

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

May 5, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 18



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

**RE: Debbie Jabbour's AU Develops Doctorate Program
April 28, 2004 - v12i17**

I'd like to say how frustrated I am that AU does not currently have a Psychology or Arts Doctorate program. I've had very few places, people or institutions I have been able or willing to be loyal to. I'm disappointed that I can't plan ahead of time to count on this program to be available when... or is that if... I get to that point in my studies.

If AU plans such a doctorate it is not being mentioned to we the students within that program.

We'd like to know what's going on.

Laura Seymour

Good question, Laura. I've contacted some of the "powers that be" at AU in the psychology and arts departments and I hope to be able to print an answer to your question in next week's issue.

THE VOICE

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frequent contributions

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NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

The Defense and the Offense: Plant Toxicity in Perspective

Ahh, the weather is finally warming up enough for the plant kingdom to fully come back to life. Splashes of green and jewels of colour are once again making their mark on the winter weary landscape. Along with this new surge of floral vitality, however, comes the bustling activity of life of a different sort, one with which the plant world has contended for millenia: that of the herbivores.

Migrating back to this part of the world as it becomes increasingly hospitable, or awakening from a winter spent in dormancy, the insects, birds, mammals and other creatures that dine on plants return in full swing at this time of the year. Have you noticed the appearance of little clouds of bugs; the presence of the occasional butterfly on one of the really warm days; or the little housefly, tired looking, but *there*? These are all sure signs that the timeless plant-herbivore relationship is beginning its annual cycle yet again, and that plants will be beefing up their defense systems to combat the onslaught of those who wish to make lunch out of them.

Secondary metabolites: the bane of many a herbivore's existence. These chemical compounds – phenols, alkaloids, terpenes, and many others – act as plants' first line of defense against potentially fatal herbivory. Plants such as Poison Ivy, Fragrant Sumac, rhubarb, even the familiar plants of the nightshade family – the tomatoes and potatoes: they have all developed secondary compounds that help to deter herbivory.

What is the mechanism by which these compounds provide plants with protection from their animal predators? The secondary compounds effective in deterring herbivory have toxic properties that can cause everything from a yucky flavour to indigestion, illness, reduced reproductive capacity, and even death. An animal unadapted to dealing with a plant's particular herbivory deterrent won't likely leave the dining table feeling too chipper if it decides to throw caution to the wind and try out a new plant flavour.

Of course, the presence of secondary compounds is something of a double-edged sword for some plants. Take the tomato, for instance. The presence of fruit, the home of the plant's seed, and thus the key to its future, indicates a reliance on animals for dispersal and establishment. Without the help of fruit-loving animals in depositing the seed – primed after a trip through the animal's digestive tract, and planted lovingly with its very own little supply of fertilizer - the tomato and its relatives would have died out long ago.

But the leaves – the source of life blood for our photosynthetic friends – must remain untouched. So what to do? The allocation of toxic compounds within the plant is a tricky thing indeed, and needs to be well planned, so to speak. Within the plant, toxic compounds must be allocated to the various 'body' parts – roots, shoots, leaves, and fruits - selectively, dependent on which is likely to be negatively affected by herbivory.

If some types of herbivory (e.g. fruit-eating and subsequent seed dispersal) will benefit the plant, then the presence of toxic secondary compounds must be low or non-existent in the fruit. If other types of herbivory (e.g. leaf-eating, resulting in an inability to

capture the sun's energy) will negatively affect the plant, then toxic secondary metabolites will likely be found in the leaves in full force. Smart move, until some sneaky little beast like the tomato horn worm figures out a loophole in the plant's defensive plan, and chows down regardless of the chemical makeup of the leaf. Oh, the best laid plans...

Phenols and alkaloids, plants and their predators: all part of a dynamic relationship that exists between the eaters and the eaten. The resulting interplay of forces is fascinating, as various mechanisms in both the plant and animal realms adapt to the other's wily defenses. Who will be the next to one-up the other? Stay tuned as plants and herbivores continue for another few million years to battle it out for top spot.

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

CAREER-A-PALOOZA

Lonita Fraser

One of the more difficult tasks facing any student is that of finding a job. Information on jobs is scattered all over the Internet and newspaper classified sections, in some not very consistent ways, which makes the task of finding available work that much more difficult.

Even if you do find it, you might be unsure what to do with it. Perhaps you're not comfortable with job interviews, or you've never been on one and aren't certain how to handle yourself; perhaps you've never written a resume or curriculum vitae, and don't know where to start.

Job fairs are excellent resources for the job-seeking individual, as they have what you're looking for all set up in one place - resume help, interview help, and potential employers who are looking for someone just like you to fill the positions they have to offer.

On May 6th, 2004 Career-A-Palooza hits The National Trade Centre at the Automotive Building at Exhibition Place in Toronto, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Potential employers from a wide variety of industries will be on-site in search of people to hire.

Admission to the event is free, though a donation of non-perishable food items for the Daily Bread food bank will be greatly appreciated. It is suggested that you pre-register via the website, and that the event should be treated as a job interview - which means appropriate dress, and that you come prepared with copies of your resume to give to the on-site interviewers.

If you're not sure how to compile a resume or how you should comport yourself at the interviews, the Career-A-Palooza website has some handy tips for both.

<http://www.careerapalooza.ca/>

A large, stylized sun with a spiral center and long, pointed rays is positioned in the upper right corner. Several smaller, stylized clouds with spiral centers are scattered across the yellow sky.

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Calgary
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www.alsab.ca



ENGL 146 COURSE INTRODUCTION

Katie Patrick

Are you interested in having a better command of the English language? Athabasca University's ENGL 146, Reading for Academic Purposes, may be for you. First released in April 2003, Reading for Academic Purposes (ENGL 146) is a non-credit course whose goal is to aid students in improving their English skills, including reading and comprehension.

Reading for Academic Purposes (ENGL 146) consists of 8 practical, hands-on modules. The first several modules will introduce you to an overview of the English language, focusing on improving your vocabulary and becoming familiar with the root words, stems, and suffixes commonly encountered. Next, you will study sentences, with emphasis on comprehensibility. Module 4 covers reading; in this module you will have the opportunity to improve your reading skills and speed, in addition to becoming familiar with paragraph format and inferences made when reading.

After completing the last modules, you will have mastered the skills of scanning paragraphs and gaining the general ideas contained therein; additionally, you will be able to read concisely when the need arises. Altogether, Reading for Academic Purposes (ENGL 146) will give you the skills necessary for good English comprehension and further courses in University English.

ENGL 146's course coordinator, Veronica Baig, is active in the ESL field. A past ESL and Writing Skills teacher, she currently works at coordinating and developing English courses to enable non-native English speakers to be able to realize their full potential by attending University.

Veronica Baig also possesses an impressive educational background, having graduated from several universities, including the University of Wales, the University of Calgary, and the University of Saskatchewan. Additionally, she also coordinates 2 additional Athabasca University English courses: ENGL 140 and ENGL 143.

Offered by the Centre for Language and Literature, ENGL 146 has no prerequisites, but course coordinator Veronica Baig recommends that you have achieved a relatively high level (such as 450) in the TOEFL test prior to taking the course, or, if you are not an ESL student but wish to enhance your command of the English language, you can try a quick online assessment of your English level at: www.athabascau.ca/html/services/counselling/esl

Reading for Academic Purpose's course evaluation consists of 2 sets of questions relevant to the course readings, the first of which is worth 60% and the second of which totals 10% of your final grade. Additionally, the final exam, worth 30%, makes up the rest of your grade.

