

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

February 11, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 6



From Where I Sit...

*A new weekly reflections column from
Farmlife columnist Hazel Anaka*

CMNS 410 - Course Review

Such Things are Dreams Made On

Youthful dreams evolve, but never disappear

Plus:

*From my Perspective
Dear Heather
Canadian Fedwatch
Primetime Update
Flicks & Folios
and much more...*

THE VOICE

Feb 11, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 06

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

SUCH STUFF ARE DREAMS MADE ON

Bill Pollett

COURSE REVIEW: CMNS 410 - AUDIENCE EFFECTS RESEARCH

Katie Patrick

LUCK AND GOOD LEGS

Wayne E. Benedict

FMP: GIRL OR BOY?

Debbie Jabbour

COLUMNS

FROM WHERE I SIT

Hazel Anaka

SOUNDING OFF - Commercials we hate; toughest AU courses

PRIMETIME UPDATE

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

DEAR HEATHER

FLICKS & FOLIOS: Wolfen

Laura Seymour

TAKING NOTES: EYE ON EDUCATION

Debbie Jabbour

CANADIAN FEDWATCH!

Karl Low

AUSU THIS MONTH

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, and please indicate if we may publish your letter in the Voice.

THE VOICE

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2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street,
Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
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Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union
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THE VOICE ONLINE:
WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

The Voice is published every Wednesday in html and pdf format

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

To subscribe for weekly email reminders as each issue is posted, see the 'subscribe' link on *The Voice* front page
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Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its frequent contributions

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EDITORIAL PAGES

THIS WEEK

The Voice sends congratulations to AUSU President Debbie Jabbour on the birth of her first grandson 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 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 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.

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.



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact The Voice editor at voice@ausu.org for details on writing for The Voice. Provide a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.

STAND PROUD



From
Where
I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Okay, quick...who are your favorite Canadians? You decide the criteria: hero, role model, humanitarian, rich, successful, altruistic, brilliant, cute, famous, infamous, influential, living or dead.

The no-brainer choice for me is Terry Fox. Twenty-three years after his death I still cry when I see footage of his unique double step / hop as he ran his way into our hearts. It blows me away to think a 22 year old kid who could have withdrawn into his disease and misfortune instead became a national hero.

He was the youngest recipient of the country's top civilian order, the Companion of the Order of Canada. He's immortalized in the Sports Hall of Fame, Guinness Book of Records, and The Canadian Encyclopedia. He's had a mountain in British Columbia named for him. I visited his statue across the street from the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

His greatest legacy however is the continuation of the work he began in 1980---raising money for cancer research. His impact defies belief. In 2001, 242,000 people in over 50 countries took part in the annual Terry Fox Run. The money raised to date totals over \$300 million with no end in sight.

Canadians have excelled in virtually any field of endeavour you can imagine: arts, science, research, sports, entertainment. Some of those accomplishments are the stuff of history classes, others are happening as we speak. The relative worth of those achievements is of course a matter of opinion. At least one website I checked lists Pamela Anderson as the #1 Famous Canadian. Yikes.

Canadians have been stereotyped as respectful, apologetic, reticent, don't-blow-your-own-horn types. In some circles our proudest claim to fame is that we aren't Americans. That's not good enough. Isn't it about time we began defining ourselves in our own terms?

We've taken mocking our own to an art form. We don't recognize or reward homegrown talent and are baffled by the exodus south.

Caesars Palace in Las Vegas has taken a \$95 million US gamble on Celine Dion's star power and ability to fill a 4000 seat venue 200 days each year for 3 years. In Canada you're likely to hear cracks about how she can make your ears bleed. Which is the truth?

The list of expatriate Canadians is long and illustrious----from Bonanza's Lorne Green to hockey's Wayne Gretzky. Jim Carey, Tom Green, Dan Ackroyd, John Candy, Dave Thomas, Rick Moranis, Mike Myers are just some of Canada's comedy exports.

There's probably nothing we can do to repatriate the Michael J. Foxes or Shania Twains. Where we do have some influence is how we recognize and value those making contributions right here right now. It's easy to track celebrity careers. Much harder, the anonymous Canadians working in schools, hospitals, research facilities, business, commerce, farms, visual and literary arts who deserve our recognition. Our national inferiority complex is getting in the way of our true potential. And it's getting real old. It's time to stand proud, from where I sit.

** Reprinted with permission*

SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON

Bill Pollett



As I get older, there are certain illusions that are being gradually stripped away from me. I have lately come to realize, for instance, that I will likely never be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on the strength of a heavy write-in vote from my friends. Furthermore, I am now willing to admit to myself that I will not be able to retire at 45 (or even 75), do not bear an uncanny resemblance to Johnny Depp, and the long silences that follow my a capella performances of "No Woman No Cry" are *not* a sign that my audience has been held spellbound. As a friend of mine once said, the process of maturing is very often "being big enough to be small" - having the courage to accept and embrace the fact of one's own extraordinary version of ordinariness.

Having said this, though, I still have my "book of dreams". It's something I've been periodically revising since I was about eight years old. The physical format changes every couple of years or so, of course; it's currently one of those green Hilroy exercise books. The dreams change, too, thank God. I no longer want to be a wizard or a sumo wrestler, no longer hope to discover Atlantis. The basic idea, though, has remained pretty constant: a list of all the things I would like to achieve in my lifetime - a pure exercise of the ego.

There are usually forty or fifty different items listed. Some of the ones jotted in my current book are big dreams that will most likely never be realized: hiking through the Himalayas; running the Boston Marathon (I haven't even been jogging for two years!); travelling by Train across India. There are fewer and fewer of these that make it to the page. Most of them now, such as learning to tango, taking my family to Venice, mastering the art of the perfect omelette, are much smaller dreams.

Still, in all likelihood, most of these will ultimately fall by the wayside. Some will change, others be forgotten, many simply left too late - the nature of waking dreams. I hope, though, that I will always have this book in one form or another. I hope, also, that at least a few of my dreams will be of the big ticket, Technicolor variety. Hey, somebody's bound to find Atlantis one day. And it's better to run out of life before you run out of dreams than the other way around.

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

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

COURSE REVIEW

CMNS 410: Audience Effects Research

Katie Patrick



The title of one of Athabasca University's recently released courses has always intrigued me: "Audience Effects Research" (CMNS 410). Of what would such a course consist? What Centre offers it? It seemed to me that the best way to explore the above questions and determine the content of CMNS 410 was to write a course introduction about it—something which would doubtlessly satisfy all those other students who have been similarly intrigued by the unusual title!

