

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

February 18, 2004  
Volume 12 Issue 7



## *The Trust of Acrobats*

*Can we learn to trust again?*

## *The Psychological Battle Against Fat*

## *Of Money, Scandal, and Shadowy Conspiracies*

*Cloak and dagger in the Capital*

*Plus:*

*From Where I Sit*

*From my Perspective*

*Dear Heather*

*Canadian Fedwatch*

*Primetime Update*

*Flicks & Folios*

*and much more...*

# THE VOICE

Feb 18, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 07

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

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## THE VOICE

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

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*The Voice* is published every Wednesday in html and pdf format

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# EDITORIAL PAGES

## THIS WEEK

### AUSU ELECTION COVERAGE

**Starting next week, watch for Voice interviews with the candidates for the next AUSU council. Get to know the people who want to represent you!**

### 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?



## WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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

# THE TRUST OF ACROBATS

Bill Pollett



It's a classic drizzly Sunday afternoon in Vancouver and my six-year-old daughter and I are at Second Beach in Stanley Park. I'm down on the beach picking my way across slippery rocks, thinking about home insurance and tax returns and whether I've put enough money into the parking meter. Jessie is walking on the precipice of the sea wall, which is decorated with blue-black mussels and, at this point of the beach, towers about five feet above my head. Suddenly, without warning, she yells "Hey, Dad - catch me!", and in the same instant launches herself toward me. Without thinking, I raise my arms and grab her in mid-flight, directly above my head, my hands about her waist. I step backward to absorb the energy of the flight and lower

her gently to the edge of a tide pool. She's laughing so hard - with the exhilaration of the leap and the look of stunned surprise on my face - that she can barely catch her breath. For a moment I'm angry - I want to warn, to scold, to discipline. *This is not funny. What if I hadn't reacted in time? What if you had gone sailing over my head and landed on barnacled rocks?* I want to catalogue the dangers: broken bones, torn skin, dislocated limbs, fractured skull.

Something stops me, though. Perhaps it's the fact that this spontaneous act of recklessness is so atypical of her behaviour. It is true that she has never been afraid to climb trees or balance on logs, has never been daunted by bicycles or scooters. But always she has approached these things with a degree of measured care. She has watched others go first, has asked questions, has estimated distances and generally demonstrated an awareness of her own physical limitations that has seemed to me to display a wisdom at least a little beyond her years. Perhaps, also, my reluctance to dish out another standard parental lecture is due to the fact that it feels so wrong to extinguish a moment of such pure joy. I'm just not sure that any of us enjoy quite enough of them in any one day. But mostly I think what caused me to keep my great trap shut had something to do with trust.

It seems to me that for quite some time the concept of trust has fallen into the same general compartment as superstition - an ignorant and unrealistic way of seeing the world. As the routine horror of newspaper reports and TV coverage continually remind us, danger is everywhere. "Make sure you meet him in a crowded place" we tell our single friends. "Don't give out your number". There are terrorists and tricksters. There are deadly predators driving taxicabs and ice cream vans. Naturally we shake our heads in astonished dismay that, in this day and age ("in this *day* and *age*, mind you Martha!"), it is still possible for poor guileless souls to be preyed upon by the unscrupulous and the evil, to be lured into dodgy investment opportunities and darkened alleyways, to be talked out of their savings, their houses, their very lives. The park is not safe after dark. Hitchhiking should be illegal. Have you seen the youth gangs at the Skytrain station? It is, of course, the purest lunacy to allow one's children to share a smile or a passing remark with an old man weeding his flower bed. As every six year-old in a darkened bedroom at one time suspects, there are goblins in the wainscoting and trolls in the attic.

Nor is our suspicion restricted just to the potential (probable?) unkindness of strangers. Who among us, after mad cow and Walkerton and West Nile, does not fearfully poke their sausages around their plate or suspiciously sniff their glass of drinking water or steer clear of the mosquito-infested woods. We are anxious and, many would say, rightly so. No one can deny that the universe fairly bristles with random calamities. One would have to be blind to not see the planes falling from the sky or deaf to ignore the howling of the dogs in the woods beyond the perimeters of our gated communities.

Like most parents, there is a big part of me that wants to keep my daughter safe from all harm, that wants to wrap her up in the jeweller's cotton of caution and watchfulness. There is, we are told, a heavy price to be paid for not being vigilant.

Every once in a while, though, we see things differently. Hope triumphs over our own, or the world's, experience. Perhaps it's a moment when buy a motorcycle and air it out on the highway, feeling the slow tug of the curves. Perhaps it's leaping out of an airplane or falling in love again or going back to school in middle age. Perhaps, at these moments, we are most like acrobats defying gravity, or flying six-years-olds, filled with wonder and trust.



Losing weight can be one of the hardest tasks a person must face. We could theorize that one of the reasons why people find it so hard to lose weight is because they are looking at the task from a completely physical point of view. This point of view would have us believing that weight loss is a simple matter of exercising more and changing our eating habits. Of course, this is true for some people, but not all. Some people may experience difficulty losing weight because of underlying psychological problems and/or irrational thinking. In these cases successful weight loss will likely only occur by dealing with both the physical and psychological problems.

Sometimes obesity and/or overeating are not the primary problems affecting a person's well being, but are instead side effects of other underlying problems. According to the National Eating Disorder Information Centre many people who have eating problems also often have other problems such as alcohol/drug problems, depression, history of sexual abuse/abuse, and chronic anxiety or obsessive compulsive disorder.

Depression can lead to overeating and it can also make it difficult to implement and follow a weight loss plan. Sexual abuse/abuse may cause people to experience negative feelings such as "self-hate, fear, loss of control, shame and flashbacks," which may lead to eating problems (National Eating Disorder Information Centre). Many abuse victims may also experience depression, which again may lead to eating problems. Others may use obesity as a defense mechanism hoping that if they are obese others will not find them physically attractive. The causes and effects of psychological problems such as these can be numerous and complex. When we are faced with such complex problems it is unlikely that we will be able to successfully lose weight and maintain a healthy weight without addressing these underlying issues.

Fortunately, these problems can be solved and the people who experience them can learn to live a better life. When facing problems of this magnitude, it is advisable to seek the help of a trained professional such as a psychologist who can put you on the right track and help you find the best resources to deal with your problems (National Eating Disorder Information Centre, Estronaut).

There are other psychological factors that may influence our ability to lose weight that do not necessarily require the assistance of a professional to deal with. Some of these factors are irrational thoughts that enter our minds when we attempt to lose weight. *Psychology Today* identified 7 irrational thoughts we often have that cause us to experience difficulty losing weight. The factors are:

1. Irrational obsession with becoming thin. If our thoughts are focused only on the need to become thin we may become desperate and our long term health goals may fail.
2. Irrational desire to eat until full. Food has become readily available and more accessible than it was in our past, which has led to many people believing that they must stuff themselves to the point where they cannot eat anymore.
3. Irrational desire for immediate results. Many people get caught up in the appeal of short term satisfaction which makes it difficult to commit to a long term program or goal. People are likely to think "why should I eat sensibly when the reward will not occur for some time and eating this cake will make me feel good right now?"

4. Irrational desire to eat for comfort. Many people eat to make themselves feel better. "Fatty and sugary food provides immediate comfort and distraction from other issues" (qtd in Brabham p. 62). Instead of eating you should try to resolve your problem.

5. Irrational pessimistic attitude. Many people who become obese may take on an "end of the world outlook", which is not going to help them lose weight. You need to have a positive outlook on your ability to achieve your goal.

6. Irrational belief that dieting is too hard. "It's just too hard to diet." This thinking renders you helpless. People who are easily frustrated want easy solutions. We're seduced by fad diets because they appeal to that immediacy. Yet people who rely on fad diets suffer high failure rates. When you diet with the short term in mind, you don't learn strategies that require patience and persistence" (qtd in Brabham p. 62).

7. Irrational feelings of worthlessness. Many people view being overweight as a personal failure that makes them a weak and worthless person. Other people may irrationally believe that their value as a human being is determined by what they look like. These people have fallen victim to the media's view that beauty is the same as thinness. When you feel like a failure you are not likely to be able to stick to a long term weight loss program.

These thoughts are all irrational thoughts that will adversely affect our ability to achieve our goals. We must learn to recognize and change these thoughts before we can be successful in our weight loss goals.

Whenever our own mind works against us it becomes much harder to achieve our goals. Whether you have a serious psychological problem that requires professional help or are a victim of your own irrational thoughts the first thing you must do is recognize that there is a psychological element to your problem. No one can solve a problem without first being aware of all of its elements.

#### Sources:

- Brabham, D. (2004, January-February). Is your head tripping you up?. *Psychology Today*. 61-64
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## OF MONEY, SCANDAL, AND SHADOWY CONSPIRACIES; THE PM TELLS HIS STORY.

*Trevor Siwak*



The black helicopter rose seemingly out of nowhere and caused curiously little noise due to its stealth engine buffers as it moved slowly over the Ottawa building. Its bay doors opened and two ropes unfurled from the inside, no sooner had they snapped as they reached their full length only a few feet from the rooftop, when they were mounted and slid down by two figures in black fatigues who landed only feet apart from each other. With a quick hand gesture from one of the figures, the ropes were taken back up into the chopper and it disappeared almost as mysteriously as it had arrived.

Wasting no time the figures went into action, one forcing his way into the elevator tower while the other started to work on some kind of electric control panel.