For more information on Reading for Academic Purposes (ENGL 146), visit: www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/engl/engl146.htm

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Burnout!

By Debbie Jabbour



The conclusion of Debbie's three part article on burnout. In previous instalments Debbie spoke about her challenging job as a family support worker, and the gruelling on-call schedule that left her exhausted and disillusioned.

... Throughout this whole time, in spite of my exhaustion, I absolutely loved the work I was doing. This was what I trained to do during my years at university, an important step towards my career goal of becoming a psychologist. I felt I was making a difference in the lives of my clients, and it was deeply satisfying. As much as I felt I was helping my clients, they in return were helping me - I was learning from

them and having a first-hand opportunity to develop my skills as a counsellor. Unfortunately, this aspect of the job was used as a way to short-change employees. Because we all loved the work itself and came to care so much about our clients, the expectations were that we would be willing to expend our time for free without complaint.

My first major disappointment came in December, when all the other workers received the promised bonus and I received nothing. My supervisor expressed her surprise, claiming she had no idea why this was the case. I did not find out why until after I had finally given my notice. As I had suspected, they had hired me after the cut-off for the bonus, and I missed it by three months. Although disappointed, I consoled myself with the realization that my six month review was not that far off, at which time I would be eligible for an increment increase.

I was already into my seventh month of employment before my supervisor finally set up an appointment for this review, to be done in conjunction with my bi-monthly supervision. We had individual and group supervision, and these were opportunities to discuss each of our clients and get feedback on ways we could improve. Group supervision was extremely helpful, since we had a chartered psychologist come in and we would take turns at presenting different client situations in order to get her feedback. It was also an excellent chance to hear what everyone else was up to. Our supervisor tried to assign clients to us based on the particular areas of strength that we displayed. One worker was exceptionally good with sexual abuse situations, another with mental health issues. My supervisor often assigned some of the more complex cases to me, since she considered one of my strengths to be my life experience and ability to understand complicated family dynamics and behaviour. A common comment I heard from my clients was that they really appreciated being able to work with someone who had some maturity, rather than a young person fresh out of university.

One of my most challenging clients involved a child custody dispute between parents, where I was placed in a position where I had to work separately with each, acting as an impartial mediator. Another client, who had her children apprehended because of ongoing substance abuse issues, said upon meeting me for the first time, "at last, someone my own age who understands me." Some of my work also involved being present when children in foster care would visit with their parents, and this could be emotionally very stressful. When the visit would end, and the children would have to say goodbye, it was heartbreaking. Even though the parents may have had problems that interfered with their ability to be effective as parents - their children loved them and wanted to be back home. On a first unforgettable visit with one client, the two little ones ran and hid when I arrived, terrified that they would be taken away again. Then one came out with a plastic bow and arrow and aimed it at me, stating that she would shoot me so that I would go away!

It was frustrating at times, dealing with child welfare. Most of the workers were excellent, compassionate, caring people who really wanted the best for the children and families they were involved with. Many were very young, and it seemed to me that their lack of experience often prevented them from really understanding what was going on with families. A few appeared to be on a power trip, making all kinds of unrealistic demands on families, knowing that the family had no choice but comply or lose their children, and I found this very disturbing.

Don't misunderstand me, in many situations the children really were better off outside of the home, and I saw and heard some horrible stories. But for the most part these families were people who were having a hard time coping with life, and often just needed some encouragement and help to be able to be good parents. They just wanted things to get better and have child welfare go away. And child welfare really had all the power. When I would see progress made and families healing, it was deeply satisfying, and my goal was always to help my clients get to the point where I was no longer needed.

By the time my performance review came around, the agency was also in the middle of an accreditation process. Pressure was on to get all the paperwork done, and everyone was becoming even more stressed as they tried to juggle their overworked schedule and still find time to get the files in order. Our supervisor told us to not schedule any client visits and instead come in to the office to just do paperwork for several days - but this was impossible to do when clients in crisis kept paging you.

The importance of paperwork was brought home to me by a co-worker who told me that they had held back her first increment raise because she was behind on her files. She had been hired during a month very much like the one we had just endured, and after spending 50 and 60 hour weeks for the first several months of employment, had not managed sufficient time to take care of the filing, so that when her performance review came around, this was used as an excuse to not move her up to the promised next level. I was very disturbed at hearing this, and it should have been a warning to me.

The afternoon of my review, I had just finished a very difficult session with one of my clients. I had been paged by the father, the mother, then the child, within the space of a few minutes - all of them extremely upset, seeking my guidance and input. I vented for a bit with my supervisor, then we sat down for our regular supervision session, followed by my performance review.

During the review, my supervisor repeatedly expressed what I had been feeling - that I was doing extremely well on the job. She complimented me on my ability to really understand family dynamics and the issues these people were facing, stating that, unlike many of the younger workers - I really "got it," and could see the whole picture. She told me that feedback had been completely positive from everyone; external agencies, clients, co-workers, and staff. This confirmed my own sense of accomplishment, and I felt really good at hearing these words, knowing I was succeeding in helping people, and in being effective as a counsellor.

Then, at the end of the interview, as I got up to leave, - she delivered the blow. After giving me all this positive and encouraging feedback, after telling me how well I was doing... she added, almost as an afterthought, "oh, but, by the way, I've decided to withhold your performance wage increment for a few months." I was stunned, and asked why. She said there were "issues with my pager response."

I protested, stating that she was well aware that my pager had malfunctioned on a single occasion, and how could I possibly improve on something beyond my control? She then cited further issues with my lateness at workshops. Once again, I was stunned. This was something that had been discussed months previously, when she had told me that it was proper procedure to arrive late at a workshop if you were responding to a client page.

I gave up arguing and walked out of the office in a daze. I was close to tears, and when I entered the next room, several of my co-workers were there, congratulating another worker who had just been hired by child welfare at twice the salary. I joined in the congratulations, choked and barely able to keep a calm face. He was talking about his new start date, but said he had pushed it forward in order to complete all his client files. Reeling from the blow I had just received, I advised him to move on quickly and not give anymore free time to this organization, then left the office in a hurry before I broke down completely.

I had four client visits after this, and at each one I was far too distracted and upset to be of any practical use. I was devastated. I had thought I was doing well, feeling so fulfilled and successful in my work with clients. This was my career. This was what I had trained for. I knew I was doing well, making a difference in the lives of my clients. But my supervisor had given me a negative review based on criteria I had no control over!

I did my best with my clients that day, even though I just wanted to break down and cry. After finally arriving home, I called a few of my co-workers. They confirmed that this was nothing unusual, that the company routinely held back merited wage increments for the flimsiest of reasons. The consensus was that this was just another way that they cut corners and reduced their budget. My co-workers suggested I try to talk to higher management (a step I subsequently took with no response), but advised that the grievance process took a long time and that by the time anyone bothered to listen to you, months would pass and you would finally get your increment anyway, so no one ever bothered to fight this. They advised me to just keep working, take care of my clients, and find fulfilment through personal knowledge of a job well done.

I considered this advice, but over the next 24 hours I found myself in such deep distress, so devastated by this turn of events that I could barely function. I could not stop crying, hurt beyond belief. I had thought I was doing so well, that I was helping my clients, that I was making a difference in people's lives - yet my supervisor had chosen to punish me for a pager response issue that I was not responsible for. How could I ensure that my pager might not fail to go off again? How could I ensure that a client would not call me and make me late for another meeting? It was not possible. So how, then, could I improve my performance? And I took it very personally. Obviously there must have been something terribly wrong with my own performance for them to use such insurmountable excuses to withhold a performance increment. But what? I ran over every word my supervisor had said in that review meeting and could not think of anything that I might have done wrong. I was doing a good job.