A 3-credit course in the Social Sciences, Audience Effects Research (CMNS 410), is offered by Athabasca's Centre for State and Legal Studies (<http://salsa.athabascau.ca/>).

What is audience effects research? In short, it studies the effects of a certain practice (such as media violence) on a target audience or population (children, for example). In fact, this particular example is studied in Unit six of Audience Effects Research, where the potential effects on children due to exposure to media violence are presented.

The other six thought-provoking units of CMNS 410 will introduce you to the many different facets of effects research, such as the controversy between the two schools of research (pragmatic and positivist). In addition, you will have the chance to learn about the different types of effects research, like qualitative and quantitative, in use today. You will focus on the ethical side of effects research, and explore research bias in depth as well, using current issues to maximize understanding, and you will learn about the various types of audiences in Audience Effects Research, such as in organizations.

In addition to an exciting course content, Audience Effects Research (CMNS 410) also contains another "bonus" feature: while still being offered via Athabasca University's individualized study format, an online component has also been worked into the course content. This will enable you to participate in class discussions, forums, or chat rooms with other Athabasca CMNS 410 students, discussing intriguing course-related topics in detail. From my experience, an online component to a course always enriches your learning experience and lends a "hands on" flavour to your work!

The marking scheme is student-friendly as well. Your grades for CMNS 410 are derived in part from 9 assignments, 6 of which are short assignments and are worth 4% each (therefore counting collectively as 24% towards your final mark). The remaining 3 assignments, called "Unit Consultations", are more involved, as is reflected by their weight: 10% each.

The largest component of Audience Effects Research (CMNS 410) is a research proposal, which enables you to apply the principles taught in the course in a detailed manner. Worth 40% of your final mark, the research proposal also exercises the material detailed in CMNS 410's final unit (which deals with writing research proposals). The remaining 6% of your final mark for CMNS 410 is calculated due to your extent of participation in the online component of Audience Effects Research; online participation includes class discussions and forums. There are no examinations in CMNS 410.

CMNS 410 does not require specific prerequisites before you are able to enroll in it, but it is advisable to have taken CMNS 301 or CMNS 308 prior to taking Audience Effects Research, for a deeper learning experience. For more information, check out CMNS 410's syllabus at: www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/cmns/cmns410.htm



LUCK & GOOD LEGS

Wayne E. Benedict

I usually constrain my hunting and hiking activities to areas of wilderness with which I am very familiar. However, on a few occasions I've allowed my arm to be twisted by an appropriate hunting partner who convinced me to strike out into places unknown to either of us. One of the earliest of these ventures occurred in 1985 with Rick Mayhew. He'd recently acquired a used refuge for the back of his truck, which seemed a cross between a camper and a canopy, and he wanted to take a hunting trip to try it out. I agreed to accompany him and we set out for Cariboo country in British Columbia's central interior.

The first morning Rick was trying to light his propane cook-stove but the match kept blowing out. Something seemed odd about that to me and I exited the enclosure and stood at the back of the truck with my hand on the propane shut-off valve. A few matches and much cursing later, Rick finally got the propane to ignite. He exited the camper as if he'd been shot from a canon, a roiling ball of orange flame pursuing him out the door. I quickly closed the valve and the two of us laughed nervously after discovering that the only harm Rick had incurred was a severe singeing of his facial hair and afro-like mop. It turned out that the new camper had come with a stove but no propane tank. Rick had installed one but hadn't realized that a pressure-reducer was required between the tank and the stove. Instead of the 2 psi that should have been coming out of the stove, the propane was shooting out unregulated and that's what had kept blowing out the matches.

After a detour into Williams Lake to have the stove repaired, we were once again on the road. A couple of nights later we camped on a small snow-covered road 15 km from the nearest farmhouse. After breakfast we'd only been driving for a few minutes when the truck shifted in an odd lurching manner. Rick and I looked at each other with wide eyes just as the truck fell through ice that we'd not even known we were driving on. With that we were stuck and it was very unlikely that anyone would find us on that isolated road. It took me most of the day to walk through the snow in minus 10°C, procure assistance, and return to Rick and the truck. That was an interesting trip, but needless to say, we weren't successful hunters that time.

In 1991 I was living in the lower mainland when Rob Potter and I decided to go hunting in a different area of British Columbia where neither of us had been. We'd poured over the recreational atlas and planned our route to an area about 150km south of Tumbler Ridge. That time we were going to take my truck and camper and with the long walk from the earlier-described trip in mind, I was going to take no chances. I had a set of custom chains made for the truck and I had an 8000lbs Ramsey winch mounted to the front bumper which had previously extracted me from many tight spots.

After several days of driving, Rob and I found ourselves in an uninhabited area of the province. My truck was making tracks over the snow-covered road which had been undisturbed by previous vehicles. We went over washouts and even through a shallow river where a bridge had previously been, but I wasn't concerned about becoming stranded because we could

always rely on the winch to get us out of trouble. We camped in a spot 125km south of our last human contact. After a couple of fruitless days of hunting we left and fought our way back to civilization. The chains barely allowed us to get back out of the area without the use of the winch and we went on to Pink Mountain.

A few weeks after returning to Vancouver I discovered that my winch was completely inoperative. That realization sent chills up my spine because if the chains had failed us, Rob and I would have been stranded in the wilderness with winter closing in and virtually no chance of being found until spring (if then). It would have taken several days to hike out to get help and the temperature was about minus 20°C at the time. Luck saved me again that time, but even if it hadn't I'm confident that strong legs and resolve would have. Ever since that trip I have always pre-tested equipment before depending on it to any substantial degree.

Table of pictures

- 1 Rick's truck stuck in the Cariboo
- 2 Rick Mayhew on the Cariboo trip
- 3 Hunting Camp south of Tumbler Ridge
- 4 Wayne Benedict at Pink Mountain

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

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.

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 for information on shipping costs and for ordering information.



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Girl or Boy?

By Debbie Jabbour



As I await the imminent birth of my first grandchild, I find myself wondering whether it will be a boy or a girl. My daughter chose not to find out in advance at her ultrasound, preferring to wait. I'm not sure if I have a preference, although since I've only ever had daughters, I confess that I'm probably somewhat biased. Girls are what I know. I'm great at weaving long hair into french braids. I am skilled at creating beautiful dance costumes and in sewing flamenco skirts with miles of ruffles. I understand the dynamics of teenage angst from a female perspective.