"Com check" the first man said, his voice being picked up by the vibrations of his vocal chords on the vocal transmitter wrapped around his neck.

"This is Beta, I read you. Give me one more minute and I will have the video looped. It will take me a few more to extract the pin code for the office entrance," replied the second man, at the panel.

"Good we have ten minutes before the chopper gets back, there's no room for failure. I am going in, Alpha out." Alpha man came back.

Alpha hooked up some support device to the elevator cables and slid down to the twelfth floor. "Video looped," came the signal from Beta.

Alpha opened the elevator doors and slipped down the hallway that hid behind them. Timing was perfect, as Beta had the pin number info for him just as he reached the office security entrance pad. He popped in the code and the door buzzed open. Once inside he slipped a disk into a computer located in a large yet drearily decorated office that presented a meager scattering of mass produced art prints.

"How could anyone work in such a dull setting for 40 hours a week," he spoke quietly through his com to help lower the stress of the situation.

Beta replied with a grunt, "Hey not all of them can have \$19,000 plasma TVs on the walls, now hurry up, I am freezing up here."

Alpha watched as the disk uploaded and a signal was sent to a remote computer whose operator soon had control of the host. Alpha watched as account information was swapped, sending money to secret bank accounts, erasing names from files, and in some cases whole reports. It continued working at lightning speed, creating false invoices and removing and replacing original electronic signatures on e-mails and documents with new false ones. This was big! Alpha looked around the room nervously as he realized that tens of millions of dollars of public money was being manipulated in ways that would shift the blame to the most unsuspecting members of parliament, and benefit those already of much wealth. The screen flashed "Complete" and Alpha wasted no time removing the disk and retreating by the same route out of the building, to be whisked away. As far as anyone would know he was never there. Now all he had to do was wait for "it" to hit the fan.

Fast forward two years.....

It's a typically windy and bone chilling night in February. A tall, stocky man walks along the Rideau Canal. Even though the days are getting longer, it was dark a few hours ago already. The only sounds are of a few ice blades cutting into the brittle ice as a young couple skates by, laughing and flirting with each other, their voices echoing along the otherwise quiet iceway. The man's hands are deep in his pockets, the collar of his overcoat is up high around his neck as he approaches the bridge that connects Wellington and Rideau streets above, only meters from Parliament Hill. Through the spirals of wind whipped snow, he barely sees the outline of a man in a dark corner under the bridge. The red glow off a cigarette gives him away as the person the man is there to see.

Having now made his way into the corner shadows the smoking man speaks first.

"I hope there is a good reason for this meeting, I have box seats for the Senator's game tonight and you know how bad traffic is on the Queensway on the night of a game!" he says, his voice deep and hoarse.

"Any ideas about who will take this game?" the first man asks, trying to break the ice.

The smoking man coughed a bit and gave a grin as the voices of the two skaters thundered through the tunnel as they passed through, now going the other way.

"Of course I do, you really think the outcome of these games is based on skill, or even chance? Now why am I here?"

The stocky man speaks now with sense of urgency, "The PM is onto us, he is going to expose the whole thing. We need a plan for damage control, fast!"

"Don't be a fool!" the smoking man hisses, "everything is under control. Mr. Martin only knows what we want him to know. When, and if, we need to change courses I will let you know," he says as he flicks his cigarette to the ground and snuffs it out with his foot while pulling out a new one from his pocket.

"But I don't understand!" the stocky man says.

"Good, while knowledge is power, too much could be bad for your health," the smoking man manages to say with his new cancer stick in his mouth. He turns away and starts off in the opposite direction the stocky man had come from. The stocky man watches as the smoking man walks away, his head briefly outlined by the glow of a match as he lights his cigarette.

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Is this a fictional story of a group of sophisticated and shadowy figures, working to undermine the government and use our tax dollars to fund their own interests, or is it based on some semblance of reality?

Well if you are to believe the Prime Minister, it is based on reality. In response to his government's grilling on the federal sponsorship scandal he said as much. He said that while he was one of the most senior and influential members of cabinet, he had no clue about what was going on in his own backyard. Most shocking of course was the excuse he gave to prove why he could not have known. In his own words it was the work of a, "sophisticated" group of shadowy government employees." Really Paul, this is the best you can come up with, "Shadow figures did it!" This excuse, seemingly torn from the pages of a lost X – Files script, does nothing to shelter him from this scandal. In fact it only serves to undermine his competence in the public eye. Yes folks, the great white knight of both the Liberal party and of Canada has arrived, and he is a dud. To top it off his speech writers seem to have experience as cloak and dagger authors.

He should count his lucky stars the opposition is in the middle of a leadership race and not quite operating with all resources aimed at this issue. While it is a favorite government fallback to blame things on public servants when all else fails, at least then they normally can nail it to certain people. The best the PM can do now is say it was some mystery people who may or may not exist. Maybe we should install more lighting in public offices to help eliminate the shadows and flush out these, "shadow people."

In the last election the PM's own party made a big joke out of one party leader's belief that Dinosaurs roamed the earth with people at some point in history. Well heck, at least we can prove there were dinosaurs, where is the evidence of these "shadow bureaucrats?" The least he could do is produce a smoking gun to prove it, or even a smoking man in this case.

With the next election looming close, Liberals had better hope Mr. Martin can come up with some better, less comically fictional, responses to the issues of the day. For if this is an example of what will be, then the Conservatives may actually have a chance of winning. Take my advice Mr. PM, call a fall election rather than a spring one and take that time to defuse the self destruct sequence your predecessor set before he left, and while you are at it, you can start being the great Prime Minister you made yourself out to be, or you may find yourself with a Stornaway mailing address before the year is out.

Paul was the second chance for many that were becoming disillusioned with the Liberal party, and he is blowing it. If he does not pull through as expected, people will realize this party is bankrupt in all aspects and they should muster the fortitude and guts to make a difference in the next election.

Will Paul pull out of this scandal as clean as his old boss? Will Belinda Stronach shock the nation and win the Conservative party leadership? Will the Ottawa Senators ever win the Stanley cup?

Only the shadow knows!

**PM battles scandal storm, Feb. 12 2004. Canoe.ca,**<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2004/02/11/pf-344166.html>

**Martin says he was in dark over scandal, Feb. 12 2004. CBC,** [http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2004/02/12/martin\\_040212](http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2004/02/12/martin_040212)

**Internal auditor warned of sponsorship problems in 2000: Fraser, Feb 12 2004. CBC,**  
[http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2004/02/12/public\\_accounts040212](http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2004/02/12/public_accounts040212)

## 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.

## DIAGNOSIS: PEOPLE PLEASER



From  
Where  
I Sit

Hazel Anaka

"I can only please one person a day

Today's not your day

And tomorrow doesn't look good either"

So goes the message on a t-shirt spotted during a mall sidewalk sale. My first reaction was a grin as I thought 'hey, that's cute'. On second thought maybe just a wee bit arrogant.

Because I'll read anything that isn't nailed down, this sort of thing grabs me. But being a thoughtful (or is that anal?) person I always want to take it one step further. Can't leave well enough alone, gotta figure out not only the "what" but the "why" as well.

Though the message is funny, the underlying theme is not. It references what Oprah has dubbed the "disease to please". Women are particularly vulnerable to this malady.

Generations of women, through a bizarre combination of genetics and role modeling, have been stricken with the condition. Victims may be as young as pre-schoolers. In severe and chronic cases, people-pleasing may be the unofficial cause of death.

Girls and women are taught through not-so-subtle cues to put everyone---and I mean everyone---else first. In the beginning the praise, approval and validation we seek comes from parents and teachers. Boyfriends, husbands and men in general are next. Then employers.

We continue to try to win the approval of our peers whether in grade 7 or down the hall in our workplace. And parents are something else again. From 6 to 60, we still want mom and dad to be proud, to acknowledge us, to give the good housekeeping stamp of approval.

In this crazy quest to be validated, we will do almost anything. We will suppress opinions, goals, ambitions. We will change hair color and length. We will dress a certain way. We will take or stay in jobs we hate. We will never say 'no' to others because to do so, may really mean saying 'yes' to ourselves and what we want. We will stay with the wrong men and make excuses for screwed-up children all for the sake of appearances. We will kill ourselves trying to do and be what society and the community expects of us.

Perhaps most damaging though is the tendency to let others dictate our choices and destiny. We want to keep everyone happy, not make waves, not make a scene. As a result, dreams are postponed. We live vicariously through spouses and children. We don't do or become the person we were meant to be. We're so busy taking care of, nurturing, and encouraging others that we're left tired, bitter, and empty. Not only don't we come first, often we're not even on the list.

So today, choose to please yourself first. Take back your courage and your integrity. Say 'no'. Graciously, firmly, repeatedly. Choose the one or two or twelve things today that would make you feel great. Be true to yourself. And tomorrow, repeat the process. And so on and so on. It's vital from where I sit.

*\* Reprinted with permission*

## MUSICAL NOTES: SARAH MCLACHLAN'S "AFTERGLOW"

Antonia Cruz

Afterglow  
Sarah McLachlan  
Sony/ATV Songs



Listening to the radio one evening, I could not help but notice a new song blasting through the airwaves. *"The past can be undone, but we carry on our back the burdens time always reveals. In the lonely light of morning. In the wound that would not heal. It's the bitter taste of losing everything I've held so dear..."*. I heard the lyrics echo from the radio.

"What was the name of that song?" I thought as I continued to listen.