There was no getting around it. It came down to the fact that my supervisor was withholding the performance increment simply because she had the power to do so. Although I asked what I could do to "earn" this increase, I was left with no goals or objectives, since I would never be able to rely on my pager to "perform" electronically and not let me down, and since I would always be expected to answer client pages even if it made me late for meetings - knowing that I would be punished for doing so.

I snapped. I saw no option but to submit my resignation.

My supervisor called me within hours of receiving my letter of resignation, but I was far too upset to talk with her. Over the next few days, I became so emotionally distraught that I started to worry about my own mental health. I was walking around the house and crying spontaneously with no apparent reason. This was starting to feel way too familiar, and I was terrified that I might slip back into depression. I paced, I cried, and I thought. What to do? I finally bit the bullet and met with my supervisor.

At that meeting, I asked her how I could possibly improve my performance so as to finally earn my increment, when the criteria for withholding it were beyond my control. She seemed quite taken aback at this, stating that I was doing the job very well, insisting that withholding the increment wasn't really a big deal. I pressed her, asking how I was supposed to prevent another pager malfunction. She had no answer, and advised me that I should have just stuck around and waited, and then I would have got my increment a few months from now regardless.

This just confirmed what I had been feeling, what my co-workers had already advised. The company was using any excuse, regardless of how small, or whether it was within employee control. The goal was to withhold pay increases at any excuse. We had already seen the company's willingness to overwork employees in order to receive additional funding. This was just an extension of the same thinking.

It's wrong to treat employees this way. It's wrong to take advantage of people in this profession who are trained to care about others and are therefore vulnerable to exploitation. It's wrong to expect mental health care workers to expend ridiculous hours, to work overtime and holidays without compensation, simply because you know they care about their clients and will not abandon them.

It was heartbreaking to leave my clients, but their response when I broke the news to them made me realize that my work had not been in vain. Several stated that they would refuse to work with anyone else and would be taking steps to have their file closed. Others cried. Some begged me to remain in their lives somehow. One client called me, after my number had inadvertently showed up on his call display. He was very distressed that I was leaving, and asked me to please count on him for a personal reference if I ever needed one, stating that I had been the "one voice of sanity" throughout this whole process.

Saying goodbye to my clients was very hard. Saying goodbye to my dreams was even harder. For several weeks I remained very close to the breaking point, crying at the drop of a hat, unable to think, study, or properly do my job as AUSU president. I wish I could say that my colleagues on AUSU executive were supportive and understanding through this, but I can't. Pressure from a few on AUSU council made things so much worse. A new council had been elected, and I was trying very hard to help orient the new members, yet I was falling to pieces inside.

Even though I had given my notice, I still felt responsible to take care of my clients and to finish up paperwork. In my last week, I put in another 60 hours just ensuring that my files were brought up to date. I didn't want to leave the organization on bad terms, and most importantly, I wanted to ensure that my final reports gave my clients all the positive reinforcement and tools they needed to move on successfully.

I'm older and wiser now, as the expression goes. I don't know if my experience with this particular agency is indicative of how all non-profit mental health organizations operate. I hope I will not find this to be true of my next job. I've accepted that, in the mental health care field, I will likely never earn a wage that I deserve. This is wrong, but it is the reality.

What I do hope to see change, however, is how employees are treated. Those of us who are working at the front lines of health care, who are working "in the trenches" so to speak, helping families heal and remain intact, helping people function well as members of society - we deserve to be treated well. Family breakdown spirals into every element of our society, at a great cost. I would like to see the day when a government-funded organization such as the one I worked for would be able to pay their workers what they merit and would not have to resort to petty and unfair techniques to withhold pay increases.

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

"Hello, Toronto!" My Hometown

I begin my journey,
with a smile and a frown,
through the paved streets
of my hometown.

Where the doors are open
for a weekend each year,
during the spring season,
brightening up the town with plenty of joy and cheer.



**Ole
Toronto Town**

I.
Roaming into the ROM,
where his-story is told.
That "all men may know his work" carved by his palm,
begin the chapter of dinosaurs who died from the cold.

The chapter continues, as I walk through the arches of
time,
to where the stuffed animals hang by wire,
next to a cave where bats climb
and chomp on fruit flies at night to their heart's desire.

Desiring nature's beauty, man wants to follow,
travelling to Europe with his carving tool.
Gothic wooden statues of Mary and Jesus weeping in
sorrow
he carves, mimicking nature like a joker's fool.

Man does not easily give up his tasks.
He turns to woman instead,
adorning woman with Dior's sequined dress, feathered
mask,
and a pillbox hat placed upon her dainty head.

II.
Church bells chime for the women on a bright Sunday
morning.
St. Michael's, St. James, Metropolitan United
proclaim the choirs by singing,

"Everyone is welcomed, you are all invited!"

Incense, statues, altars, stained glass and crypts galore,
destroyed by the furnace's heat.
While the church bricks burned with a fiery roar.
Churches rebuilt piece-by-piece, victorious against defeat.

Up the narrow staircase, where the ashes dwell
sits the Carillon practicing every weekend.
Ringing the city service by chiming the carillon bell,
in search of a signal from high above, hoping for a
Godsend.

III.
Guided by the power of God, the Queen wanders into her
park,
protected by the forefathers of the land.
Sir John A. Macdonald, William Lyon Mackenzie and
George Brown guard the monarch.
Standing in stone, standing in sand.

Sand nurtures the red tulips in full bloom,
bleeding the battle scars of eighteen thirty-seven.
The troops marched up on Yonge Street to meet their
doom,
wishing for a delayed trip to heaven.

IV.
Mackenzie marched his troops up Yonge Street,
past surveyor David Gibson's house.
Where his eight children sat by the hearth, drying their wet
feet,
while Mrs. Gibson spun her spinning wheel, quietly as a
mouse.

V.
Spinning wheels morph into wagon wheels,
as the horses run towards the direction of the rising sun,
to where the horses hid in stables and waited for their daily
meals,
preserving time at the historical society until century
number twenty-one.

VI.
Decades have passed, and people still gather in the
building of marble and lime,
where Big Ben chimed in the New Year
at Old City Hall, to plead the innocence of their crime,
faced by the murals of the early pioneer.

Upstairs in the courtroom where the judge follows lawful
protocols,
the wooden courtroom doors sealed shut by the brass
doorknobs,
as lawyers stare into the blank white canvas walls,
and innocent pleas are read, while witnesses sob.

Lennox did not cry, he did not give up his fight,
to make City Hall a spectacular sight to see.
He was the architect who stole the spotlight,
forging his name into the blueprints, smiling in joyful glee.

Even when he spent over two million dollars, Lennox did not look back.
He had the last laugh with the politician's faces, imprinting images of gargoyles for his counterattack, carving his name into the exterior wall, invisible to the human eye in places.



**Nouveau
Toronto City**

I.
A new eye watches over the city,
it is Nathan Phillip's turn to show
how two tall buildings and a dome could make Toronto look pretty,
behind the eternal flame, lit by a fire's glow.

Glowing inside the building is a wall of nails
made from copper and steel,
next to the hall from the photographs, where early settlers tell their tales,
across from the café where hungry library patrons enjoy a meal.