Perhaps more importantly, I understand female emotional development, the way it feels to be women in a paternalistic society. Becoming empowered as a woman is a process I've personally experienced and I have had the privilege of encouraging my daughters to also reach for equality, to strive

to maximize their potential, to prove that women are strong and capable of accomplishing anything they choose - "I am woman, hear me roar."

In conversations with my daughter, she commented that having a son would give her an opportunity to raise him with a heightened awareness of all these things, to help mold him into a sensitive and aware young man who will have the utmost respect for the opposite sex and grow to play an important role in changing paternalistic societal norms. Idealistic, perhaps, but an admirable goal. And as a parent, we do hope that our children, regardless of their sex, will grow to become the very best people they can be.

Sadly, attitudes towards female babies are still very backwards in many areas of the world. This world is still very much a man's world. Women are disadvantaged, and the power structure continues to favour men. For this reason many expectant parents hope for a male child, knowing that he will have opportunities in life that continue to be denied female children.

A few months ago I read an article entitled, "India's Lost Little Girls" (*Edmonton Journal*, November 9, 2003). According to census figures, in certain parts of India ultrasound is being used to identify the sex of the unborn child and girl babies are being aborted. In an attempt to curb this practice, the government has made the use of ultrasound to determine sex illegal since 1996, but the 2001 census results have given authorities cause for alarm. That year showed a proportion of 1000 boys to 927 girls under age six, a decline from 962 girls 20 years earlier. In some areas the ration is as low as 754 girls to 1000 boys. According to the Journal article, this trend is caused by both cultural and economic forces. In a traditional south Asian family, the son lives with the parents, earns the income, inherits the property, then cares for his parents in their old age & lights their funeral pyre. Daughters, on the other hand, leave the family to live with her husband's parents, and not only are her parents forced to pay a dowry, they are often left financially destitute in the process - and without a child at home to care for them. Little wonder these parents prefer boys!

In this country we have less of a motive to prefer one sex over another and to terminate a pregnancy based on that criteria. But as technology allows greater control over reproductive technology, parents have gender-choosing options that can go right back to conception. It may sound like a futuristic science fiction movie, but "we have the technology". With legal definitions that do not recognize a fetus as a person when still a collection of cells in a petrie dish - people may not consider it a big deal to pick one set of cells over another at that stage. Many parents may have legitimate reasons for choosing a particular gender - for example, a genetic illness that follows through the line of one gender only

But like it or not, this world is still very much a man's world. Women are disadvantaged. The power structure is in favour of men. Although opportunities have certainly increased for women, they are still not on par with those of men. The *Edmonton Journal*, in a series celebrating 100 years of publication, cited statistics from 1903 which included the yearly wage for farm help (board included). Males earned \$255, while women earned \$150. One hundred years later, it's discouraging to note that the wage disparity really has not changed much. City of Edmonton statistics for 2001 cite yearly average wages for fulltime workers as \$50,158 for men; \$33,640 for women - a percentage differential almost identical to that of 1903.

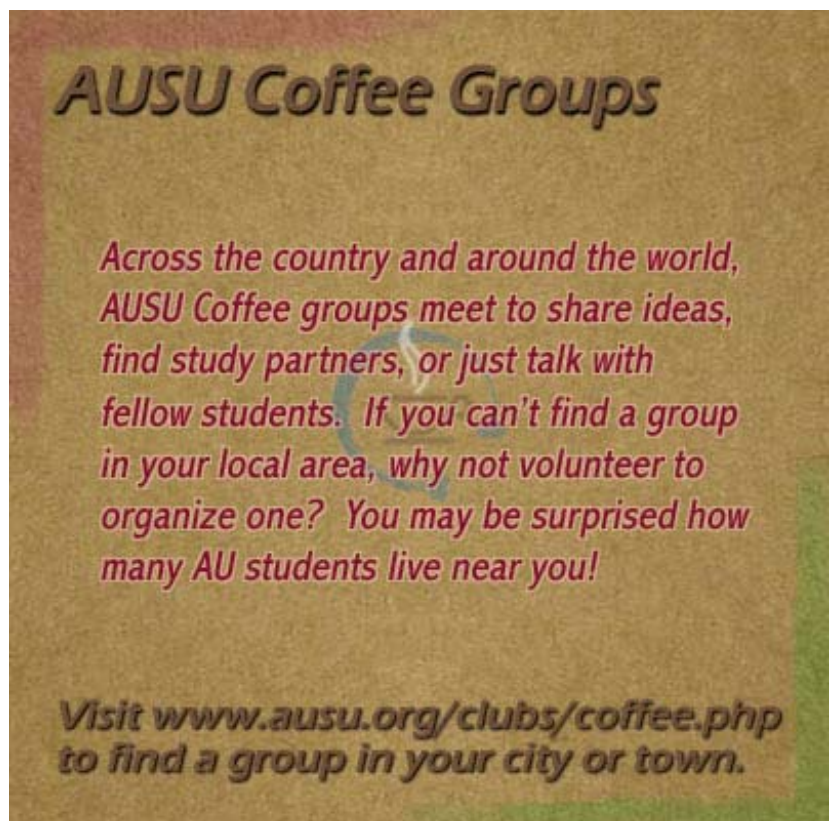
I could go on forever citing examples of gender disparity in our so-called enlightened western civilization - but it seems clear to me that in many respects, when it comes to gender equality, we are not as enlightened as we want to believe. Even in little things, the gender role is strongly entrenched in our society. This was brought home to me last week when shopping for baby clothes with my daughter. While my daughter is the most enlightened of parents-to-be when it comes to gender roles, she really struggled with the notion of buying pink for a boy or blue for a girl. I bought a checkered shirt, corduroy pants and a baseball cap - and we both agreed that it would be appropriate for either a boy or girl. Yet the sweet little purple outfit with an angel embroidered on the collar was something neither of us could bring ourselves to purchase - because it just didn't quite fit with what people would consider appropriate for a boy.

Even in what we consider appropriate activities for children, we are strongly gender-biased. At my daughter's ultrasound, she commented that the child was moving like either a dancer or a boxer - and I think its pretty apparent that if it is a boy, dance class won't be on the agenda. A girl will learn how to cook and sew - but a boy is less likely to do so - particularly if the father considers these things "unmanly". Girls are not restricted from learning things like auto mechanics or construction - but chances are that a son will be given these opportunities while a daughter is not. Girls still play with dolls, boys with trucks.