For the next couple of days, I walked down the street trying to figure out the artist who wrote and sang the lyrics to the song. Baffled, I walked down the street with the lyrics stuck in my head. In search of an answer, I went inside of a music store for assistance. Amidst a crowd of shoppers, I walked into the holiday-decorated store, only to hear the

same lyrics over the music store's loudspeakers.

"Could you please tell me the name of the song on the loudspeaker?" I asked the clerk behind the desk.

"Oh, that is Sarah McLachlan's new album, *Afterglow*. We just received a new shipment this week. Would you like to purchase a copy?" he responded.

Surprised at the clerk's response, I impulsively handed over \$20. Was it worth my money? I asked myself as I walked out of the store with the album in my hand...

As soon as I arrived home, I started to regret my purchase. However, as soon as I placed the CD into my computer, I completely changed my mind when I heard the lyrics again.

Composed of ten brand new songs, Canadian singer Sarah McLachlan enchants the souls of listeners with her soulful lyrics on *Afterglow*. According to McLachlan, the meaning behind the title of her album is as follows: "When you look up Afterglow in the dictionary, it is defined as 'the glow or light that remains once the sun is gone'. You're used to this bright, shiny beautiful glow but the moment the sun disappears, all of a sudden you have to readjust everything. It's a very transitional moment. A lot of these songs are about transition...the turning over of the rock, what's underneath, the murky, shadowy uncertainty where everything looks very different" (2)

With the debut song "Fallen", McLachlan sings a story about a woman who, after making a regretful decision, is desperate for divine intervention to help her "glow" again. In the following two verses of "Fallen", the woman negatively questions her self worth in society, as she sees herself as "messed up" in her efforts to try to change the situation for the best. Being unable to live out the good intentions brought onto her by society, the woman feels as though she is only left with reminders about the scars from her past from the people who are the closest to her. In the final verse, even though the woman is left hopeless, she transforms to accept her loss in her relationships, while warning other women to be careful of the mistakes they have made in their lives.

"Time" tells the story of a woman's journey toward "Afterglow". She vividly personifies the passage of time passively haunting her life in comparison to "shadows moving across the wall". Scared, she continues singing, feeling as though time is out to harm her. On the other hand, despite her failed attempts to stop time from harming her, she feels as though she needs more time in her life. Her love-hate relationship with time leaves her in a state of confusion, between wanting to keep time in her life in order to please the time controlling her life and wanting to keep time from controlling her life forever. Courageous with her inner battle against time, she finally transforms herself to forget about the harm time has done to her, by choosing instead not fight against it.

Contrasting on an optimistic note, is "Push", which tells the story of a woman who has found her "Afterglow" in a person she genuinely trusts and believes in. Seeing the best and the worst of her, the other person keeps on appearing back in her life. The person she believes in has been emotionally "pushed" away by her many times during the worst times in her life. Yet despite her insensitivity, she relies on the other person to save her from drowning back into the dark depths of despair. Time and time again, the trustworthy person comes back, "offering her a softer place to land". In the final verse, the woman is transformed when she learns that trust and forgiveness are needed in relationships, as shown through simple gestures, displays, care and concern, especially in times of need.

Closing my eyes, I stop for a moment now to reflect on this album. For the rest of the long hours of the night, I continue to let the other seven songs on the album play continuously in the background. I think again about the real reasons of why I purchased "Afterglow" that day. Was it because of the story behind the lyrics? Was it because of the sound of Sarah McLachlan's voice? Was it because of the instrumental background music? Or was I simply a consumer of effective radio promotion? For whatever reason beyond my immediate comprehension, I slowly begin to understand what drew me into purchasing her album in the first place...

I would recommend Sarah McLachlan's "Afterglow" to women, especially to women who are struggling to confront with past issues in their lives and who need a little bit of inspiration to turn their lives around in order to transform themselves for the better future they deserve. After all, perhaps this album can help women kick-start the transformation process to see the "Afterglow" at the end of the long and dark tunnel...

(1) McLachlan, Sarah. "Fallen." *Afterglow*. Sony/ATV Songs, 2003.

(2) McLachlan, Sarah. *Sarah McLachlan: Biography*. 21 Nov. 2003. <http://www.sarahmclachlan.com>

## 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.

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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.



# AU Profiles:

AU Student: Andrew Bell

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## **What province and city/town do you live in?**

Peterborough, Ontario. (It's a small world - Arthur Setka, profiled in [y11 i04](#), also lives here. We've never met, though..)

## **Do you have a family/ kids/ pets ?**

My wife Phyllis and I have two grown children, and we're empty nesters now. We still have a couple of cats to annoy us in the mornings though.

## **What are your hobbies / interests/ activities/ etc.**

In the summer, <cue Arlo Guthrie>, I just want to ride my motorcycle. For winter fun, I have a model train layout I've been really meaning to get started on for about 5 years now.

Of course, being an IT geek, I also play with computers. It's a bit scary, but I tend to do exactly the same things for fun as I do to make a living.

## **Can you tell us about the AU Courses you are taking at the moment, or a favourite course?**

I'm working on my B.Sc in Computer Science. Right now I'm just wrapping up ADMN 232 and starting ADMN 233.

## **How long have you been a student? (And where)**

In the eighties, I went to college right out of high school - because that's what you did, not because I had a clue what to do with my life - and promptly flunked out. I went back in 1991, this time with some proper motivation and support from an Unemployment Insurance program, and did very well. I started with Athabasca in late 1998.

## **What do you think of your courses/ the AU experience/ distance education?**

I find that because distance ed lacks the social support system of a traditional campus environment, you have to supply your own motivation and support. This can be tough, especially if going to school is only a part time gig.

My big beef with "the AU experience" is that the course materials are full of things that may or may not be errors, but that need clarification at the very least, and there's no mechanism to discuss these things in real time. Waiting 48 hours for an answer to "please clarify this question" completely kills any momentum you've built up on the assignment.

It's particularly frustrating when the clarification is required because of an error in the course materials. On occasion, I've had TME questions that required a multiple choice answer, but were written so unclearly that almost any answer could be argued to be correct. When I've written a lengthy explanation of how my answer would differ depending on the interpretation of the question, the marker has simply referred to the answer key, rather than discussing the question with me, or marking based on a different interpretation.

Now, to be fair, I've had some very good tutors who not only engaged in constructive dialog about these problems, they even fed my comments back into the next revision. But I've also had tutors who simply never bothered to reply to the emails.

## **Do you work? What do you do?**

Well, I've been working in IT at the same place for over a decade, so the job description is a bit hard to pin down. Officially, I manage the Network Services department for the local pseudopod of a rather huge multinational firm. Said firm is graciously paying for my education, so I can only say good things about them here. :) I also run a private IT consulting business on the side.

Outside of work, I used to volunteer with the local computer club, and was a leader with Scouts Canada for over 10 years. I recently (and I hope temporarily) gave these activities up, because I simply didn't have enough time to meet all the demands that were being made on me and still get my schoolwork done.

### **How is AU helping you toward your goals?**

Perhaps a better question is "how is a university degree helping towards my goals?". In my case, I don't need a degree for any specific goal, it's more of an end unto itself. AU is one way for me to round out my life experiences and broaden my horizons, and those are the things that will help me achieve more tangible goals in the future.

### **What are your future goals?**

Graduate, then world domination. Maybe a midlife crisis involving a red sports car.

### **Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for other students?**

Well, I can really only speak to the distance ed people, but one mistake I made was taking too many courses out of sequence. I'm a computer geek, taking a computer science course, so naturally I tried to take all the COMP courses first. Bad idea – the general 200 level courses really do build a useful foundation for the specialized ones later on.

If you're just starting out, try to set reasonable expectations for yourself. Since you'll lack a lot of traditional social support, setbacks tend to be magnified and feed back on themselves. If you set your sights too high and miss, it's easy to just throw in the towel on the whole thing. On the other hand, if you set achievable goals and reach them, well, nothing succeeds like success.

Finally, don't overload yourself, and don't underestimate the time this stuff takes. If you allow 250 hours to finish a course, that's about 10 hours a week. It may sound silly, but sit down with a weekly calendar, and shade in your daily commitments. Now, can you find 10 hours per week, in useful sized chunks, that aren't allocated? If not, then you'll need to give up something else to make time to study.

### **Anything else we should know? Funny stories about the dog eating your laptop/ praise for AU, a friend or a tutor?**

A talking dog, 3 lawyers, a politician, a Canadian, an American and a Newfie all walk into a bar. The bartender looks up and says "What is this, some kind of joke?"

Oh, you mean the other kind of funny story! I guess I did have one course with some amusement value. Early on in my studies, I found myself writing an essay against a deadline. I hated this task – absolutely did not, not, NOT want to do it. I'd already written the final and it was just this one assignment to go. To make things worse, I had also made the mistake of starting too many courses at once, and I'd used up all three extensions to juggle them – in other words, submit the essay by the deadline or fail the course.

So, here I am, close to midnight on the last day, and I finally have words flowing. If I had only another hour or so, I could finish the essay. But, with one eye on the clock, at exactly 11:59 pm, I stopped mid sentence and wrote "I ran out of time here," saved the file, and emailed it off with about 20 seconds to spare. It wasn't until I woke up the next morning that I remembered Alberta is two time zones west of me.

I did manage to put enough words down to pass, at least.