The Mayor eats upstairs in his glass office with a tank of aquarium fishes.
after lunch he sits in the busy council chamber hall,
answering questions from citizens, fulfilling neighborhood improvement wishes,
while citizens are waiting, as they gaze at the green tiled mosaic of Toronto on the wall.

The circular wall holds the funneled chamber base,
beside a small-scaled model of the city is put on display,
quilted by Toronto's history, sewn by cotton and lace,
warming up the skaters on the square from a cold winter's day.

II.
Today Eaton fills the bags of many shoppers,
whom the Canada geese guide.
Flying above the spouting fountain, leading to boutiques marked "his and hers",
shoppers stock up on "Roots" sweaters, made from fleece.

III.
I walk past the busy gift shop customers, straight into the tower,
named for the Canadian National Railway,
where security guards puff air onto tourists, checking with their security power
and interactive screens show the tower's construction from the builder's workday

The action continues with the ride up to the tower's top.

Flying up the elevator to the observation bases
as hearts pound and ears pop,
looking above the streets of Toronto to see people with tiny faces.

Staring at the tourist's faces lying on the glass floors,
Lake Ontario, Centre Island, financial buildings fill the background,
and the cold spring air chills the deck of open corridors
next to the restaurant, revolving 360 degrees without making a sound.



**Multicultural
Toronto Mosaic**

I.
My stomach growls, hungry with delight.
Hot dog stands I see at street corners.
Ketchup, mustard and relish I smother on my hot dog, to end my hunger plight,
while the hot dog vendor says hello to passing foreigners.

II.
Foreign tongues continue to speak,
as I walk down College Street
to Kensington market I go, to purchase groceries for the week.
A Portuguese shop I walk into, to find the finest cuts of meat.

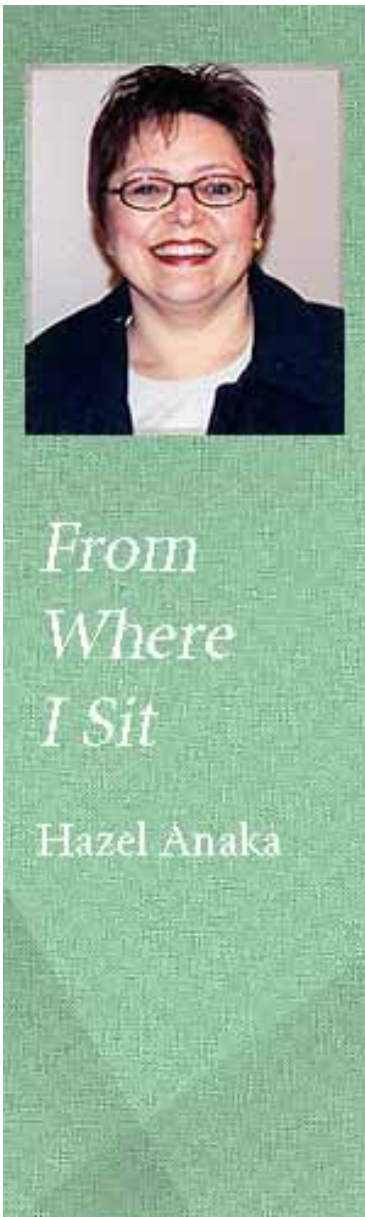
Fine clothes, fruit and old furniture fill Kensington on my trip.
Bicycle riders travel around the market instead of riding the TTC rocket train,
as everyone else holds the rocket's metal pole with a mighty grip,
knuckles become white in pain.

III.
With my painful calluses, I walk towards the eastern lands of China,
where loudspeakers blare out store sales
and ladies walk with fine silk gowns,
selling chopsticks, brush kits, Buddha statues and books of ancient tales.

Masked men walk to their homes,
fighting against the deadly SARS attack.
Protecting themselves from turning into bones
proclaiming, "Everyone careful, watch back!"

"Ciao, Toronto!" My City

I hang my backpack
with a notebook in tow.
Someday I shall come back,
for there are more story seeds to plant and grow.



GRIEF: PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

The very public and widespread outpouring of grief following the death of four Canadian soldiers in Kandahar has gotten me thinking. And I'm not alone.

Historians and war veterans, in particular, seem from newspaper accounts, to be baffled by what has been described as an over-reaction. The memorial service at Skyreach was attended by 16,000 including the prime minister. Thousands of messages have been posted to the Department of National Defense website. Flags flew at half-staff across the country.

Some WWII vets wonder what will be done to top that when losses number in the hundreds. While no one is begrudging these men their honor, some experts question the public display and media frenzy. I've seen it described as Oprahesque----the making of the private public.

Naturally, analysts have linked it to the emotional aftermath of the September 11th events. While that's probably true, I think there's more to it.

It seems to me the first hugely public displays of mourning followed Princess Diana's death. Can anyone forget the impromptu memorials that sprung up, complete with flowers, cards, candles? The immediacy and full color of the media coverage? The analysis? The outpouring of love and admiration for someone none of us really knew?

In a sense Diana's death -- senseless, tragic, and way too soon -- seemed to give people permission to grieve publicly. That outpouring of compassion and overt display have become the norm. Whether at the Columbine School massacre, the site of a plane crash, or a bloody parking lot outside a bar, memorials spring up over night.

I remember driving along the Yellowhead in Edmonton days after the fiery crash that claimed the life of the Aliman boy and gasping involuntarily at the shrine of plush toys and flowers. And I cried, yet again, for a little lost life.

Cynics would say the only ones benefiting are the merchants selling cards, flowers, toys. Critics would say it's just symbolism and imagery. Skeptics would doubt it leaves lasting changes.

I believe in the catharsis of crying. I believe that in times of tragedy and sorrow we do whatever we can to express our condolences. That expression may be a bouquet of flowers, a casserole, attendance at a prayer service, taking off a crop, or standing in silence with thousands at Skyreach. That communities (like Andrew or Canada or the military) come together to share their strength, to celebrate life, to ponder the meaning of death.

I know some people who refuse to attend a prayer service because it's too sad, too hard. I see it differently. How can we know joy if we don't allow ourselves to feel sorrow? How can we help each other at our most vulnerable?

Death does not discriminate. It will visit each of us. How we choose to grieve--publicly or privately---is our choice. But grieve we must. Whether it's one or hundreds or four who've died, from where I sit.

**Reprinted with permission*

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Research Chair for E-Business Created

The Government of Canada is putting \$700,000 into creating a research chair for e-business activities.

While I'm normally in favour of more money going toward education, even if it is on the research side of things, this one strikes me as not necessarily the best move.

The reason is simple, the topic doesn't have a lot of depth remaining to be explored. E-business really isn't all that new after all, it's just a translation of your standard mail-order to over the internet. After all, Sears has been doing mail order since 1886.

Unfortunately, it seems that for a large number of people sticking the words "by the internet" on to something makes it a whole new ball-game for them. What people are looking for is fast, good service at a decent price, with minimal hassles for returns and exchanges, and maybe with a small community behind it to help a person decide. That hasn't changed, even though we are using the somehow mystifying internet to do it now.

Putting \$700,000 toward finding out more about e-business seems to me a waste of public time and money. Let private enterprise take the lead on it.

On the bright side, however, some of the money will be used to help pay for graduate studies along those lines, so all you MBA's out there who are interested in research, this might be your golden opportunity.

Who knows, maybe you could just go research how Sears does things by ordering a bunch from them and get paid for it. That'd be sweet.