When it comes to the question of whether this baby is a boy or girl, I don't think it will matter to any of us either way. Certainly my daughter will do whatever she can to bring up a child who will challenge gender stereotypes - but I know it won't be easy. We are looking to change generations of gender role bias after all, and my daughter will not be the only person influencing this child's life. If it is a girl, we will do our best to ensure that she has every possible opportunity in life and will be able to choose any career or life path she wishes. If it is a boy, we will do our best to ensure that he learns that men and women are equal, and that women deserve to be treated with respect. I do know, though, that if it is a boy - he will have plenty of female guidance in his life - and that can only be a good thing!

Edmonton Journal, www.canada.com,
November 11, 2003. Celebrating 100 Years.
Edmonton Journal, www.canada.com,
November 9, 2003. India's Lost Little Girls.

Author's Note: As I completed this article just before midnight Saturday night, my daughter called to advise that her water had broken. Almost 33 hours later, at 8:30 AM February 9, my grandson was finally born.

A poster with a textured, brownish-green background. At the top, the title "AUSU Coffee Groups" is written in a large, bold, dark brown font. Below the title, a paragraph of text in a reddish-brown font reads: "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!". At the bottom, another line of text in a dark brown font says: "Visit www.ausu.org/clubs/coffee.php to find a group in your city or town." There is a faint, circular logo in the background of the poster.

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 to find a group in your city or town.



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

Dear Tamra,

I'm happy that you posed this question. The difficult courses for me have been the ones where exciting and fascinating topics are deflated into bottomless pits of excruciating boredom. Take ANTH 310 - Primate Behaviour. Overall, the course was alright and the assignments not too difficult. But the reading file was complicated and stuffed with scientific jargon. There were pages and pages of blathering mumbo-jumbo about optimal foraging theory. A National Geographic video would have been a nice alternative. The authors took a beautiful topic like bonobo behaviour and turned it into some wordy, mathematical monstrosity. This may be why Jane Goodall was famous as an expert well before she got her Ph.D. Her informative work has got clarity. But some folks take a hundred confusing words to say something that could be better said in half or less.

Sincerely
Nimra Ahmed
Alberta

I can't stand the public service spot where the father keels over and dies while "Moon River" plays in the background. As the poor guy is getting shocked, the pithy voice-over says "Avoid hurting the ones you love." So not only are you going to die someday (unavoidable), but you have to feel guilty about it, too. This commercial cheapens a great old song to boot.

On the other hand, some commercials are unintentionally funny. Who has seen the ad where dad (a large, average-looking middle aged guy) buys an air hockey game for his kids and wife (who looks like a fashion model). Who cast that one?

Calum Fletcher

Now it's your turn. Which AU course do you think is the toughest, and why? Also, tell us which course you wish AU would offer. As Voice editor, I think my response is obvious to the readers. We need a journalism course or two!

Write voice@ausu.org with your replies.





Dear Heather,

I am a 30-year-old woman and have recently begun dating a wonderful man. The problem is that I am infected with genital herpes (a lovely parting gift from a previous boyfriend). My infection is well-controlled but of course I need to tell this new man that I am infected. This is my first new relationship since becoming infected two years ago and I just don't know how to break the news. I'm tempted to tell him by e-mail but it doesn't seem appropriate. And should I do it now, before I get too attached to him, so I don't get heartbroken if he leaves me? I'd rather put it off and enjoy his company as long as I can, but I don't want him to think I'm misleading him either. He is a real treasure and I don't want to lose him.

Nervous in Newcastle

Dear Nervous,

This is a delicate matter, but I think your instincts are leading you in the right direction. There's no need to bring up your infection until either sex or a major commitment with this man seems imminent. First, you will save yourself the stress of the revelation in the event that the relationship never gets to that point. Second, once he has gotten to know you better and to really like you, it will be harder for him to just walk away over something like this. (I can see why you might think you should get this out of the way now, before you get too attached to him, but remember that he is also becoming attached to you!) I don't think he will see it as you misleading him, as long as you tell him before you make a commitment or have sex (or any sort of touching in an area of your body where you've had an outbreak) with him. It's a difficult issue, and if he's as wonderful as you say, I'm sure he'll understand why you didn't bring it up immediately.

This may surprise you, but I also think that telling him by e-mail is a good idea. Sure, it seems kind of chicken at first- and he'll probably see it that way unless you explain your reasons- but there are some big advantages to e-mail. You can take your time and word everything exactly the way you want, and you can also provide links to some good information on the Web. As for him, he'll have time to think about it and do some research before he responds (so you won't see his immediate knee-jerk reaction, which may not be pretty). Many people don't know that herpes can be managed and that with some simple precautions, the risk of transmission to a partner is low. Having that sort of information may make a big difference in what he decides to do.

Of course, there's no way to know how he'll react. However, it may not be as bad as you think. Most people have feelings of inadequacy that make them nervous (about relationships in general and sex in particular) with a new partner, so there's a chance this may even make him feel less self-conscious, since you're not 'perfect' either. You never know, he might even be infected with herpes himself (or have had a previous partner who was), since most sources say that about 25% of adult Canadians are infected with herpes. In that case, it will be no big deal- and he'll be glad it was you that brought it up!

Good luck,

Heather

E-mail your questions to Heather at 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.



WOLFEN Film Review

By Laura Seymour

Take a solid cast, add a solid script—drop in stark visuals and shake well. This is the formula for *Wolfen*—a creepy 1981 film that opens with a jogging former police detective (Albert Finney), who eats crappola food, "because it settles my stomach."

Finney's boss phones after a wealthy developer and his wife are both torn to shreds in a New York City park. The beginning, as they are attacked, is done extremely well with no dialogue and peculiar visuals. Like the film *Tremors*, the camera reflects the evil attacker by running low to the ground and adding infrared and heat sensor-like visuals. We need no explanation to understand the point...this isn't human.

The attacks are handled in a manner that leaves the gory details for our own imaginative minds. Translation: for all of you who like to see the gross details, find another movie!



After the attacks Albert Finney is back on a case, which is big news. The mayor is at the site with a few other big wigs and needs the details. The police boss, Tom Noonan puts Finney back on the job and never does that cliché yell and tell them to hurry up nonsense that so many film cops do.