My sisters used to love burning candles in the house when we were in our teens. I took up the practice from them and we'd visit the local hobby shop to procure raw wax, wicks, scents, colours, and moulds to make our own candles. Wax turned liquid in a pot on the stove would combine with other ingredients to form a variety of spicy-smelling and cool-looking tapers. The pungent odours that emanated from the lit candles would disguise many of the "evils" in which teens might indulge but be loath to have parents discover.

My father cringed at the practice of burning candles in the home. Of course he was (and is) a nightly watcher and reader of the news and was eminently more informed that us of the dangers inherent to open flames within a dwelling. Many times he tried to dissuade us from burning candles but his "preaching" fell on deaf ears. I eventually grew out of using candles at home and ultimately developed my father's paranoia regarding house fires. When I was about ten years old our family-dentist fell asleep while smoking a cigarette in bed; he was killed when his bed caught fire and his house burned down around him. That incident affected me but the fictional perspective of youth that "it'll never happen to me" prevented my making the connection between smoking-caused and candle-caused fires (although when I became a smoker I made a conscious choice not to smoke in bed).

Over the years I've read many news stories of houses burnt down and lives lost through the use of candles as well as smoking, but its impact hasn't been proximate until a few days ago. The spouse of a good friend of mine, while home alone, had a candle burning in the upstairs master-bedroom. She blew it out, threw it into the garbage and went to the basement. A few minutes later she went back upstairs to find the top floor full of smoke. She snatched one of the family pets and ran to the neighbour's to call the fire department. Ten minutes later the fire department arrived and managed to extinguish the blaze before the entire house was engulfed, but not before the master-bedroom was destroyed and the house suffered major smoke-damage.

I'm sure it doesn't seem like it to them right now, but I suggest that my friend and his family were extremely lucky. I shutter to imagine how things might have turned out had the same events occurred just as the family retired to their beds. Much more than mere property could have been lost. As it turns out every person and pet is fine and insurance will replace their loss. For me, this event so close to home is a reaffirmation that a home is no place for open flames. Now if I can only convince my family, who love to burn candles at the dinner table, of their inherent dangers to lives and property. It's funny how in this, and so many other ways, I have swapped roles with my father—now I am the one "preaching"—usually on deaf ears...

As a former forest-fire fighter, I have one kernel of knowledge to impart upon those who insist on using fires of any kind. Embers can appear to be extinguished when in fact they are not. This is as true of candles, cigarettes, and fireplace coals as it is for camp-fires, barbeque coals, and forest-fires. The only ways to know for sure that an ember is truly extinguished is to immerse it in water, or feel it with bare skin to ensure it is cool. The latter unpleasant method, called cold-trailing, is used by forest-fire fighters who crawl on hands and knees probing with bare hands through seemingly extinguished coals. I was burnt more times than I can count when discovering fire that I would have bet was out. The moral? Don't throw out candles or empty ashtrays or fireplace coals into the garbage unless you KNOW that they are extinguished.

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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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## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

# Writing About My Family

By Debbie Jabbour



I've officially been a grandma for about a week now. When I graduated this past June, 2003, I stated that graduating with my BA was the fifth most important life-altering experience I had ever undergone - after the birth of my four daughters. Well, my graduation has now been bumped to experience number six. The birth of my grandson is on par with (if not superseding) that of my daughters, and my own personal accomplishments of graduation pale in comparison.

However, as much as I'd like to write about the experience, I can't. My daughter has asked that, out of respect for her privacy, I do not write a *Voice* article about my grandson's birth. As her labour

coach, I brought along a notebook to record every aspect of this amazing experience.

The book itself was a gift from my oldest daughter, entitled, "El Viajero", or "The Traveller", very appropriate for a small person who would be travelling a very difficult journey to join us. Every minute, every moment, of that wonderful voyage, is written in the book. But at my daughter's insistence, the notes I took during that 33 hour journey and beyond will remain accessible to family only.

I can't say that I blame her. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, privacy concerns and the Internet are something we all need to be far more conscious of. The Internet allows anyone in the world to be privy to our personal affairs. Some people are still flattered to see their names on Internet search engines. The first time it happened to me, I felt the same - but I've already reached the point where I dread it. So much potential harm can result from information gathered at random through an Internet information search. I do not want any more information about me or my family spread out there for the world to see.

But I do have another daughter I can write about. She is headed for stardom, so she knows she will have to get used to life in the limelight. Internet fame or Internet infamy is something she is already becoming quite accustomed to. *Voice* readers who have been around for a while will recognize her - my "Popstar" daughter, Amaya.

She's about as far from a "Popstar" as anyone can begin to imagine. I'd like to give an update to readers who may be wondering what has happened with her life and career since the Popstar experience last year (conclusion in the *Voice* March, 2003)

Amaya returned from Toronto energized, and began to actively seek out musicians who were like-minded to form a group. This was not so easy. She placed ads in our local musician's magazine and fielded dozens of calls. Soon she was actively engaged in auditions and meetings, comparing notes with fellow musicians and trying to get something going.

Many people think that its very easy to be a musician. In fact, its incredibly hard work to get a band going. One of the most difficult aspects is that you are required to dedicate so much time and effort into something while receiving no financial return. Countless musicians survive by working low-paying jobs while eking out rehearsal time whenever they can manage it. The dream of a gig that will actually pay is often far in the

distance. If you don't have the support of family and/or friends, the struggle for survival takes all your time and it is impossible to devote yourself to your music. A good number of successful recording artists had significant family money to back them up - otherwise they would never have made it.

With a struggling student for a mother, Amaya is not one of those fortunates. However, I've been backing her career in every other way. I have contacts and musical equipment, and I know the business, which has helped.

Last summer, Amaya finally gathered together a band that seemed to click. They called themselves Unfair, and things looked really good. A few promotional (unpaid gigs) followed, but after working and rehearsing month after month, things just didn't progress. Band members started to drift away, and it became increasingly hard to maintain any kind of dedication. Keeping a bass player was the hardest of all, for some reason, a problem that would continue through several more band incarnations.

Unfair finally fell apart and Amaya went into a slow period. She was trying to write music and remain motivated, but it was discouraging. Finally things again picked up. This time serendipity seemed to play a role. She connected with some musicians that she had met shortly after the whole Popstars experience, and they put together a new group.

This group went through several changes, good and bad, and at one point they were even looking for a new singer when Amaya's interest began to fade! Several months ago, however, opportunity began to knock. A gig on Edmonton's southside provided a debut for the group that was now calling itself "Mroim".

On February 6, Mroim played one of the highest-profile gigs they have done up until now, at Edmonton's Sidetrack Cafe - the premier venue for live music in this city. They performed as part of a Yamaha-music sponsored Battle of the Bands with Supernova.ca.. They were a last minute addition and did not take advantage of pre-promo, nor did they have the advantage of a huge following, being a relatively new group on the Edmonton music scene. However, they made a decent showing and won the respect of both judges and their peers and won the People's Choice Award. In fact, the group that won announced that they had no idea how this had occurred since "Mroim" should have been the winner, in their opinion.

This gig seems to have broken the ice, and things are looking up. But its going to be a hard road ahead. Next week they are playing a CD release party as the opening act, and a feature on Edmonton's A-Channel TV is in the works.

Many of us watch a band or a musician perform on stage and think it seems easy. In reality, that performance is the result of hours and hours of rehearsal and incredibly hard work. When I used to work as a musician, at first I would leave the house and tell my girls that I was going "to play" music. I soon realized that this was misleading. In reality, I was going "to work" at a very challenging, difficult job. Amaya is working very, very hard to be successful at doing what she loves. She has some hard times ahead, but she will make it.

I'm not a huge fan of heavy metal, but it is the music that drives Amaya's soul. Check her band out and listen to "Finale (live at the Sidetrack)" at:

[http://www.supernova.com/bands/profile.php?band\\_id=6622](http://www.supernova.com/bands/profile.php?band_id=6622)

<http://members.shaw.ca/mroim/>

## 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.*



*Dear Heather,*

**Do you have any advice for a student who's really bad at writing essays?**

**Jack S.**

Dear Jack,

A lot of people have trouble writing essays, often because they're intimidated by the task. The trick to a great essay is organization, but don't panic: it's easier than it sounds.

Before you do anything else, you need to come up with an opinion about your topic. If you look closely, you'll find that every good essay begins with a statement of someone's opinion about something (English pros call this the thesis). The rest of the essay consists of arguments in support of the thesis. If

you have a good thesis with lots of evidence to back it up, your essay will practically write itself. So, get out a sheet of paper and write down the opinion you plan to defend (preferably in one or two sentences, so it's nice and focused). Then, write down as many points as you can think of that support your thesis. If the essay is a research paper, these may be facts that come from books or journals (make sure you reference them properly). If it's not a research paper, the supporting points may be your own observations, ideas or beliefs on the matter.

Congratulations- you've just created an outline of your essay. Now you have to fire up the word processor and flesh it out a bit. The first paragraph of your essay should give a brief introduction to the topic, with your thesis at the end. You can also include a summary (just a few sentences) of the arguments you plan to make in support of your thesis, if you wish.

Now look at the points you wrote down that will support your thesis. Each of those is one paragraph in your essay. If you have five supporting points, your essay will have five paragraphs between the introduction and the conclusion. You can adjust the number of supporting points used (the number of paragraphs) and the amount of discussion of each point (the length of the paragraphs) to get the essay the length you want. Just make sure that in every paragraph, you give one argument and clearly explain how it supports your opinion/thesis.

Finally, you need a conclusion: one last paragraph to sum things up. Restate your thesis and give a brief recap of the arguments you made to support it. Give the whole thing a title and click 'save'.