Education Matters

Statistics Canada is starting up a new publication titled "Education Matters", which will be released every two months. The first issue is out now and is available for free on the web. For post-secondary news in this issue, they've decided to more or less re-run something that they've run before -- that is their study on how distance affects people wanting to take post-secondary education.

I've taken a look at this research before and it's nothing terribly surprising. Basically, the farther away you are from a university or college, the more important a wealthy family becomes to determining whether you will attend or not. Since colleges are much more common than universities, the research goes on to show that people in rural areas are much more likely to attend a college.

All fairly basic stuff, but it serves to underline a point I keep making – building bigger buildings at the university will not have as significant effect on access as creating better education opportunities for rural students.

I point this out again because once again the Province of Alberta is hyping their capital expenditure plan and pointing out how they will be spending 416 million on building or renovating buildings at universities and colleges across Alberta.

Meanwhile, as it's a distance education institution, Athabasca University isn't even on the list for places that will be seeing this money. So our tuition continues to climb at the maximum allowed year after year, even though with an increase in operating grants AU could increase access and lower tuition at the same time.

This is such a win-win situation for the government I really can't understand why they haven't done it. Maybe you can see something I'm missing. If so, please let me know, I'd love to hear it.

Student Financing

Statistics Canada also released its National Graduates Survey: Student Debt report where it found that nearly half of all graduates (who didn't go on to further studies) had student debt, averaging around \$19,000.

Of course, observant readers will note that this completely misses those students who didn't graduate because they couldn't afford to, or those students that did graduate but then went on to further studies – possibly racking up even more debt in the process.

In fact, these two significant omissions persist throughout the survey. Only 24% of those bachelor students who graduated with debt reported problems with repaying it.

As to those students who didn't graduate but have debt? We have no numbers.

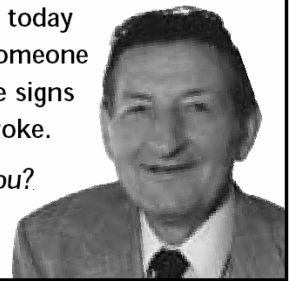
It would be interesting to see a study with these omissions corrected, so that we could get a true picture of how much damage excessive tuitions and high debt-loads are really causing.

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.

Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor

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

Do you?



STROKE WARNING SIGNS

WEAKNESS

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

TROUBLE SPEAKING

Sudden temporary
loss of speech or trouble
understanding speech

VISION PROBLEMS

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

HEADACHE

Sudden severe
and unusual headache

DIZZINESS

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

Call 911
or your medical
emergency number
immediately.



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



Dear Heather...

I want to start an exercise program, to lose a little weight and get healthier. The problem is, in the past every time I have tried to do this, I always got bored, sidetracked, or injured or I just gave up. How do I come up with a program I will stick with?

Andrea, Halifax.

Dear Andrea:

Congratulations on taking the first step: deciding to start exercising. Carrying out your plan will take some self-discipline, but exercising doesn't have to be unpleasant. There are a lot of things you can do to help ensure that you stick with it!

First, choose an activity (or several activities) that you genuinely enjoy. If you can't think of one, it may be time to try some new things. There are a lot of ways to do this. One is to talk to your active friends about what forms of exercise they enjoy, and ask if you can join them sometime. Another is to go to a gym as a guest or visitor (many gyms offer 30-day trial memberships for free or very cheap), and try everything they have: aerobics classes, swimming laps, squash lessons, yoga, weight training, etc. You can also check out the bulletin boards at local parks and fitness centres: often teams or leagues are looking for new players of all skill levels. This is a great way to find out about unusual sports in your area: frisbee golf, underwater hockey, and dragon boat racing are all possibilities. If you see something that sounds like fun, call and ask if you can come out and watch (or join in) a game, to see what it's all about.

If you're susceptible to boredom, it may be best to have a number of different sports or activities lined up. This way, you can rotate them: you can cycle one day, swim the next, and play floor hockey on Fridays. Or, you can swim during the winter and cycle in the summer. If, however, you are more motivated by reaching specific personal goals in your sport, sticking to one activity will allow you to reach higher levels of achievement in that sport (for example, if you run four times a week, you will likely increase your speed or distance faster than if you only run once a week and do another sport on the other days). Reaching personal milestones quickly might be the best way to stay interested if you're achievement-driven. Knowing what motivates you will help you decide which approach to take (and for those who can't decide, there are always multi-sports, like triathlon).

Once you've chosen your activities, you need to set a firm schedule so that you don't procrastinate. Decide how much exercise you will do, at what time of day, for how long, and on what days. Start small at first, to avoid becoming discouraged (or worse, injured). As your level of fitness increases, you can set more ambitious goals if you wish.

There are a number of things you can do to help yourself stay on track with your exercise program. First, write your exercise sessions down in your appointment book, and honour them as you would any other appointment. Second, set ambitious but achievable goals (how far you will walk, how much weight you will lift, which rock faces you will climb, etc.) and decide in advance how you will reward yourself for reaching those goals. Keep the reward in mind when you start feeling discouraged.

One piece of advice you often hear is to exercise with a friend. This can certainly make exercising more fun and may encourage you to stick with your program, but it will only do so if your friend is as committed as you are. If she isn't and she quits after two weeks, you may find yourself using this as an excuse for you to quit, too.

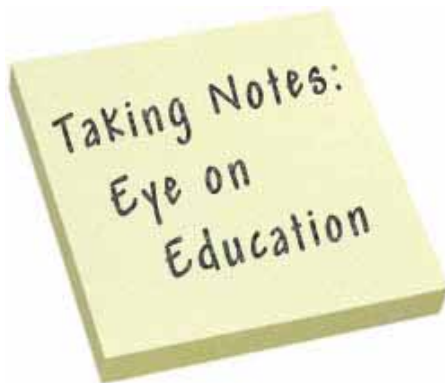
It also may be useful to keep a log: mark the days you exercise with an 'X' on your calendar (or write down the distance you jogged, or whatever). Looking back at that calendar will make you proud of your accomplishments so far, and you will be reluctant to quit and spoil your 'perfect' record of, say, swimming every day, or making every volleyball game.

A friend of mine wanted to lose weight, and for over a year she has walked nearly every day, rain or shine. I asked her how she stays on track, and I was impressed with her simple, but effective, strategy: at the very beginning, she made a deal with herself. If she didn't feel like taking her walk, she had to go to the three-way mirror in her closet and look at her body in the mirror. If she could honestly say she was happy with what she saw, she didn't force herself to walk that day. If, however, she wished that the body in the mirror was slimmer, then she had to walk. At first she feared that once she started to lose weight, the strategy would fail: she would be happier with her body and would give herself too many days off. What she has found, however, is that she has started enjoying the walk for its own sake. Although she is now happy with the body in the mirror, she walks every day anyway, just because it feels good.

Getting started is the hardest part. Good luck!

Heather

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



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

A LECTURE FROM BIG BIRD! *Debbie Jabbour*

At Villanova University in Philadelphia, students are in an uproar after hearing that their graduating class will receive an address by none other than... Big Bird!!!

Caroll Spinney, the man inside the costume for the last 30 years on Sesame Street, will be receiving an honorary degree from Villanova, and speaking at the commencement on May 16. Spinney has written a book entitled "The Wisdom of Big Bird" and is considered to be a "world class educator" by the Villanova University president.

Students have "erupted in disbelief, shock and anger" at this, arguing that after spending somewhere in the vicinity of \$112,000 U.S. for tuition, housing and books - it is patronizing and demeaning to have an icon for preschoolers address their graduating class.