Let's mention the great American hoofer, Gregory Hines as Whittington, doing an impressive job as the coroner in this story. He shines in a low-key performance...no dancing either. He helps to add in details of the attackers as we go and eventually joins Albert's character in the hunt for the beastly creature.

I need to mention, for all *Miami Vice* fans, the performance of an almost unrecognizable Edward James Olmos, as Eddie Holt. Edward plays a North American native who appears to know more about these creatures or creature than he's willing to share. Or does he? Anyone who loves male nudity—step up. Edward peels before the camera and we don't angle up to his chin! Ok, it IS dark but we can still see things. A necessary point is made by Edward's character that finally resolves the mystery and stops the attacks—for now. The smartest of the creatures went underground long ago...when white man came into their territory. They kill to protect their land and their own.

Suddenly Finney's character, Dewey, understands what the beasts are doing. Illogically, the creatures attack and find a way to get into a skyscraper ...and they don't use the elevator! Ok, I'll ignore that problem. The wolves arrive and snarl menacingly. A white one stands before them—the leader? It is with some black buddies. Apparently there is no racism in the wolf world. As the standoff begins Finney empties his gun of bullets and puts it down. He smashes the developer's scale model of the grand and glorious project set to rebuild the south Bronx area that the wolves "own." Apparently the wolves would rather not see pristine buildings on their land. The slums are just fine with them.

When the murders are tied together the movie makes sense. I just don't like the problem with some of the "how they do it" details.

Gerry Fisher's cinematography is so exceptional it must be mentioned. Also, I was absolutely blown away that *Communion* author Whitley Streiber penned this film. I imagine a lot of you may not know his "UFO kidnapping" book but it's amazing that he's done such a great job on this film... a tricky genre to write.

This film came out the same year as *The Howling* and another famous Werewolf-y type film—I forget the name now. This film set itself apart by being about wolves, and doing a really trippy job with the cinematography and stellar performances. Enjoy.

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).



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

Perception of Online Education

Debbie Jabbour

A common concern heard amongst Athabasca University students continues to be the notion that a degree earned at a distance is still perceived as holding less value than one obtained through traditional on-campus delivery.

A recent survey conducted by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation at the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in Massachusetts, entitled, "Sizing the Opportunity: The Quality and Extent of Online Education in the United States, 2002 and 2003" provided some reason for optimism. The use of the term "online education" in the survey referred to higher education courses delivered electronically in an "online" or "distance" approach, with at least "80 percent of the course content online" in some format or another. Questions were asked of chief academic officers at more than 3000 degree-granting institutions in the U.S.

The survey found that 90 percent of public institutions offered at least one online course, while private nonprofit and private for-profit were at 55 percent and 45 percent respectively. Viewpoints of online education were also more positive in the public sector, with 70 percent of public institutions stating that the "faculty accept and value the legitimacy of online education," something that was true of only 50 percent of private institutions surveyed.

A main focus of the survey was to judge the quality of online education compared to face-to-face education with regard to learning outcomes. In the public sector 75 percent of respondents stated that "online education was the same or superior to face-to-face education," while in private nonprofit the percentage was 40 percent and private for-profit 51 percent. Most respondents said they expected the quality of online education would see significant improvements over the next three years - an important element, considering that the overall growth rate of online learning is currently at almost 20 percent a year. Private for-profit institutions are starting to move into the online learning environment in a big way, predicting growth rates of more than 40 percent.

In a key point summary, it was noted that attitudes towards the quality of online courses are changing, and that the "majority of academic officers believe that learning outcomes in online courses will equal or exceed that of face-to-face courses within three years." (Eaton, 2003)

It is important to keep in mind that Athabasca University is not the same as most of these institutions, since they are primarily campus-based institutions that are moving into the online/distance delivery method, whereas Athabasca University has always specialized in distance learning. It is encouraging, however, to see that attitudes towards the validity of online education are changing among academic officers at these universities, since it will impact how other universities and prospective employers view the degree we earn at AU.

The Sloan Center at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, Needham, Mass. www.aln.org. Study: "Sizing the Opportunity: The Quality and Extent of Online Education in the United States, 2002 and 2003"
Eaton, J. (2003). How Grows Online Education? Survey of academic officers is cause for some optimism. In *Research (That Matters); Trusteeship*, Vol 11, No.6, Nov/Dec 2003, p. 34.

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Talking from the Throne

The Throne Speech was read last week, and Prime-Minister Paul Martin also gave the traditional Prime Minister's Response to the Speech.

I'll be clear here, I'm not a big Paul Martin supporter. I have not seen a lot from the man that really differentiates him from the very standard centrist politician, promising a little bit of everything to everyone and promising that nobody will get the short-end of the stick.

As we all know in reality, that just doesn't happen very often.

So I am not a big fan of Mr. Martin, and I tend to feel his life as corporate leader and Liberal heir apparent for so long has separated him from the majority of the people he represents. His former company, CSL, having been found to have received an amount from the government far in excess of what it was earlier reported to be (from approximately \$127,000 to \$161,000,000) plus his paper-thin defence against conflict of interest charges (passing the business on to his sons), has given me little confidence that there aren't future scandals in the making.

However, Mr. Martin's response to the throne speech at least touches all the right notes, and makes it hard to pick out exactly who the losers will be. He refers to a Canada that will not look to the bottom line at the expense of its citizens, and also to providing some increased support to unions. At the same time, he promises increased support for small businesses and to keep control of the tax burden people and companies have to pay.

He makes a nod to post-secondary education, although he still seems to be concentrating on the RESP program, which is a wonderful program if you're already in a sufficiently high income bracket to be able to save money – if you're not, however, having the government double a contribution of zero doesn't provide a lot of help. On the bright side, however, he also promises to adjust the student loan limits to take into account higher tuition fees across the nation, and to provide more grants to first year students which will hopefully provide more incentive for more people to truly get involved in a knowledge based economy.

Perhaps most impressive to me though is the announcement of a freer Parliament, where members are allowed to vote with the voices of their constituents more often than the voice of the party they belong to. True, when looking at some of the program details, there's still the "all-party" votes, but at least those are supposed to be referred back to committees between readings now, so that ministers and members have the opportunity to shape the bills.

It remains to be seen if the government can live up to its promises, but there's no harm in being an idealist.