I usually like to wait a day or two to get a fresh perspective, then re-read my essay (aloud, if I'm alone in the house). This gives me a chance to catch typos and just make sure the whole thing sounds good. I often end up changing the wording of a few sentences to make them less confusing, and making other minor adjustments. If spelling and grammar aren't your strong points, you may also want to ask a word-savvy friend to proofread it for you. Then, send it to your tutor and breathe a sigh of relief- you're done!

By the way, it does get easier. By the time you've done a few, you'll be able to write essays in your sleep. Won't that be a great time-saver?

**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.*



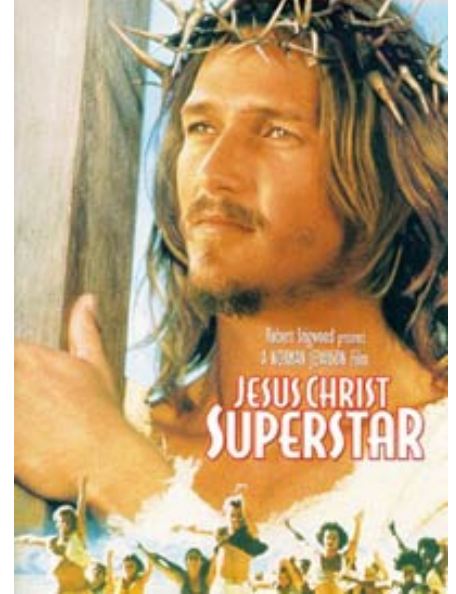
## JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR *Film Review*

*By Laura Seymour*

Norman Jewison's film is a real masterpiece for me. I watch this film every time it comes out on TV and it never fails to leave me sobbing like the twelve-year-old I was when it first came out. Although it is technically supposed to be a reenactment of the life of Jesus it can only fit in the last three years. His childhood is missing, and so is that debated block of missing years.

The film opens with the blazing hot sands of Israel being churned up by a hippy-style bus arriving... this is a musical and the overture is barely heard, like the opening to Ravel's Bolero. The bus parks in the middle of nowhere and a pile of modern day people pile out. They unpack the bus and start putting on costumes and make-up. Hair is simple, unless you count the wacky wigs for some of the background characters.

The score, by Andrew Lloyd Webber with lyrics from Tim Rice, is modern but it doesn't seem dated to most. It has a rock basis but amazingly has other time's styles thrown in.



Ted Neeley, as Jesus, is my image of the man – or myth, depending on your point of view. I am amazed that his voice is so strong and yet so lyrical—often hard rock "belters" have difficulty with other song formats. I have seen Neeley, in the role he's never shaken off, performing an abbreviated version of the musical on the road. I'm delighted to say he can still hit every note exactly as he did in the film thirty years ago. The *Garden of Gethsemane* still gets shrieked standing ovations every time.

Yvonne Elliman is a lovely Mary Magdalene. She has a velvet voice that demands respect. Her performance is sensitive and she is unforgettable as the only one grieving as Jesus hangs on the cross.

Those of you who are porn aficionados may recognize Paul Thomas in the chorus line. Me? I read that fact in a Leonard Maltin review!

The Hebrew rabbis in the film are the most amazing pair of duet voices ever! How did Norman find these guys? One with the most amazing baritone and the other with a pixie-high voice! Together their voices are astounding.

Carl Anderson as Judas is energetic, gifted and obviously very focused.

This cast is memorable...at least to me. When this came out I had been geared up to deal with leaving Edmonton and go and live in Scotland with my obsessive-to-live-there mother. Suddenly I was faced with an emergency appendectomy. I didn't have a very nice time at the hospital, was faced with leaving all my friends and I wanted one thing...to see this film. She was sure we wouldn't have time and I'm sure that she fretted the entire time we were in the theatre. I, however, was transfixed the second the film began. Maybe my fellow psychology students will say it is an emotional memory –fine—I only know that this film leaves me with goose bumps, jumping up and singing certain songs and bawling. That's quite the latitude!

Catch it the next time *Bravo TV* plays it in Canada and see if it's your cup of tea or not. Even if you aren't a Christian—you may appreciate a finely done project and Mother Nature at her most awe-inspiring.

If anyone knows where Norman Jewison found that amazing cave they used, please do email *the Voice* and let me know. I'm breathless every time I see it.

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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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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)

### **Alberta Government to give \$16 Million for education**

**Debbie Jabbour**

Sounds like a great headline, right? Wrong! Instead of an infusion of cash into our universities, money that could improve the current operating deficits and infrastructure needs of our universities in Alberta, money that could make it possible for students to attend university and replace the PhD brain drain, this money is earmarked for Centennial babies. Every baby born in Alberta's centennial year, 2005, will have \$500 deposited in a registered education savings plan. The initial donation will be then topped-up by two further government contributions of up to \$100, matched to parental contributions.

Not only is this plan seriously flawed, since RESP's favour the rich who can afford to save, the amounts donated are of little or no value to these children. The government is predicting that with "cautious" investing and "no other contributions" the amount will grow to a whopping \$1500 by the time the child turns 18.

The average cost of post-secondary education in Alberta has risen 208% since 1991 (ACTISEC, 2002). Across Canada, tuition has more than doubled in the past 10 years (Statscan, 1991). Since the cost of post-secondary education in Alberta continues to increase by tuition hikes of at least 5-8% every year, and if the tuition trend of doubling every 10 years continues; it seems likely that by 2023, tuition will be somewhere in the vicinity of at least \$20,000 a year. And this is just base tuition for an Arts degree - with differential tuition in place, programs such as medicine, dentistry and business will be significantly higher.

I'm confident those centennial babies will find that \$1500 RESP to be extremely helpful in helping pay for their university education when they turn 18. Or perhaps not.

### **REFERENCES**

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# CANADIAN FED WATCH!

## NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



### The Boondoggle is Back

I would be remiss if I didn't at least mention the current scandal running around at the federal level. It seems our Auditor General has looked at the books of Canada and determined that the liberal government has wasted a lot of money. Not that this is a large news-flash for most people, but it's interesting to see proof of it.

At any rate, the entire scandal revolves around money paid to the government's Sponsorship Program and various Advertising Activities. The problem with the Sponsorship Program is that it basically boiled down to a very small number of people having control over who received money, how much they'd receive, or what they had to do with it. The reasons as to why certain projects were selected or why they were awarded the amount they received never had to be made clear. Naturally this state of affairs is

hardly a safe one, as it makes it far too easy for the money to be awarded unwisely or with little return.

In addition, it seems the Auditor General found evidence of the Sponsorship Program committing fraud with false invoices being used to transfer money from the program to Crown Corporations, with transferring agencies taking a portion of the money. Of course, there was no documentation to show why certain transferring agencies had been picked over other ones, or even why one was actually needed, so the smell from these particular transactions is especially bad.

What's most scary about this incident is that the Sponsorship Program was a fairly large program, having spent over 250 million dollars, with 100 million dollars of that paid to communication companies in fees, for which not much of value can be found in return. If a program that large can go mostly undetected, then what does that say about the many other smaller programs our government runs.

Not that any of this should really surprise anyone. The cards were all laid out quite a while before. One of the people who is being pointed to as a likely candidate for organizing all of this is Alfonso Gagliano. Gagliano is the minister who I pointed out last year was at the centre of an earlier controversy about spending federal government funds, and who received an ambassadorial post to Denmark. Groupaction, the firm implicated as one of the Advertising Agencies that took part in this whole affair, was the company that allegedly provided the government with a duplicate report for a fee of half a million dollars.

So when Prime Minister Paul Martin says he doesn't know anything about this affair, one has to wonder if he bothers to watch the news.

Heck, maybe he should read *The Voice*. It seems we had an idea something was rotten in Ottawa long before it hit Denmark.

### Money for the Wealthy

The Alberta Legislature is looking at passing a program to encourage parents to save money to help their children go into post-secondary education. As the press-release says, "Bill 1, or the Alberta Centennial Education Savings Plan will provide a foundation for the parents of every child born in Alberta in 2005 and after to save for their child's education. Through a contribution from the province, parents will be encouraged to open a Registered Education Savings Plan and begin planning for their child's post-secondary studies."

While it still depends on the details of the program, the typical "encourage parents to save" program involves the parents putting in some amount and the program will then match that amount with funds from the public purse.

This sounds like a lovely thing, until you realize there are two major loopholes. The first is for all of those unlucky parents who happened to have kids this year or any year previous. Sorry, you're out of luck, because Bill 1 is only for those kids born in 2005 or later. Better luck next year.

The second is for those unlucky parents who just don't have enough money to be able to put away any. This is the typical short-sightedness that comes from governing officials who have no idea what it means to be underprivileged. For them, it seems simple, the reason parents don't save to send their kids to school is simply because they don't have the encouragement, not for any more difficult reason such as having to choose between food and shelter each month on welfare, never mind savings.

After all, just because Statistics Canada has a report explaining that "parents who had not yet started to save [for post-secondary education], or did not intend to save, most frequently reported lack of money as the main reason for not saving," doesn't mean it's actually true. No, instead, our provincial government likes to believe that Albertans are either stupid and can't plan ahead for their children, or apathetic, and have no desire to see their children get a good education.

Well, it's either that, or they just want a cushy bonus for their own kids.

I'm not sure which I'd rather believe.