Others acknowledge the important role Sesame Street has had on the popular culture and educational development of the nation, and argue that Caroll Spinney is a respected educator and a well-deserved recipient of the honorary award, whose speech will be inspirational to graduates.

It seems these graduates may have earned a very expensive \$112,000 degree, yet have missed the most important lesson of all. Our ability to learn is at its peak when we are in our preschool years. Anyone who has managed to tap into that, who has learned how to teach children effectively and motivate learning, is someone who merits our admiration. None of us would be in university now if our desire to learn had not been nurtured by individuals like these, individuals who found creative ways to tap into our natural abilities during these important, formative, preschool years, and who inspired us to place a high value on learning and education from a very young age.

<http://novastudents.com/>

<http://www.kimberlyswygert.com/archives/002108.html>

http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/weird_news/8524237.htm?1c



PACIFIC HEIGHTS Mystery Film Review

By Laura Seymour

May is Mystery Month

I first saw this film many years ago, around the time it was first released. The characters made my skin crawl. I really connected to the young couple, Patty and Drake (Melanie Griffith and Matthew Modine), trying to make a living by buying a gorgeous old Victorian house in San Francisco and renting the individual units out. The house was a stretch for them financially and they planned and worked hard. This aspect has to be understood by us or the rest of the film wouldn't work. Fortunately, the script and performances are superb.

Melanie Griffith has always made me a little buggy. She has one of the softest voices of any actress in the business, a bit like Farrah Fawcett. I know that shouldn't matter but she can't seem to be gritty, yell or growl. That lowers some of the latitude she could have in my eyes. As a result I was a bit unsure about her character at first. For some reason the little-girl voice seems to belie the hardcore tough gal in this film. It just takes a while to meet that part of her character. Matthew isn't -- unfortunately, in my opinion -- given much of a stretch for this role.



So along comes this guy, Carter Hayes (played with creepy intensity by Michael Keaton), wanting to rent a room. He has all the smooth answers. The problem is he never pays them a penny in rent and he knows every law that allows him to stay there and how the rules work. This gets frighteningly out of hand when cockroaches appear, noise goes on for hours and he won't stop or even answer the door. The other tenants break their leases and leave and the battle comes down to the couple vs. Carter. He gets a buddy in the suite with him and the two of them trash it. He smashes a hole in the floor, rips out wall lights that Patty installed herself and leaves it a useless rundown shack. I won't discuss his abuse. Worse than anything else, the law is on his side. The case will take eons to settle in court and by then Patty and Drake will be flat broke... then he'll get the house. Michael is no longer *Mr. Mom*, or *Batman*. Now he is a sociopath and he is amazingly scary in this film. His performance is even and calculating. I give his work ten thumbs up.

The film is frightening in its intensity; the timing of every line, scene and plot point is eerily perfect and calculated to make the audience squirm. Squirm you will as the actors, music and pacing weave the web of discomfort and then outright fear.

Finally, Patty has had enough. She begins to investigate her tenant. Where banks, police and lawyers can't go she can. She uncovers more than anyone ever imagined, especially the audience. And then the film starts to go into high gear. I refuse to tell you how this ends... you'd kill me! I will only say that of all the murder/mystery/whodunits I am writing about in May this one is the most spine tingling.

John Schlesinger (*Midnight Cowboy*) times the films so well it shows he is the right choice for director. If I need a guy who makes my flesh creep I know who to call.

I recommend you watch this when stress is low or when you want someone ELSE to be in trouble....

Enjoy.

Primetime Update

Week of April 30, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

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

Friends

Last week, Joey's agent died, Monica and Chandler met their new neighbour (Janice), and Ross and Rachel both accepted the idea that Rachel will be moving to Paris.

At the beginning of the episode Monica spends time with Erika, the woman who will give birth to her child, with the anticipation that the new arrival will come soon. While they're visiting, Ross helps Joey and Chandler pack up the guestroom. In the process Chandler finds fur-lined handcuffs in the closet, which continue to haunt us throughout the extremely emotional aspects of the episode. When Monica finds them on her pillow, she admits they're not hers and later we find out they're not Rachel's or Phoebe's either.

The gang throws Rachel a going away party, which turns out to be very emotional for everyone. Rachel and Phoebe spend some time alone in the guestroom, where Phoebe gives Rachel a cotton swap with her saliva on it, for cloning purposes, which Rachel promises to throw out. When it's Monica's turn to say goodbye, both girls go ultrasonic and not a real word is heard.

When Rachel talks to Joey on the balcony, he tries to jump over the ledge. Then, despite our knowledge that Ross has been worried about crying when Rachel says goodbye to him, Rachel leaves, without talking to him. Afterwards he storms into Rachel's apartment and yells at her.

Monica recruits Phoebe and Joey to helping her pack, and gives them explicit directions as to how to pack her plates and silverware. Chandler then finds pictures of the mysterious handcuffs being used, by Monica's grandmother, who lived in the apartment years before the first Friends episode!

When Erika returns from dinner with a friend, we find she's in labor.

In a dramatic twist, Rachel turns around and storms into Ross's apartment and gives him crap for underestimating her. She tells him that it's too damn hard to say goodbye to him. In the midst of all the yelling, they share a passionate kiss.

What will happen next week, on the last episode of Friends ever?

The last episode of Friends, ever, will air on May 6th at 8:00pm Alberta Time, on Global (channel 7 in Calgary)

Survivor - ALL STARS

Last week in a freak accident, Shii Ann won immunity and Alicia's but was kicked off.

This week the reward involves an eating challenge. Each competitor must eat an "exotic food" or bug. After each round, the last one to swallow is knocked out. But, it's not the castaways who are competing; it's their loved ones. First out is Amber's Mom, then Shii Ann's, then Rupert's wife, Jenna's husband, and finally Rob's brother, leaving Tom's son the only one standing. The reward, Tom and his son will spend the night on his old

tribe's beach, only it's been upgraded a little bit. He is also told to choose another castaway who, with their own loved one, will join them. After some deliberation, and suggestions from the crowd that he choose Rupert (the only one whose spouse is there), Tom choose Rob.

When the quartet arrives on the beach, a few bottles of beer and a few pizzas greet them. Some real beds complete with blankets have been placed on the beach, with a nice big tent over them. When the group splits, Rob tells his brother that his first loyalty is to Amber, he's banked on her and she won't switch. Tom tells his son that his life in the game depends on whether or not Rob decides to keep him around.

After their luxurious visit, everyone returns to the tribe's real camp and the boys are put to work. Tom gives his son one of Rupert's spears to take fishing. Lo and behold, the tip of the spear ends up lost. Boston Rob tells the camera that Tom's son is even dumber than Tom is. But that's why we love Big Tom.

The immunity challenge consists of building a fire on one end of a lever system, and then hauling water to the bucket on the other end of the lever. The idea is to raise the fire high enough to light a fuse, which will trigger the release of a flag. Boston Rob is the first to raise his bucket, but his fire goes out before it's able to light the fuse. In the end, Rob runs out of matches and has to leave the competition. Amber is next to run out of matches, followed by Rupert and Jenna. Although Shii Ann doesn't run out of matches, Big Tom's fire is strong before hers and he drops his bucket, lights his fuse, and releases his flag. Big Tom wins immunity.