Writing Back

To: The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Advanced Education, British Columbia

Dear Minister Bond;

I recently read your letter to the editor claiming that there have been studies showing that the majority of the benefits of a post-secondary education revert to the individual rather than to the public.

I was hoping you could provide me with information as to how I could find and obtain these studies, as I have concerns that they may be deeply flawed, and would not like to think that the Ministry of Advanced Education was proceeding on flawed information.

In particular, these studies are flawed if they fail to take into account the following public benefits that a post-secondary education provides to society at large:

1. Post-secondary graduates are less likely to use social services in general, particularly employment insurance, and are more likely to use less than those without a post-secondary education.

2. Post-secondary graduates are less likely to use health care services in general, and are more likely to use less than those without a post-secondary education.

(<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/020801/d020801a.htm>)

3. Post-secondary graduates are more likely to pay higher taxes as a result of earning more over the course of their lifetime.

4. Post-secondary graduates are more likely to donate both time and money than those without a post-secondary education. (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/71-542-XIE/71-542-XIE00001.pdf>)

5. Post-secondary graduates are more likely to start their own small businesses, and are more likely to have their small businesses succeed than those headed by people without a post-secondary education. This provides not only employment, but increased taxes both at the corporate and personal levels. In addition, a successful small business can be in operation for many years beyond the lifespan of the founder, thus extending the benefits provided. (<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/020129/d020129d.htm>)

6. Most importantly, children of post-secondary graduates are far more likely to become post-secondary graduates themselves, as Statistics Canada has shown that the most significant determinant of whether someone attains a post-secondary education is whether their parents have one. (<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/030704/d030704a.htm>). In addition, children of post-secondary graduates are more likely to graduate without debt than their counterparts from families without a post-secondary education. This means that the benefits of a post-secondary education are in many ways self-sustaining. If the public funds one person's education, that is a one-time cost compared to a high chance of the province receiving the benefits of that in perpetuity.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Karl Low

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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Primetime Update

Week of February 6

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

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

Friends

Friends: "The one Where the Stripper Cries," (Thursday, February 05, 2004, 7:45pm)

Before we watched a few weeks of reruns, Monica and Chandler bought a house outside of the city and broke the news to the rest of the crew, who weren't happy in the least.

This week, it's not exactly what the title alludes to... We end up seeing Danny DeVito as a male stripper at Phoebe's bachelorette party. The setup is quite elegant: tables, tablecloths, tea, and candlesticks set up in Monica's apartment. Phoebe gets upset that it's too prim and proper; she wants to see pee-pees. Monica and Rachel send for a stripper who shows up dressed as a police officer (DeVito). Phoebe rolls her eyes. It's more funny than sexy, even after Phoebe cringes and he goes to leave, but demands three hundred dollars. When Phoebe refuses the money and insults him, he starts to cry. Phoebe says that instead of stripping himself, he could save face by teaching strippers. Phoebe tells him to give them his last dance. The women really enjoy themselves. He runs out of breath and has to stop...and Rachel and Phoebe take him to the hospital...

On the guys' side of things, Ross and Chandler recall their college days at an alumni thing. Ross remembers everything about all the people he went to school with. Chandler only remembers a woman named Missy. The show then cuts to a flashback of Ross and Chandler in college. Both have wacky hair, and Ross looks like a big dork with a moustache. They swoon over the younger version of Missy. In the flashback they make a pact that neither of them will go out with Missy. However, back at the alumni party, Chandler gives Ross permission to break the pact. When Missy agrees to go out with Ross, he tells her about the pact, to which she reveals that she and Chandler used to make out in the science lab. Ross gets mad at Chandler, who turns around and accuses him of doing stuff with another girls they'd had a pact about. We see another flashback, this time with Monica (fat) and Rachel (too much attitude). The point of the flashback however, is Chandler walking up on Ross making out with the aforementioned woman. Chandler then goes on the reveal that in retaliation for what he'd seen Ross do, he made out with Rachel (flashback for this and everything). When they get home they tell Monica, and then Ross reveals that the same night Chandler kissed Rachel, was the first time Ross kissed Rachel (in the dark after she passed out). But Monica reveals that it was actually herself... and they freak out entirely.

Joey guest stars on a game show called "Pyramid." (A show Monica and Ross loved in their earlier days). Joey keeps saying the words that he's trying to get the other contestant to guess. Even when it comes to food, Joey can't guess the right answer. His partner gets mad at him for losing the 10 grand. Joey switches partners, and still loses, but his former partner gets another chance to win; however he must pair off with Joey again. Out of luck, or by complete fluke, he goes on a roll and the contestant wins the money.

Next week: Phoebe gets married to Mike, and Joey (as with Monica and Chandler's wedding) officiates.

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

Survivor - ALL STARS

Last week we watched all three tribes struggle trying to make fire, which none achieved. They weren't given fire at the challenge or tribal council either. At tribal council, Saboga said goodbye to Tina Wesson, who had previously won Survivor: Australian Outback.

This week we see first off that Saboga's morale is really down after losing one member. None of the tribes have yet to make fire, and thus don't have clean drinking water. Wonderful war veteran Rudy tells us he drank water that dead bodies rested in, and he drinks the contaminated well water anyway. Chapera, still without fire and water, celebrates the rainwater. At Mogo Mogo, it takes a while for the tribe members to realize that fresh water is falling from the sky. Richard is still walking around naked, and the rest of the tribe is coming to grips with it, accepting it as what Richard does.

This week each tribe gets a crate with their tree mail. The crate is locked with three locks. All outcasts are excited about having something to eventually open, and Boston Rob suggests smashing the box open.

In the first reward challenge, teams must swim out and unclip logs from under the water, in order to build a staircase. There are 5 steps, and after retrieving each log, one member must drop out (only one castaway will swim all five legs). First to the top wins the reward (blankets). Ethan kicks butt, and wins the reward for Saboga. Jeff offers Saboga a pot with a map to the first key for the mystery box, as well as a flint, to be given to all three tribes, in exchange for their blankets. They accept and all castaways celebrate.

Members of Chapera and Mogo Mogo are surprised to see that Tina is gone, and Richard realizes that as a previous winner he has a big target on his chest.