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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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## **FREEDOM TO READ**

*Contributed by Lonita Fraser*

"Freedom to read can never be taken for granted. Even in Canada, a free country by world standards, books and magazines are banned at the border. Books are removed from the shelves in Canadian libraries, schools and bookstores every day. Free speech on the Internet is under attack. Few of these stories make headlines, but they affect the right of Canadians to decide for themselves what they choose to read."

Each year, people are invited to participate in Freedom to Read Week (February 22 - 28 2004), which is an annual event encouraging Canadians to think about and reaffirm commitments to intellectual freedom - something guaranteed them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. One of the many resources available is the Freedom to Read kit produced by the Freedom of Expression Committee; which includes a poster, articles on current censorship issues in Canada, suggested classroom exercises, clip art, and other resources. It is suitable for librarians, educators, and anyone with an interest in preserving free expression. Other events planned for this year's Freedom to Read Week are a readathon, library hosted displays, roundtables on banned books, discussions on censorship, language, culture, politics, and more.

For more information on Freedom to Read Week, a complete calendar of events, as well as information on how you can obtain your own Freedom to Read kit, please see the Freedom to Read website:

**FREEDOM TO READ WEEK 2004**  
**SEMAINE DE LA LIBERTÉ D'EXPRESSION**  
**February 22-28**



# Primetime Update

Week of February 13

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

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

## Friends

Last week we witnessed a bachelorette party, a college alumni party, as well as a hoard of flashbacks.

This week we hop right into wedding preparations, including Phoebe's request that Joey walk her down the aisle, and Monica as the wedding planner who freaks out about many little details such as times, music, food, and even the presence of Rachel's daughter Emma. We then learn that Ross and Chandler are not a part of the wedding party, which is immediately followed by the falling out of one of Mike's groomsmen, leaving an opening for only one of the guys. The responsibility of choosing which one is passed from Mike to Phoebe (as she knows them better), and then on to Rachel.

At the rehearsal dinner, Phoebe tries to practice her speech but is constantly prompted by Monica to change what she wants to say, and cut it shorter for time's sake. However, in response, a fed up Phoebe blows up at her friend, and fires her as a wedding planner; but the later stress of making all the arrangements is a little bit too much and she has to re-ask Monica to take control.

Throughout the whole episode, Joey takes the "father thing" way too far, by interrogating Mike and the whole nine...

Rachel tells both Ross and Chandler that she's chosen them for Mike's last minute groomsman. In the heat of the argument, Mike comes in and announces that he'd like his dog to be his third groomsmen.

After all the final decisions are made, the group looks outside and sees the huge blizzard that will inhibit the big plans. But Rachel suggests that the couple should get married on the street (in front of Central Perk), since the snow has slightly stopped. All (even Monica) agree and the stage is set.

In the end, Ross has to walk Mike's dog down the aisle, and since the minister is snowed in, Joey must perform the ceremony, leaving Chandler to walk Phoebe down the aisle. In the end the ceremony is so beautiful and heartfelt that even I shed water like Niagara...

Next week: a family crisis sends Rachel back into Ross's arms.

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

## Survivor - ALL STARS

Last week the tribes spent four days without water or fire, a mystery box, and Saboga won reward and chose to give all three tribes fire. In the end, however, Saboga went to tribal council and Rudy was voted out.

This week we start off with Mogo Mogo discussing their bug bites, and the visuals are worse than the descriptions: each tribe member is just covered in welts. Jenna is hurting worse than everyone else, which is aggravated by the fact that she's not eating and drinking.

And then there is Richard... Naked as all get out he goes after a shark. Seriously guys a shark. He sticks his hand under a rock and grabs the tail of a shark, then tries to stab it with a spear. The sucker comes out and bites him and won't let go. So Richard bites him back, then drags him to shore and bashes his head on a rock. His tribe is impressed, not so much by what he's got downstairs, but by his ability to provide.

On Saboga, the energy comes from nowhere and everyone gets stuff done. But, the competition for Alpha male heightens as Ethan tries to get fish the way Rupert does, and it gives Rupert a laugh. Rupert becomes the wise man by talking about the importance of Unity.

For the reward challenge, sponsored by Home Depot, each tribe is provided with some building supplies. Those who build the best shelter win a reward.

On Chapera, Sue and Tom argue over the shelter, and since only four people can participate, Sue and Amber sit out. Boston Rob is great as a leader since this is what he does for a living. Rob C and Alicia mope about how the "big boys" won't let them play. Meanwhile, Amber admires the muscles of the Boston kid.

On Saboga, Rupert has the tribe aiming towards a log cabin. However, big mouth Jerri tries her best argue. It comes down to a vote, and Jerri loses. Later, a huge underground tree trunk that they can't move destroys their cabin plan. Criticism comes out, and spirits are destroyed. Rupert goes completely mad.

On Mogo Mogo, the guys (Lex and Colby) aim for a fully equipped tree house, while Shii Ann and Jenna "help" them. Richard and Kathy happily volunteer to sit out. When Jenna and Shii Ann make some stupid girly suggestions, the guys ignore them.

Jenna Morasca expresses her worry about her Mom, and whether or not it was a good idea for her to leave again. Pity party. We all know how I feel about pity parties. This is the Jenna who won Survivor: Amazon (which really ticked me off to begin with). The Amazon is famous for the strength of the female warriors. If the woman who represents this strength is nothing but a whining sniffling wimp, she should be stripped of her title. If you question anything you do, I will question your character.

When the contractor goes to examine the shelters, he grabs a hold of everything and shakes it really hard. Mogo Mogo seems to pass the test easily as does Chapera. Saboga, however, presents a semi-underground shelter, with loose roof pieces, etc. Their confidence is completely shattered. The reward is dropped on Chapera's beach. The box contains a tarp, blankets, and wine (which hits Amber to the point that she talks about kissing Boston Rob).

After the reward challenge, a storm rolls through and freezes everyone. Instead of sitting in the shelter out of the rain, Jenna M tells everyone that her priorities have changed, and she makes the decision to walk. Damn Pity Parties. Stupid things ruin the game. The rest of the tribe criticizes the decision, and talks of the loss the tribe would be suffering.

At the Immunity Challenge Jenna makes the public announcement that she's going to pull herself out of the game. The rest of the castaways support her decision. Chapera and Saboga get a free ticket to the next round and Mogo Mogo loses a tribe member. I'm a happier person for it. Weakness only gives way to more weakness. Only the strong survive. The game would go nowhere without strength, however knowledge and therefore intuition have an important place in this world. Jenna knew that if her mother died while she was away she would regret that she never spent all the time she could with her. Jenna will look back on her decision not as a moment of weakness, but as a chance to say good-bye to the only woman who gave Jenna life.

And, now we discover the reason I hate pity parties. Sadness is the one emotion that no one has control over. I can't imagine what it would be like to lose a parent. Even me... I had a good cry.

Next week: Rob and Amber heat things up, more storms and tears, and a physical battle against each other.

## Statistics

### **CHAPERA**

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

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

Rob Cesternino – 25 years old, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Amazon

Rob Mariano – 28 years old, 10<sup>th</sup> place in Marquesas (Boston Rob)

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

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

### **SABOGA**

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

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

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

*Rudy Boesch – 76 years old, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Pulau Tiga (retired navy man) **GONE 2<sup>ND</sup>***

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

*Tina Wesson – 42 years old, SOLE SURVIVOR of Australian Outback **GONE 1<sup>st</sup>***

### **MOGO MOGO**

Colby Donaldson – 29 years old, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Australian Outback

Jenna Morasca – 22 years old, SOLE SURVIVOR of Amazon

Lex Van Den Berghe – 40 years old, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Africa

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

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

Shii Ann Huang – 30 years old, 10<sup>th</sup> place in Thailand

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

## **The Bachelorette**

**The Bachelorette** (Wednesday, February 11, 2004, 10:00pm)

### **HOMETOWN DATES!!**

Friendswood, TX, with MATHEW.

The couple goes for a walk and has a picnic, and Mathew plays on the swings. Later when they meet his family, the questions hit like wildfire. Despite the questions, Meredith was comfortable. Matt's mom reads a prepared toast (poem), which touches the hearts of all.

Buffalo, NY, with Chad.

Chad lives with his mother, and has since his father passed away. After a short talk, they head over to Chad's sister's house for dinner. The family feels like they've known Meredith for a long time. All of a sudden the bomb springs that Chad is UNEMPLOYED. Later, Chad's mom gives him her ring, to give to Meredith. After they say good-bye, Meredith talks about how good she feels when she's with him, but on my mind, the jerk is unemployed.

New York, NY, with Ian.

We know Ian as the guy who won't open up. Ian tells her that he's not comfortable with her meeting his whole family at once, however, she meets his brother. Ian opens up to Meredith with his family. Later they go up to Ian's friend Damian's loft apartment, where Erik pries into what it is that she wants out of this. In the kitchen Ian admits that his emotions are completely screwed up. Meredith tells the guys that she's ready to get married. Ian and Meredith spend some time alone in the apartment but Erik comes back in and steals Ian away for some conversation. In the end, Ian promises his brother that he WILL NOT offer Meredith a ring at the end of the show. Meredith admits that Erik makes her uncomfortable.

Aubrey, TX, with Lanny.

They spend some time on the ranch, and Lanny introduces her to his position as manager of breeding. Lanny's mother gets right into the serious stuff, such as her own role as a mother-in-law, as well as religion, to which Meredith replies that she's "open." Lanny's mom has too much mouth. Meredith admits that it was hard to sit at the family's table.