Shii Ann feels out the other remaining tribe members and finds that a few of them want to say goodbye to Jenna because she talks too much. Jenna, however, sticks with the previous plan to get rid of Shii Ann. At tribal council Jenna points out that Rupert is not entitled to eat first because he is the fisherman (they had fought about this the previous day). Shii Ann turns around and tells Jenna to stop keeping track of other people's eating habits and that Rupert is entitled to eat the fist that he caught. Shii Ann suggests that tonight she can either vote for someone who's annoyed her since the day they arrived, or she can vote for the person who will win, if the rest of the tribe isn't careful.

In the end, we say goodbye to Shii Ann, who voted for Amber.

Next week: Rob overhears one of Rupert's new plots, and Rupert and Tom argue about whether or not to vote Rob off.

WHO'S LEFT

Rob Mariano -	28 years old, 10th place in Marquesas (Boston Rob)
Tom Buchanan -	48 years old, 4th place in Africa (Pig farmer)
Rupert Boneham -	40 years old, 8th place in Pearl Islands (2nd Juror)
Jenna Lewis -	26 years old, 8th place in Pulau Tiga (2nd Juror)
Amber Brkich -	25 years old, 6th place in Australian Outback (4th Juror)

CASTAWAYS GONE

4 th JUROR	Shii Ann Huang	30, 10th place in Thailand	GONE 13TH
3 rd JUROR	Alicia Calaway	35, 9th place, Australian Outback (1st Juror)	GONE 12TH
2 ND JUROR	Kathy Vavrick-O'Brien	50, 3rd place in Marquesas	GONE 11TH
1 ST JUROR	Lex VanDenBerghe	40, 3rd place, Africa	GONE 10TH
Chapera	Jerri Manthey	33, 8th place, Australian Outback (2nd Juror)	GONE 9TH
Mogo-Mogo	Ethan Zohn	30, SOLE SURVIVOR, Africa (soccer player)	GONE 8TH
Mogo-Mogo	Colby Donaldson	29, 2nd place, Australian Outback	GONE 7TH
Chapera	Susan Hawk	42, 4th place, Pulau Tiga (Big Mouth)	GONE 6TH, (quit)
Mogo-Mogo	Richard Hatch	42, SOLE SURVIVOR, Pulau Tiga(big naked gay guy)	GONE 5TH
Chapera	Rob Cesternino	25, 3rd place, Amazon	GONE 4TH
Mogo-Mogo	Jenna Morasca	22, SOLE SURVIVOR, Amazon	GONE 3RD (quit)
Saboga	Rudy Boesch	76, 3rd place, Pulau Tiga (retired navy man)	GONE 2ND
Saboga	Tina Wesson	42, SOLE SURVIVOR, Australian Outback	GONE 1ST

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

The Bachelor

Last week Jesse let go of a few more women, including his best friend Jenny, who was his spy.

This week, Jenny comes back and reveals her real identity to the remaining six women. Trish is immediately dumbfounded by the realities that must have been revealed to Jesse.

Jesse goes on three intimate one-on-one dates, including a picnic on the football field, a yacht trip with Mandy Jaye, and an evening alone with all of Tara's favorite things (including a whole garden of pink flowers in Jesse's living room). Nothing really great happens, a lot of kissing and that crap. Jesse confronts Trish who openly admits that she's made some mistakes in her life but is now a different person.

After the group date, Jesse walks all of the women to their doorway and says goodbye. After the door closes, Trish goes back out and makes out with Jesse with the rest of the girls watching through the peephole. If he ends up with this chick, I'm never watching football again.

In the end we say goodbye to Suzie and Karin (not Katie...who left a few weeks ago). Next week Jesse goes home with Trish, Mandy Jaye, Jessica, and Tara to meet their families. AND Trish and Jesse have another confrontation...

The Bachelor airs on Wednesdays at 10:00 pm Alberta Time, on CFCN (?).

The Apprentice

NEXT SEASON on The Apprentice: 16 new candidates, tougher tasks, tighter deadlines, world-renowned companies, and a few familiar faces. The new season of the Apprentice will begin in the fall.

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



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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

AUSU THIS MONTH

NEW AUSU EXECUTIVE ELECTED

This week, during the May 3rd council meeting, AUSU held an internal election to fill the three AUSU executive positions for this new term. The three positions were filled by acclamation, by a new President and Vice President External, and a returning VP Finance. The new Executive is:

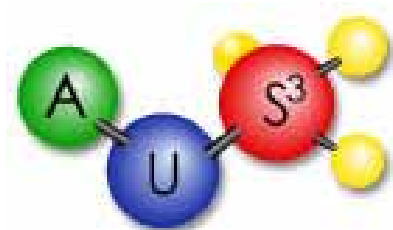
President: Mac McInnis

VP External: Teresa Neuman

VP Finance: Karl Low



NEW AUSU SPONSORED CLUB



The AU Science Students Society is now online.

The Athabasca University Science Students Society is the newest AUSU sponsored club. Open to all AU students with an interest in any of the sciences, the AUSSS (or AUS³ as they prefer to be known) has a website featuring links to AU science programs, science news, and links to websites and programs of interest to science students.

Encompassing all of the sciences, including biology, chemistry, astronomy, physics, computer science, environmental science, geology and health, the AUSSS is sure to have something for everyone.

You can visit the AU home page at: <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausss/index.php>

Contact ausss@ausu.org for more information. Members of the AUSSS have access to a private forum on the AUSU website.

AUSU IN PERSON COFFEE 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 LONITA at lfraser@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 <http://www.ausu.org>. You will need an AUSU web site account.] **Times are MST**

Mondays at 8:00 PM Councillor Karl Low



Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

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

alberta

4th Street Lilac Festival

<http://www.4streetcalgary.com/lilacfestival/>

Calgary, Alberta

May 30, 2004

The 4th Street Lilac Festival is held every year the last Sunday in May on 4th Street SW Calgary. It is an amazing 13 block long street party which has been named Calgary's best "free" festival. Along with promoting the wonderful shops and services along 4th Street it also showcases many of Calgary's hottest art and entertainment.

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (403) 229.0902

E-mail: jenrempel@4streetcalgary.com

Fax: (403) 229.0920

british columbia

ALCAN DRAGONBOAT FESTIVAL

<http://www.adbf.com/>

Vancouver, BC

Vancouver hosts the largest dragon boat celebration in North America. More than 180 teams plus entertainers, marketplace and food vendors and thousands of visitors take part in this unique 3-day event. Join us June 18, 19 and 20, 2004 at Concord Pacific Place, Science World and the waters of False Creek. Help celebrate our 16th edition and find out why there's more to the rhythm than a race!

saskatchewan

REGINA HIGHLAND GAMES

Regina, Saskatchewan

May 23, 2004

<http://www.reginahighlandgames.org/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (306) 789-6516

E-mail: graham_schmidt99@hotmail.com

Fax: (306) 751-4824

A traditional Scottish festival featuring pipe bands, highland dancers and heavy event athletes. Sunday evening there is a ceilidh featuring Celtic rock bands, an invitational Piping contest and a Haggis Eating contest. Fun for the whole family!

REGINA MUSIC FESTIVAL

REGINA. SK S4P OK1 CANADA

Tel: 306-757-1722; Fax: 306-347-7789

Email: sask.music.festival@sk.sympatico.ca

Web: <http://www.smfa.ca>

Contact the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association for more information at (306) 757-1722.

Apr 21, 2004 to May 9, 2004

GLOBE THEATRE PRESENTS A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

REGINA. SK

Tel: 306-525-9553/306-525-6400; Fax: 306-352-4194

Email: onstage@globetheatrelive.com

Web: <http://www.globetheatrelive.com>

In the turmoil of 16th century England, no one casts a shadow quite like that of Sir Thomas More. Chancellor and advisor to King Henry VIII, More faces a harrowingly difficult moral dilemma: who comes first, God or King?