On Chapera conflict obviously exists between Boston Rob and Alicia who both talk too much, however, they still manage to get their fire started. On Saboga, regardless of the flint they received, have trouble starting their fire. Ethan refers to Jenna as cocky after she says they might keep him around a little longer... It ends up taking five of them, but Saboga gets their fire going. On Mogo Mogo, they struggle big time to gain a spark, and when the rain threatens to disrupt their efforts, Kathy insists that they keep trying. The girls then complain all night about whose fault it is that they don't have fire yet.

Mogo Mogo goes in search, and finds, the first key to the mystery box. Richard plays down all the extra stuff, and says that the real game is between the people. Saboga worries about Rudy, who has a sore foot, which inhibits his walking.

Immunity Challenge: Each tribe starts on a floating platform, five members dive under the water to unload heavy crates from a sunken boat. Once all of the crates are unloaded, the boat will float to the surface. Teams must flip the boat and bail out the water, then hop in and race their boats to shore. First two teams to the shore win immunity.

The highlights are Jenna Lewis coughing and sputtering trying to stay afloat and Richard's naked ass right in front of the camera. Saboga is the first to start bailing their boat, followed by Chapera, and Mogo Mogo. Chapera is the first to flip their boat and head for shore, followed by Mogo Mogo. Saboga, again, is the last tribe to finish their immunity challenge; they actually manage to re-sink their boat on the way to shore.

Back at Saboga's camp, the tribe recounts the mistakes they made at the challenge. Everyone blames himself or herself, and Rupert and Jenna blame Ethan. Ethan is scared for his "life." However, if the tribe expects to win any more challenges, they should send Rudy home. Rupert gets really upset that they would even think about sending Rudy home and refuses to vote for Rudy. Ethan tries to spear fish, and fails, Rupert goes out, and brings back some food.

At tribal council, the tribe talks about the improvement the fire has made in their camp. Ethan admits that they made a mistake trying to bail the boat instead of pulling it up out of the water. Ethan votes for Rudy, Rupert votes for Ethan and in the end with a vote of 3 to 2 it's Rudy. My heart broke as we walked away, and Jerri, the stupid witch who should've been walking, pretends to cry. Cow. Honorable words are said for him, and the tribe takes their torches back to camp.

NEXT WEEK: Rupert and Jerri go head to head and Richard faces off with a shark.

Statistics

CHAPERA

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 (Boston Rob)

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

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

SABOGA

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) - **GONE**

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

*Tina Wesson – 42 years old, SOLE SURVIVOR of Australian Outback - **GONE 1st***

MOGO MOGO

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

Next week:

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

The Bachelorette

Last week, for the first time ever, the Bachelorette requested an additional rose. This week, getting right into the action, Meredith's friends Kelly Jo (from last season's Bachelor) and TJ go to the bachelor pad to hang out with the guys and to decide which three of the seven guys will receive a one on one date with Meredith. The remaining 4 guys would go on one group date.

The guys are asked to write a letter explaining why they're the one for Meredith. Afterwards, they'll have to read this letter aloud to Meredith's friends. When the guys were reading the letters, Kelly Jo looked like she was getting the tingling feeling.

KJ and TJ's choices will be revealed through video invitations.

Chad gets the first date. Meredith picks him up in a Mazurati (fabulous sports car), and they go down to the beach for some dinner. They share a gondola ride, with wine and everything. For those of you who don't know the Italian tradition on a gondola ride is that the couple must kiss under every bridge. After the gondola ride, they have dinner on a floating pod. It is Chad's first time eating sushi, which would personally make me BARF! Meredith spends the whole night laughing as they share lots of talking and kissing. They seem very comfortable together.

The 2nd date goes to Matt who "takes their relationship to new heights." Literally, they share a biplane ride over the coast. Later they walk through a vineyard and Matt talks about his parents' failed marriage, and his hope to find someone who is really right. Matt seems to be a completely honest and open guy. The couple goes off camera and Meredith looks sexually suspicious. They share a romantic dinner at the winery with candles and everything. They sit by the fire and talk, and of course they kiss. She admits she was desperate to kiss him. Holy cow do the sparks fly.

The 3rd date is the group date with Ian, Ryan M, Brad, & Sean. The group gets into the swing of things with a little golf. However, before even leaving the house Ryan M becomes upset that Meredith's friends put him at the back of the pack. He confronts KJ about Meredith's interest in him. KJ tells him he's better as a friend. He's so pathetic, arrogant, and overconfident that he can't even look at her when she's talking; instead he looks at the roof. This guy is a complete jackass.

On the golf date, I find that Meredith looks like Julia Stiles in "Save the Last Dance." On the bus ride to the golf course, Ryan M interrogates Meredith about her feelings. The selfish prick feels like she snubbed him. When she says she didn't, he basically calls her a liar. I find it kind of funny that the camera doesn't show any more shots of Ryan M; it's almost like he's not even there anymore. Ian is kind of put off by the other guys' relationships with Meredith and we find that Sean's feeling get deeper for her. Later, Meredith pulls Brad aside; and his sun visor is upside down. We find Meredith and Brad are really similar, however, they don't kiss well mostly because he kisses like a blowfish (tries to swallow her whole).

After a while, Meredith takes a break with Ian. They curl up with a blanket on a hammock and Meredith admits she has a magnetic connection with Ian, but she wants Ian to be more open with her.

The final date is another one on one, with Lanny. They will share dinner for two at Meredith's place and he has to cook. Although quite nervous, Lanny makes shrimp cocktails, salad, and then halibut. Meredith gets a kick out of how cute he was, trying to make everything perfect. We get the impression that he will put all his effort into anything that has to do with her. They share Chocolate kisses (the chocolate candy) for dessert. Wow, who knew? They spend the evening snuggling on the couch talking about everything from intimacy to dogs. Despite her fear, Lanny makes Meredith feel like she wants to ride a horse. The couple shares almost too much passion; it even brought a tear to my eye. I've never seen two people so absolutely made for each other. They bring out the positive but hidden traits in one another. He leaves her still smiling as he walks away.

The scoreboard:

Ian hasn't opened up as much as the other guys. 4 points

Ryan M still blames TJ and KJ. Jackass. No points

Sean is at a disadvantage because there was no one-on-one time. 2 points

Matt is totally hot, he looks like a thinner blonde Bob. 6 points

Chad just looks too grown up, but Meredith is attracted to that...she's what, 31? 5 points.

Brad is quite a wild guy, but that's about all we know about him. 1 point

Lanny is my favorite, if he doesn't get a rose, then I quit. Just kidding, I'd be heartbroken for the guy big time. 6 points.

