyway. She says that there are six guys she's sure about... but she's not sure about Lanny and Todd. As she is only supposed to keep 6 guys at this point, she requests a 7th rose. In the end, she keeps Ian, Sean (ugly guy in the brown suit), Chad, Ryan M (seriously, the mouth on this guy should be sealed forever), Brad, Matt, and Lanny.

The Same cheesy music plays as we say goodbye. But wait, Ryan R doesn't want to go. When he leaves he begins to swear, throws things, and gets mad at the cameras. This jerk physically pushes other guys away; Meredith rolls her eyes when he walks away. This guy is on a serious ego trip – grow up.

Next week: Kelly Jo (from last season) moves in and some of the guys don't like it. Then, there are 3 fantasy dates and only 4 guys left.

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

## **The Apprentice**

Last week, Trump threatened never to hire another man again. Sam was fired for being a little moron (and he looks like a weasel).

This week, we start with a celebration for Sam's dismissal, however Nick promises that he will gain Sam's vengeance. A phone call comes, and teams meet Trump at Time Square. The next challenge: Each team will manage Planet Hollywood for one shift; the women get the first evening, the men the second evening. The winning team goes to Trump National Golf Club.

On the guys' side, Kwame is team leader. Nick nominated him because 2 out of the last 3 team leaders have been fired. While the girls have their crack at the game, the Guys work out. They play some basketball, do some team bonding, and play Donald Trump, The Game.

On the girls' side, Katrina is project manager. Her first matter of business is becoming worried about liquor sales, which apparently, are a big part of restaurant business. Their major promotion is the "Planet Hollywood shooter girls." They'll "escort you to the top" (of the building). Their motto: Sex does sell.

As always, the night starts with a tiff between Jessie and Katrina over table placement. And then we find out that Heidi (who is really ugly by the way) is the all-star queen of selling shots. However, the REAL Manager at Planet Hollywood gets upset that the girls are drinking with the customers.

So, the next evening it's the guys' turn. They immediately offer sales incentive to staff (100 bucks an hour to the person who sells the most), which is well received by Trump's spies. But later, Troy tries to sell alcohol outside the restaurant and gets laughed off the street. Even more hilarious is the guy's ploy to get people buying merchandise. Buy a ball and get an autograph from Kwame Jackson. Nick and Bill are disgusted that Troy and Kwame are leading people (kids too) to believe that he's some really important person. People actually think Kwame is some kind of sports god.

On the inside of the restaurant Bill looked like the project manager, not Kwame. He got lots of neat projects going, like desert trays...etc.

The overall sales were as follows:

Men - \$14,069.00 – 6.8% increase from last years' sales

Women – \$16,537.00 – 31.3% increase from last years' sales

**MEN LOSE AGAIN!!**

But the women aren't off the hook. At golf; they get a warning from Trump that their reliance on sexuality is almost crossing the line.

In the boardroom, the team criticizes Nick for not remaining upbeat when he was upset about the misleading nature of Kwame's autograph session. Nick criticizes Kwame's and Troy's misleading tactics of selling balls and autographs.

Kwame holds Nick and Bowie partially responsible.

Trump's comments:

Kwame did a lousy job in leading; however he has a lot of potential.

Bowie failed miserably in merchandising.

Nick gave up on his team; Trump wants to see him lead next week.

Bowie is fired. Didn't present himself very well.

Next Week: After another humiliating week for the men, the teams are shuffled. Serious betrayal, and someone is fired.

*The Apprentice airs on Wednesday evenings at 9:00 pm Alberta Time*

*However, this week (Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>) it's on Thursday night.*

**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)!**

## 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.



## WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S *Film Review*

*By Laura Seymour*



There's something absolutely uproarious about comic farce done well...and that is the beauty of this 1989 film. As actor Terry Kiser (Bernie) joked in an interview that in his biggest acting success he winds up being a corpse. I'm afraid so. And what a hoot that corpse is.

Start with two dumb guys (Andrew McCarthy as Larry and Jonathon Silverman as Richard). They are working on a hot New York Sunday. They hate their jobs and don't see any way of getting out of the horrible hours they're putting in... they just want to be at the beach.

Suddenly Richard discovers someone has been bilking the company -- of two million dollars. Enter the living Terry Kiser as Bernie Lomax, the ultimate jerk boss. He's a cocaine user, a party freak and determined to have a life of fast cars, million-dollar houses and beautiful babes. When Richard and Larry go to Bernie and prove someone is defrauding the company he invites them to his house on Hampton Island for the weekend.