So, on the scoreboard:

Mathew: hot, nice, and great family

Chad: hot, nice, and great family, but he lied about being unemployed.

Ian: weird. If it were me this would be the guy to go.

Lanny: Well, the two of them share a great connection, however the relationship Meredith has with the family tends to stifle the mood.

At the rose ceremony: Jeff welcomes each guy one by one, and they don't have the chance to talk. After looking at the video messages I have an inkling that Chad will make it to the end, but we'll see. Meredith offers roses to Ian, Mathew, and Chad, leaving Lanny to go back home to his overprotective Mama.

Every week they play the same sappy song as the loser says good-bye, it's not even a surprise anymore.

Next Week: Intimate overnight dates. The guys start to express their real feelings.

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

## **The Apprentice**

**The Apprentice** (Thursday, February 12, 2004, 10:00 pm)

Last week, after four strait losses, the men's team was destroyed in a corporate reshuffle leaving Amy, Erica, Katrina, Tammy, Bill, and Nick on Versacorp and Kristi, Heidi, Omarosa, Jesse, Troy, and Kwame on Protégé Corporation. Both teams were given a thousand dollars to buy what they wanted and then resell it at a flea market. Versacorp made almost six hundred dollars profit, whereas because of some lost cash, Protégé Corp took a net loss of almost two hundred. In the end Kristi failed to defend herself, and she was fired.

Right off the bat, the rest of the competitors are shocked as heck to see Omarosa come back on the project. Omarosa decides that she must step up to be project manager so that she has more control over what happens.

This week the task is to negotiate with five celebrities to get donations for a charity auction for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Versacorp manages to get the following commitments:

Regis Philbin – Limo to Atlantic City, participate in dress rehearsal, and then late night dinner with Regis – sells for \$6000.00

Carson Daly – personal guest for Z100 FM Jingle Ball with backstage passes- sells for \$10,000.00

Tiki Barber – package sells for \$4000.00

Ed Bernero (Co-creator of Third Watch) – sells for \$7000.00

Rocco's Restaurant (Rocco DiSpirito) – Private Party for 50 people – sells for \$13000.00

The team is frustrated first when Tammy suggests that Carson Daly should commit to treating someone to a golf match with Tiger Woods or a private weekend away with the highest bidder! Her team members call her a loose canon. This is confirmed later when she suggests Regis Philbin take the highest bidder on a four-day getaway.

Protégé Corporation manages to get the following commitments:

Russell Simmons – spend one evening with the highest bidder – sells for \$7000.00

Kate White (Editor of Cosmopolitan) – Cosmo Day – sells for \$6000.00

Nicole Miller (Jennifer Anniston's designer) – 15-day apprenticeship – sells for \$6000.00

Fab Five (Cast of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy") – Disco Bowling and Cocktails – sells for \$9000.00

Isaac Mizrahi (designer) – tickets to a preview of his fashion collection and lunch as well as eight personal outfits – sells for \$7000.00

Jesse talks to Isaac as though he were a four year old, which forces everyone to think she's the weakest link when it comes to negotiations.

Auction at Sotheby's

SCOREBOARD: Total of \$75,000.00

Versacorp – 35,000.00

Protégé Corporation - \$40,000.00

No reward for the winning team, but Nick and Amy reward themselves by spending a lot of time together. Nick says that they're just friends, but both parties seem smitten.

Going into the boardroom the fight is between Omarosa as the project manager and Jesse who failed in her negotiations. Everyone was surprised that Omarosa was a wonderful leader. Everyone also stands behind Omarosa's choice of Jessie being the weakest link. However, Trump talks about the sharp edge that Omarosa has and how people shouldn't like her considering the way she speaks to them.

Trump is disgusted by the way Omarosa disrespects her teammates, but worse: Trump hates the way Jesse took so much crap from Omarosa without standing up for herself and he fires her.

Next Week: ten remain and the tension goes up as people are again accused of being unethical. Each team must renovate and rent a NYC apartment and Omarosa gets injured and is sent off the job. As well, after a surprising phone call, Heidi might be forced out of the game.

*The Apprentice airs on Wednesday evenings at 10:00 pm 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](mailto:abaldwin@shaw.ca)!**

# PIONEERS IN A NEW AGE

# PIONNIERS DE L'AVENIR

Conference MAY 30 - JUNE 2, 2004  
Conférence du 30 mai au 2 juin 2004



See the Conference Website

Voir le site web de la conférence <http://www.pioneers2004.yorku.ca/>

## 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](mailto: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](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

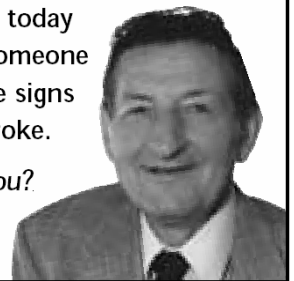
If you have a question for AUSU, or would like to get to know your council, drop by the chat-room [accessible through the 'Message Forums' option on the AUSU home page [www.ausu.org](http://www.ausu.org). You will need an AUSU web site account.] **Times are MST**

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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(1-888-473-4636)  
[www.heartandstroke.ca](http://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](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the word "events" in the subject line.

## VANCOUVER, BC

### Re-reading the 80s: Feminisms as Process

A curatorial project by Jessie Caryl, sponsored by the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, that looks at the practices of a number of artists engaged with diverse feminisms in Vancouver through book works, printed matter, and art journal interventions produced in the 1980s. There are several dates throughout February and March. Check the website for details. The location of this free event is the Belkin Satellite (555 Hamilton St; btwn Pender St and Dunsmuir St.). You can contact Monika Sczewczyk at [belkin2@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:belkin2@interchange.ubc.ca) or 604-822-2759.

<http://www.liveat.ubc.ca/liveatubc/events/eventDetails.eventos?eventId=5474>

## VANCOUVER, BC

### Manufacturing Mod: Metal Tunics to Paper Dresses

Sponsored by the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, curator Jamila Dunn examines the use of non-traditional materials such as paper, plastic, and metal, and other experimental forms that challenged the limits of sartorial possibility. Innovative garments by Paco Rabanne, Pierre Cardin, Andre Courreges and others will be featured along with related media images that suggest broader social and historical contexts for situating the clothing. The free exhibition dates are: April 3 - 15, 2004. Satellite Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 12 - 5 pm. Opening: Friday, April 2, 2004, 8 - 10 pm. Belkin Satellite is located at 555 Hamilton St. (downtown Vancouver, btwn Pender St. and Dunsmuir St.) You can contact Monika Sczewczyk at [belkin2@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:belkin2@interchange.ubc.ca) or 604-822-2759.

<http://www.liveat.ubc.ca/liveatubc/events/eventDetails.eventos?eventId=5494>

## VANCOUVER, BC

### TGIF Seminar Series, an ongoing event

The seminars, sponsored by the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, are held on Fridays at 4:00 p.m. in the Chan Auditorium (950 W. 28th.)

They will feature invited external scientists and representatives from each lab. Refreshments will be available after the seminar. You can contact Dora Surname Pak at [dora@cmmt.ubc.ca](mailto:dora@cmmt.ubc.ca) or (604) 875-3841 for more information on this free event. Check the website for future dates.

<http://www.liveat.ubc.ca/liveatubc/events/eventDetails.eventos?eventId=4670>

## VANCOUVER, BC

### Women in Business Mentoring Program

This luncheon speaker series is hosted by Alumni Relations and is open to everyone. It puts a human face and a personal story to the titles worn by our business leaders and creates a venue for students to interact with role models. The program assists students in understanding the day-to-day world of work and in defining themselves as they make the transition from school into the workforce. It also touches upon issues that are more concrete in terms of women's issues - staking a place at the boardroom table, pay equity, balancing family life with career etc. The featured speaker is Pat Jacobsen, the CEO of Translink, and this free event takes place at the David Lam Forum on Thursday, March 18th. Contact Christine Glendinning at [glendinning@sauder.ubc.ca](mailto:glendinning@sauder.ubc.ca) or 604-822-6027 for times and more information.

<http://www.liveat.ubc.ca/liveatubc/events/eventDetails.eventos?eventId=6047>

## ST. CATHERINES, ON

### War and Children

Retired General Romeo Dallaire will visit Brock University on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 7:30 p.m., to speak about the impact of war on children in today's conflicts. In 1993, Dallaire took command of the United Nations Observer Mission - Uganda and Rwanda (UNOMUR) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). His experiences during the Rwandan genocide are recounted in his recent book "Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda". In addition to being special advisor to the Canadian government on war-affected children, Dallaire is active with the Canadian Armed Forces Mental

Health Project and the Veterans Affairs-Canadian Armed Forces Advisory Council. Dallaire's presentation is part of the Brock Political Science Department's speakers series. The event is open to the public. Admission is free, but tickets are required. The event takes place in the David S. Howes Theatre on the Brock University campus. Tickets can be picked up free of charge at the Centre for the Arts box office whose hours are weekdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please contact David Whorley in the Department of Political Science at Brock, at 905-688-5550, ext. 4822; e-mail davidwhorley@aol.com

<http://www.brocku.ca/webnews/displaystory.phtml?sid=1038>

He will also be presenting Tuesday, 24 February 2004 at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Education Auditorium, University of Regina. For further information, please contact: Nanette Marquart (Justice Studies): 585-4779, or Milagros Chárriez (Humanities Research Institute): 585-4226

## MONTREAL, QC

### Eucue: Late-Boomers, Gen X And Gen Y

Thursday, February 19, 2004, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm and  
Friday, February 20, 2004, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Friday, February 20, 2004, 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Performances sponsored by the Concordia University Department of Music. Participating Concordia Electroacoustics (EuCuE) curators will present studio-based works from Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, UK and the USA. Admission to the event is free, and it takes place at the LOY Campus, Room Oscar Peterson Concert Hall. Concordia University.