So, at the rose ceremony guess who gets the boot? I'm thankful to say goodbye to Ryan M (who cries), as well as Sean and Brad.

Next week: Hometown dates with Matt, Lanny, Chad, and Ian.

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

The Apprentice

Last week, after an evening of managing Time Square's Planet Hollywood, the guys lost their 4th challenge in a row, and Bowie was fired. Although the woman won, they were reprimanded for relying on their sexuality to win.

This week we start with a corporate reshuffle with Nick and Kristi picking teams (each start with the opposite sex.) We end up with Nick, Amy, Bill, Katrina, Erika, and Tammy comprising the new Versacorp and Kristi, Troy, Jessie, Kwame, Heidi, Omarosa comprising the new Protégé Corporation.

New Challenge: With a budget of \$1000.00, they can buy whatever they want to take to a flea market for resale. The team that makes the most profit at the end wins.

Versacorp plans to sell women's clothing and jewelry, and T-shirts. Nick refers to the women for most of the project management decisions, a weakness that is criticized openly by Tammy. Nick and Katrina look for product in a dumpster and they find a useful clothing rack. They end up buying massive amounts of plain white T-shirts and decorating them. The team sets up their merchandise outside in the rain and quickly loses motivation and confidence. They make decision to try to get rid of everything, without worrying about making a huge profit. Nick and Katrina talk about the success of their setup. At the end of the day, Versacorp has no product left.

Protégé initially considers selling dirt (which they can get for free) with seeds in it. However as the idea is brainstormed, Kristi gets frustrated with Troy and Kwame's intelligence level. The decision isn't made until they scout out what sells at the flea market and even then the girls worry that there isn't the clientele at the flea market to make good sales. The team splits in half to go out in search of a good product. Kristi finally makes the decision to sell small Chinese umbrellas and other Asian trinkets. Protégé reserved an indoor booth and seemed successful in their profit making. Other team members criticize Kristi for her lack of motivation skills as a leader.

Heidi and Omarosa push to move their products outside where there is lots of traffic. The push is successful and the team starts making money. However, at the end of the day when they count their money, they're missing almost 200 dollars. Omarosa is in charge of the finances, so she can be deemed responsible for the error, but it's likely that someone else has the money.

In the boardroom we find out that Versacorp finished with a profit of over \$600.00. Protégé resulted in a NET LOSS of seventy some dollars.

As a reward for winning Nick's team (Versacorp) gets to go meet George Steinbrenner (the owner of the Yankees) at Yankee stadium. Trump compliments Nick on winning. We see an affectionate hello between Trump and Steinbrenner. The team spends time chatting and taking a peek at Yankee stadium from the owner's box. All are in awe.

Meanwhile, back at Trump Towers, Kristi blames herself and becomes very emotional because she led her team to a loss. Switching from Kristi's pitiful note to a more obnoxious note, Heidi (who looks and acts like a butch hooker) mouths off about the possibility of she and Omarosa being held partially responsible for the team's loss.

Omarosa and Heidi then discuss Kristi's emotional weaknesses as well as her lack of talent as a manager. Kristi and Jessie go for a walk and talk about how Kristi can defend herself and not get fired. Jessie warns her not to let things get to her and not to speak unless spoken to, knowing full well that Heidi and Omarosa will be harsh to deal with.

Later in the boardroom: Kristi admits that she made mistakes but that she learned a lot from them. Omarosa blames Kristi for losing the money and thinks that she could have done a better job. The whole team voices the opinion that Kristi screwed up in the management position. In the end, Kristi as the project manager, Omarosa as the finance manager, and Heidi as a scapegoat are each held partially responsible.

Assistants advise Trump that Kristi is a good worker, not a leader. Trump thinks Kristi still has a lot of potential, Heidi is overly aggressive, and Omarosa is most likely responsible for the lost money. However, Omarosa and Heidi both fought for their lives, and Kristi didn't, and because of this Kristi is fired.

Next week: The group is surprised that Omarosa returns from the boardroom. But Omarosa turns around to lead the next task, which involves a charity auction. The teams must convince five celebrities to spend a whole whack of cash. AND FINALLY, there is romance in the house. The clip shows Nick, Kwame, Katrina, and Amy but which two really spark a love interest?

The Apprentice airs on Wednesday evenings at 9:00 pm (I think) Alberta Time

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



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AUSU THIS MONTH

AU SPORTS CLUB, NOW ONLINE!



The AU Sports Club (AUSC) is now online and accepting new members. If you are a fan of sports or athletics, and would like to keep up to date on happenings in the world of sports, or just have an opportunity to speak with other sports fans, then this club is for you. Visit <http://www.ausu.org/clubs.ausc> to visit the AUSC website, or write Shannon Maguire at ausc@ausu.org.

Students Support Program to Provide Access to AU Students with Disabilities



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
Shirley Barg, Vice-President, AUSU - 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.

Contact: Stacey Steele, Chair
Mentor Program Committee
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 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.

CHAT WITH AUSU ONLINE

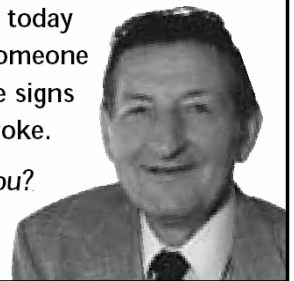
If you have a question for AUSU, or would like to get to know your council, drop by the chat-room [accessible through the 'Message Forums' option on the AUSU home page www.ausu.org. You will need an AUSU web site account.] **Times are MST**

Mondays at 8:00 PM Councillor Karl Low

Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor

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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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(1-888-473-4636)
www.heartandstroke.ca



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Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

To list events in your area, e-mail voice@ausu.org with the word "events" in the subject line.

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

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/>

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 with "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 or contact Svetlana Pisarenko at (613) 237-4820, ext. 243, or 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 Heritage Scholarship Fund 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>



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

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 include...

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)

... and many more.

"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 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*

- **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 with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

classifieds

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AU SPORTS CLUB, NOW ONLINE!

The AU Student Sports Club is now online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausc>. If you are an AU student who is interested in sports, or in getting to know others who are, check out our new site and fill out a membership form if you like that you see. It's free to join!

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.

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

THE VOICE

c/o Athabasca University Students' Union
2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
800.788.9041 ext. 3413

Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union
Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low
News Contributor Lonita Fraser

THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

The Voice is published every Wednesday in html and pdf format

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

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