If you don't know it by now, Bernie is the one getting the extra money. Right away he pops over to his underworld connections and arranges to have them dealt with. Of course he doesn't know that the bad guys are planning to murder him instead of the kids from the office "because he's greedy and he's doing my woman."

When Bernie winds up dead in his house at the beach Larry and Richard figure he's super drunk. They try to wake him up and only realize he's dead after they've propped him up on the living room couch. Bernie looks incredibly casual with a half smirk, legs crossed and his arms flung along the couch back. So when the party starts and everyone's too busy to notice their host is dead, Richard and Larry decide to play along.

Richard is a hard sell but when the pretty little number from the office arrives (Edmonton, Alberta's Catherine Mary Stewart as Gwen) he agrees to put off calling the police to report the body until he's had a chance to chat with her. Since his chats are forever incredibly well timed with Bernie getting into trouble (Bernie's body washing up beside them on the beach is hilarious) it's getting harder and harder to phone the police—so Bernie has to stay "alive" a little longer.

Then they try to call the police and the multi-buttoned phone plays back the conversation Bernie mistakenly records of talking to the hit man and planning their deaths. They discover that they are going to be killed as Bernie's voice says "I just want to be in the city with an alibi." Now there's another reason for Bernie to be alive. It's the way to avoid being killed! Since they're the only ones that realize he's dead—it works so long as they drag Bernie along.

The poor "rusty" hit man winds up going slightly bananas when he keeps trying to leave the job behind him but instead keeps seeing Bernie "walking" around with the guys. The hit man forever has to come back to deal with Bernie but no matter how many times he "kills" him... Bernie is still there!



Drag in the party that never dies on the beach and the wonderful time playing in Bernie's boat and you get a load of laughs that just don't seem to quit! One of the funniest moments is Bernie being mistakenly bounced along behind the speedboat and repeatedly banging into the channel markers. SMACK—DING! SMACK—DING! SMACK—DING!

In between all this Richard decides to come clean to Gwen and reveal that Bernie is dead - or at least he tries. The big problem is that he's choked up every time he sees her and babbles out nonsense like, "uuhhhh ... my aunt is very sick." He even spins a tale about his parents being dead – but his parents are in the next room. So what do you think Gwen thinks when he finally announces that Bernie is dead?

Eventually the bad guys are stopped and Bernie is taken safely away to the morgue... eh... but the guy driving the morgue truck starts to blab to a cute gal and Bernie rolls down the beach to fall off the stretcher and land behind Larry, Richard and Gwen.

This film has so many fast-paced sight gags I'm almost choking on popcorn when I see them.

We'll just ignore the ease with which the corpse stays fresh in a boiling hot sun and how the guys get him to "walk" with just a tie of their shoelaces ... well, at least Larry swats flies off of the corpse for a touch of reality!

Eventually we'll just have to realize that before *Titanic* came on the scene, the sequel to this film was the biggest grossing film of all time. This original film is far and away better than its sequel. Be prepared to be silly and think silly—logic is the way to kill having a good time.

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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).*

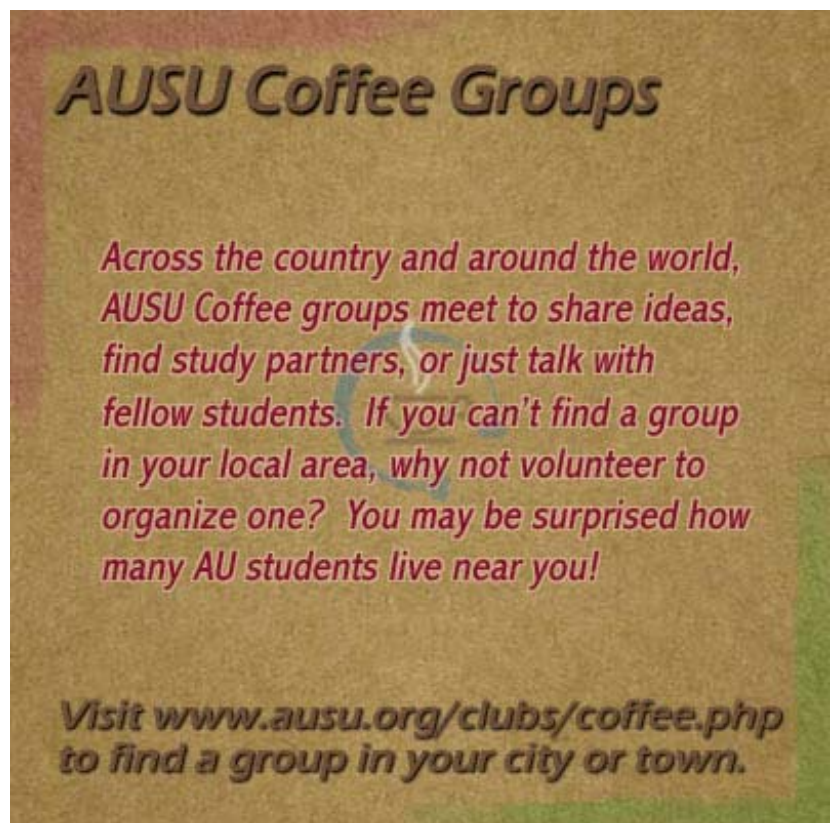
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**AUSU Coffee Groups**