<http://music.concordia.ca/>

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### "Finally Got the News"

Film viewing sponsored by überCulture Collective on Thursday, February 19, 2004, 9:00 pm - 11:30 pm. In the massive auto plants of Detroit a mix of class struggle and new found black pride lead to the creation of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. Made by the group in the height of their influence this film is an inspiring mix of documentary storytelling and inflammatory propaganda. Explores the working conditions in industrial America, race relations in the labour movement and government repression of dissident

movements. Backed up by an excellent blues soundtrack. The event takes place at SGW Campus, Room H - 435, Henry F. Hall Building 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. For additional information contact [ezra@uberculture.org](mailto:ezra@uberculture.org)  
<http://www.uberculture.org>

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### African Cultural Day

These exhibits, sponsored by the African Student Association of Concordia, take place Friday, February 20, 2004, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at SGW Campus, Room H - MEZZANINE, Henry F. Hall Building 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Contact [logikid@hotmail.com](mailto:logikid@hotmail.com) for more information.

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### Christianity in China

These conferences & lectures, sponsored by the Concordia Chinese Christian Fellowship and Concordia Christian Fellowship, take place February 20, 2004 from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. The guest speaker, William Tsui, is General Secretary to Chinese Communications Inc. in Canada. Some of the lectures are in Mandarin, the rest in English:

10:00 to 12:00 hrs. in Mandarin: "Far or Near"  
13:30 to 15:30 hrs. in English: "Against All Odds"  
16:00 to 18:00 hrs. in English: "China how are you?"  
19:30 to 21:30 hrs. in Mandarin: "China's Tomorrow"

The event takes place at the SGW Campus, Room H - 767, Henry F. Hall Building 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W. Concordia University.

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### Men Of Steel

This musical event, sponsored by the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, takes place Saturday, February 21, 2004, 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm. The Art of the Steel String Guitar, solo and group performances by virtuosos Don Ross, Dan Crary, Tony McManus and Beppe Gambetta. Tickets are available at the box office and through the Admission network: \$29 (service charges applicable). Location: LOY Campus, Room Oscar Peterson Concert Hall.

<http://oscar.concordia.ca>

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### "Before Stonewall"

This film viewing, sponsored by überCulture Collective and the Concordia Queer Union, takes place Wednesday, February 25, 2004, 9:00 pm -

11:30 pm. The film was produced by Robert Rosenberg, John Scagliotti and Greta Schiller, and is narrated by Rita Mae Brown. "Before Stonewall" pries open the closet door--setting free the dramatic story of the sometimes horrifying public and private existences experienced by gay and lesbian Americans since the 1920s. Experience the fascinating and unforgettable, decade-by-decade history of homosexuality in America through eye-opening historical footage and amazing interviews with those who lived through an often brutal closeted history. Location: SGW Campus, Room H - 435

Henry F. Hall Building 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.  
For more information contact [ezra@uberculture.org](mailto:ezra@uberculture.org)  
<http://www.uberculture.org>

### **CALGARY, AB**

#### **Marching to a Different Beat - a musical experience**

A celebration of artistic expressions from the heart featuring Japanese Koto & Ikebana, Men's Chorus, Peter & the Wolf, traditional Chinese orchestra and modern dance. This is a gala event in support of the Suzuki Piano Pedagogy Program. The event takes place at the Leacock Theatre in Calgary, on Saturday, March 27th, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$49 per person, and you can call 403-440-7770 for purchase information. Contact the Conservatory Office at 403-440-6821 for more information.

<http://www.mtroyal.ab.ca/news/evview.php?item=000574>

### **REGINA, SK**

#### **SIDRU Seminar**

SIDRU Seminars provide a forum for educators and students to discuss educational issues and research and their implications for teaching and learning. Bring a colleague and your lunch and join us for free coffee. The events take place in the Education Building, room 215 at 12 p.m. on Wednesdays (February 25th, March 4th, March 10th, March 17th). For more information, contact Michelle Pawliuk at 585-4309

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#### **SIPP Seminar**

#### **READY OR NOT...Privacy Legislation Compliance in Saskatchewan.**

Facilitated by Mr. R. Gary Dickson Q.C., Information and Privacy Commissioner of Saskatchewan, the event takes place Thursday, February 26th, 2004

from 1:15 - 4:30 p.m. in the SIPP Window Room, Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus, University of Regina. Refreshments to follow. There is a \$20.00 Registration fee (+GST) and seating is limited to the first 24 registrants. Please call SIPP at (306) 585-5777 or e-mail [sipp@uregina.ca](mailto:sipp@uregina.ca). A registration form is available on their website.

[www.uregina.ca/sipp](http://www.uregina.ca/sipp)

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#### **Playwrights Reading Series**

Hosted by the Department of Theatre, University of Regina, in partnership with The Saskatchewan Writers Guild with the assistance of the Playwrights Guild of Canada and the Canada Council for the Arts. Brian Quirt will present on Dance Dramaturgy and Physical Theatre as a Mechanism for the Development of New Work, at The Shu-Box Theatre on March 3, 2004 at 8 p.m. All readings are open to the public free of charge. For further information call 585-5562.

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#### **"Abraham, Hagar and Ishmael: Drawing from Jewish, Christian and Muslim Views"**

Thursday, March 11, 2004, 7:00 p.m., Rex Schneider Auditorium, Luther College. Presented by Dr. Roland E. Miller, Professor Emeritus, Luther College, University of Regina. Jews, Christians, and Muslims all claim to be children of Abraham. Dr. Miller's lecture will explore five personal lessons members of the Abrahamic family can learn from their father to improve human relations. For more information contact Ericka Barrett Greenham at 585-5144 or [communications@luthercollege.edu](mailto:communications@luthercollege.edu).

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#### **"Sexism and the Gendering of Education"**

Dr. Christine Overall, FRSC, will present on Thursday, 11 March 2004 at 7:30 p.m. Campion Auditorium (University of Regina Main Campus). Dr Overall is Professor of Philosophy (cross-appointed to Women's Studies) and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at Queen's University in Kingston. Elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 1998, Dr Overall is a distinguished and widely respected scholar. Her books have been published by Oxford University Press, Allen & Unwin, the University of Toronto Press, and other major publishing houses. Her most recent book, "Aging, Death, and Human Longevity: A Philosophical Inquiry", was published last year by the University of California Press. Admission is free. reception to follow. For information call 585-4226.

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### "Separating News from Noise"

Thursday, March 18, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rex Schneider Auditorium, Luther College

Presented by J. Craig Wilson, Luther College High School alumnus Producer/Writer/Editor for CBS News broadcast "Up to the Minute". Canadians and Americans have never had more choices for where to get their news, but are we better off than we were 15 years ago? Craig Wilson will offer a candid insider's perspective on the shifting competitive landscape and discuss the implications for the news business, for the viewers, and for democracy itself. For more information contact Ericka Barrett Greenham at 585-5144 or [communications@luthercollege.edu](mailto:communications@luthercollege.edu)

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### "Protection and Repatriation of First Nation Cultural Heritage: Issues in Canadian Law Reform"

Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rex Schneider Auditorium, Luther College. Presented by Prof. Catherine Bell, Luther College alumna (high school 1979; university 1982) Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies & Research, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta. The law of property or the law of Aboriginal rights? Prof. Catherine Bell will discuss the fundamental challenges Canadians face in creating inter-culturally legitimate and constitutionally valid laws concerning Aboriginal cultural heritage. For more information contact Ericka Barrett Greenham at 585-5144 or [communications@luthercollege.edu](mailto:communications@luthercollege.edu)

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### SUNTEP Proudly Presents "WALKING ART", Fashion Show & Reception

Clothing from Jeff Chief will be available to purchase. This will be a fun filled evening on April 2, 2004 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Multipurpose Room, Riddell Centre, University of Regina. Admission is \$3.00. Tickets can be purchased at College West, room 227 or at the door. For further information contact Cathy Wheaton at 585-5627.

### 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](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with "events" in the subject line.

# Scholarships and Awards

## THE PARKLAND INSTITUTE 2004 ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

**Value:** \$500 in each category

**Number:** Three

**Deadline:** May 31, 2004

**Notes:** Students registered in any high school, under graduate or graduate program within Alberta are invited to write an essay of approximately 1000 words on the following topic:

*Topic: "How are trends like larger class sizes, higher tuition, less school funding and other government decisions affecting your education?"*

The student with the best essay in each of the three categories will receive \$500, and one of the three winning essays will be published in Alberta Views Magazine.

Please include your name, address, phone #, school and level (high school, undergrad, and graduate) on the first page of your essay. This information, except for level, will not be passed on to the judges.

**Please send your essay to:**

Parkland Institute  
11045 Saskatchewan Drive,  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E1  
Phone: (780) 492-8558.  
Fax: (780) 492-8738  
e-mail: parkland@ualberta.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>



## **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 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](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*

- **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

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for more information.

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

## 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](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

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

*The Voice* is published every Wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at: **[VOICE@AUSU.ORG](mailto:VOICE@AUSU.ORG)**

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