*Across the country and around the world,  
AUSU Coffee groups meet to share ideas,  
find study partners, or just talk with  
fellow students. If you can't find a group  
in your local area, why not volunteer to  
organize one? You may be surprised how  
many AU students live near you!*

*Visit [www.ausu.org/clubs/coffee.php](http://www.ausu.org/clubs/coffee.php)  
to find a group in your city or town.*

## AUSU THIS MONTH



### *Students Support Program to Provide Access to AU Students with Disabilities* **January 29, 2004**



**AUSU VP External Shirley Barg presents ASD Coordinator Brenda Moore with the cheque.**

On behalf of Athabasca University students, the Students' Union today presented a cheque for \$2,000 to AU's Access to Students with Disabilities Program (ASD). The new annual donation from the Students' Union will provide assistive technology to AU students who require it to help them manage and complete their course work.

"By initiating this annual donation, we are demonstrating the commitment we share with the University to removal of barriers for students," said Debbie Jabbour, President of Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU). "The donation will help students in need receive special software, computer hardware, or other technology," said Jabbour.

According to Brenda Moore, Coordinator of the University's ASD Program, AU has a somewhat unique population of students with disabilities, many of whom enroll for the sole reason that AU's flexibility allows students to achieve their educational goals without the difficulties of attending on-campus classes.

"The AUSU donation represents students helping students," said Moore. "The ASD Program staff and the students we serve are very grateful for the donation."

Contact: Debbie Jabbour, President, AUSU - [djabbour@ausu.org](mailto:djabbour@ausu.org)  
Shirley Barg, Vice-President, AUSU - [sbarg@ausu.org](mailto:sbarg@ausu.org)

## **Athabasca University Students' Union Mentor Program**

The AUSU Mentor Program, developed by Students' Council in 2003 and launched in February 2004, fosters relationships between new Athabasca University students and more experienced students. The program encourages and develops one-on-one interactions between AU students, and helps new students learn how to enjoy and harness the diverse and challenging aspects of distance education.

Whether a new AU student is fresh out of high school or is a mature student looking to change or supplement a current career, the questions they have about adapting to education at a distance are similar.

With these concerns in mind, the AUSU Mentor Program was created to put students who are unfamiliar with distance education more at ease by letting them know what they can expect, and how to find the resources they need. Although the Mentor Program does not offer counselling services to AU students, it provides a way for longer-term students to share their experiences of successes they achieved and obstacles they faced. The

volunteer mentors are able to guide new students to appropriate University departments and people, and help new students navigate through to completion of their first distance education courses.

Becoming a volunteer mentor is easy. The only requirements are a willingness to help fellow AU students, and successful completion of at least three AU courses. Being a volunteer with the AUSU Mentor Program offers numerous benefits. It gives students an opportunity to take an active part in campus life and meet fellow students from varied backgrounds. The Program also gives mentor-to-mentor support so volunteers can learn from each other.

The AUSU Mentor Program was created with students' needs in mind. The contributions and input of experienced AU students are important to the success of this program.

To become a volunteer mentor or, for new students, to be partnered with a volunteer mentor, contact [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org).

Contact: Stacey Steele, Chair  
Mentor Program Committee  
[mentors@ausu.org](mailto:mentors@ausu.org).

## 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).

## CHAT WITH AUSU ONLINE

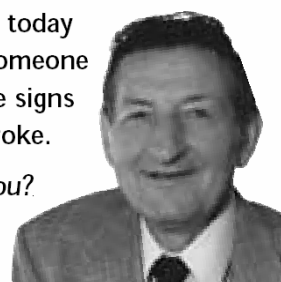
If you have a question for AUSU, or would like to get to know your council, drop by the chat-room [accessible through the 'Message Forums' option on the AUSU home page [www.ausu.org](http://www.ausu.org). You will need an AUSU web site account.] **Times are MST**

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.



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# 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)

## 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/>

## FREDERICTON, NB

### George Elliott Clarke Reads *George and Rue*

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>

### **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>

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

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# Scholarships and Awards

## Lucent Global Science Scholars Award

**Value:** \$5000

**Number:** One

**Deadline:** April 15, 2004

**Notes:** Winners will receive a \$5,000 US award, visit the world-renowned Bell Labs in New Jersey and sightsee in New York for a weekend. Students must be in first year undergraduate study in: computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering, or a specialized technical communications major.

For an application form and more details, visit [www.cbie.ca](http://www.cbie.ca) or contact Svetlana Pisarenko at (613) 237-4820, ext. 243, or [spisarenko@cbie.ca](mailto:spisarenko@cbie.ca).

## The Laurence Decore Award for Student Leadership

**Value:** \$500

**Number:** One

**Deadline:** March 1

**Conditions:** Nominees for the Laurence Decor Award for Student Leadership must be an Alberta resident currently enrolled in a minimum of 18 credits, a full-time student, for this academic year. Selection is based on the student's involvement in student government, student societies, clubs, or organizations. In addition, candidates may be involved in community, provincial, or national organizations. Members of the University community nominate candidates. The nomination deadline is March 1.

**Funding source:** Alberta College & Technical Institute Student Executive Council in honour of Laurence Decore, former Edmonton mayor and provincial political leader.

**Announcement date:** June

<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/registry/studawrd.htm#ld>

## Millennium Scholarships National In-Course Awards

**Value:** \$4000 to \$5000

**Number:** One

**Deadline:** June 1

**Conditions:** Applicants must be a Canadian Citizen or Landed Immigrant and enrolled in a recognized undergraduate program of at least two years duration leading to a first degree, diploma or certificate. Students must be enrolled full time with a minimum of an 80% (12 credits per four month term over two terms) course load. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.3 and have completed their first year of studies by May 31 of the application year.

Students cannot be in receipt of any other scholarships in total of more than \$3,500, based solely on merit, if applying after their first year, or; \$3,500, based solely on merit, after their second year with a total of no more than \$5,000 to date.

**Funding Source:** Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation

Applications and further information are available from: <http://www.awardforexcellence.ca/index.asp>

<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/registry/studawrd.htm#incourse>



## **ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON LEGISLATIVE DEMOCRACY COMMISSION ON LEGISLATIVE DEMOCRACY**

**Feb 5-6**

The Commission on Legislative Democracy will hold an Academic Conference on Legislative Democracy, Feb. 5 - 6. The conference will be held in partnership with the Centre for Canadian Studies and take place at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B.

Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Canada's Chief Electoral Officer, will be guest speaker, and the conference will attract leading political science academics from New Brunswick, Canada and the United States. Confirmed participants in the conference are Dr. André Blais, Université de Montréal; Dr. Joanna Everitt, University of New Brunswick-Saint-John; Dr. Alan Siaroff, University of Lethbridge; Dr. Munroe Eagles, University of Buffalo; Dr. Cheldy Belkhodja, Université de Moncton; Dr. Paul Howe, University of New Brunswick; and Dr. Bill Cross, Mount Allison University.

Topics of discussion will include: Types of electoral systems; Issues relating to group representation (such as women and minorities) and electoral boundaries in various electoral systems; Outcomes of electoral reform; The New Brunswick and Canadian experiences with direct democracy, and; Citizen engagement and participation in Canadian and New Brunswick democracy.

MEDIA CONTACT: Marie-Josée Groulx, director of consultations, Commission on Legislative Democracy, 506-457-6770 or 506-470-6522.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/ld/2004e0018ld.htm>

## **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: Each night 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)

## **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/>

## **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 Rizzanyi** - (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/>
- **AMTEC 2004** - May 25 - 28 - Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario - In Touch with Technology - Come and learn more about newest learning technologies and techniques. Meet leading developers and distributor of quality educational products. Details:  
<http://www.amtec.ca/site/conferences/conferences.shtml>.
- **InfraEDUCA 2004** - June 25 - 27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi - The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialised Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distant Learning Systems, International Universities and Programmes, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programmes etc. Details:  
<http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>.
- **N.A.Web 2004** - Oct. 16-19 - Fredericton, NB, Canada - The Tenth Annual International Web-Based Teaching and Learning Conference - Details: <http://naweb.unb.ca>

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

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## AUSU GROUPS AND CLUBS COMMITTEE

The AUSU Clubs Committee is looking for student members who can commit just a few hours a month to answer email, and be part of a group committed to fostering and promoting student clubs and coffee groups at AU. Anyone interested in finding out more about this committee can email the chair, Lonita Fraser, at [lfraser@ausu.org](mailto:lfraser@ausu.org).

## 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

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