Apr 21, 2004 to May 8, 2004

SASKATOON MUSIC FESTIVAL

REGINA. SK

Tel: 306-757-1722; Fax: 306-347-7789

Email: sask.music.festival@sk.sympatico.ca

Web: <http://www.smfa.ca>

Contact the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association for more information at (306) 757-1722.

Apr 26, 2004 to May 8, 2004

MOOSE JAW FESTIVAL OF DANCE

MOOSE JAW. SK

Tel: 306-693-6330; Fax: 306-693-6267

Email: mjdance@sasktel.net

45th annual dance festival hosts over 1500 performances and over 40 dance groups.

May 1, 2004 to May 8, 2004

manitoba

CLASSICS WITH HUMOUR

May 6 - 7 2004

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Ron and Ruth have toured from Vancouver to Montreal and from Boston to San Francisco with their matching pair of 18th century pianos. Music by Mozart, Clementi and other sparkling Viennese keyboard selections, together with lively dialogue.

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (204) 488-7733

E-mail: Willms2@attglobal.net

ontario

MISSISSAUGA

Mission Nutrition Show

International Centre

6900 Airport Rd. Mississauga, ON

9:00 am Friday, May 14, 2004

9:00 am Saturday, May 15, 2004

9:00 am Sunday, May 16, 2004

\$10 - For more information call (905) 761-0580

<http://www.missionnutritionshow.com>

Mission Nutrition Show focuses on the importance of healthy lifestyle initiatives in a unique, fun, festive, interactive and sophisticated environment. This Nutrition-Health Show breaks the conventional wave by introducing a show that appeals to people of all ages and walks of life! So far the list of keynote speakers includes: Dr. Earl Mindell, Dini Petty, Body Break, Dr. David Hill, MC Flipside, Caroline Dupont, Erika Wolff and many more to be confirmed.

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NIAGARA GRAPE AND WINE FESTIVALS

<http://www.grapeandwine.com/>

Niagara region of Ontario

The Niagara Grape & Wine Festival is a non-profit organization that runs a series of seasonal wine festivals in the Niagara region. The Niagara Icewine Festival, the Niagara New Vintage Festival, and the Niagara Wine Festival attract 100,000's of visitors to the area each year. The New Vintage Festival, for

example, runs from June 12 to 27, 2004. You can find more information about it, and other area festivals, at their website.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Shaw Festival

Begins April 2004

<http://www.shawfest.com/index.php>

This year's season includes productions of:

Pygmalion (George Bernard Shaw)

Ah, Wilderness! (Eugene O'Neill)

Man and Superman (George Bernard Shaw)

The Importance of Being Earnest (Oscar Wilde)

Rutherford and Son (Githa Sowerby)

Nothing Sacred (George F. Walker)

Three Men on a Horse (Holm & Abbott)

Waiting for the Parade (John Murrell)

Harlequinade (Terence Rattigan)

Pal Joey (Music by Richard Rogers, Lyrics by Lorenz Hart, Book by John O'Hara)

The Tinker's Wedding (J. M. Synge)

Floyd Collins (Music and lyrics by Adam Guettel, Book by Tina Landau)

ALBERTA SCENE

Ottawa, Ontario

Apr 28, 2005 to May 07, 2005

<http://www.nac-cna.ca/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (613) 947-7000 Ext: 399

E-mail: fwalker@nac-cna.ca

Fax: (613) 996-9578

The National Arts Centre's Alberta Scene celebrates the spirit of the west through music, theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, film and culinary arts. More than 15 partner venues in the National Capital region will showcase upwards of 600 Albertan professional and emerging artists to national and international presenters and enthusiastic audiences in Ottawa-Gatineau. The event will be officially launched in the spring of 2004.

CANADIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

Ottawa, Ontario

May 05, 2004 to May 09, 2004

<http://www.abc.ca/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (613) 234-3360

E-mail: abc@abc.ca

Fax: (613) 236-2636

Youth orchestras from across Canada unite in Ottawa, Canada's capital, to perform together.

MOTHER'S DAY-WELCOME BACK CELEBRATION

Ottawa Ontario

May 09, 2004

<http://www.byward-market.com/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (613) 562-3325

E-mail: events@byward-market.com

Fax: (613) 562-3326

Come celebrate the opening of the Market season in the beautiful ByWard Market. An outdoor fashion show will feature designs and fashions from local boutiques. Then enjoy the annual Mother/Daughter Look-Alike Contest! Deadline to register for Mother-Daughter Look-Alike Contest is April 30, 2003. Contact events@byward-market.com or 562-3325 to obtain a registration form.

CANADIAN TULIP FESTIVAL

Ottawa/Gatineau, Ontario

May 06, 2004 to May 24, 2004

<http://www.tulipfestival.ca/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (613) 567-5757 Ext: 352

E-mail: info@tulipfestival.ca

Fax: (613) 567-6216

Celebrate Canada's Tulip Experience! Millions of tulips will blossom in May in Canada's scenic Capital Region, North America's Tulip Capital, creating an exotic mosaic of colour and beauty along the Tulip Route. The 2004 edition of the Canadian Tulip Festival will celebrate Canada's Tulip Experience and our near 60-year affair with the Tulip.

Millions of Tulips along the Tulip Route. Official Sites: Commissioners Park/Dows Lake - 300,000 tulips, Tulip Legacy and Tulip Cafe. Enjoy the Sun Life Financial Flotilla May 23; Parliament Hill/Capital Infocentre - Tulips and Canada's historic Parliament Buildings, start your National Capital visit at the Capital Infocentre; Major's Hill Park - International Tulip Friendship Village and Stage, Kid Zone and Family Entertainment, Artisans in the Park, Community Tulip Art Garden and the Ottawa Citizen "GET OUT!" Concert Series with a stellar lineup of Canadian entertainers during 11 nights of concerts on the Main Stage; Casino du Lac Leamy - 100,000 tulips, giant tulips, and Tulip Explosion flower and design shows each weekend. Over 15

Attraction Sites along the Tulip Route through Ottawa and Gatineau and two Partner Sites.

NIAGARA FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL

St. Catharines, Ontario

May 14, 2004 to May 30, 2004

http://folk-arts.ca/folk_arts_festival_home_page.htm

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (905) 685-6589 Ext: 229

E-mail: pseabrook@folk-arts.ca

Fax: (905) 685-8376

16 days of music, dance & food celebrating our rich cultural heritage. World famous RCMP Musical Ride (2 shows). Multicultural Open Houses. Live entertainment & world cuisine at Folk Arts in the Park

CONTACT

<http://www.contactphoto.com/>

May 1 - 31 2004

Toronto, Ontario

The largest annual photography event in North America, comprised of Films, Lectures, Panels, Seminars, Workshops, Tours, Conference, and Exhibitions on a wide variety of photography related topics. See the website for specific dates, times, and events.

MAYWORKS FESTIVAL OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE ARTS GLADSTONE HOTEL

1214 Queen St. W.

Toronto, 416-599-9096

<http://www.gladstonehotel.com>

May 1, 2004 - May 9, 2004 - Free - \$20

Every May, the local labour movement tries to lose its lunch-bucket image with help from the arts community. This year, that means a series of cabarets and workshops on activist filmmaking. Highlights include a feminist cabaret with the Pretty, Porky and Pissed Off troupe, and a queer cabaret.

MILK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Toronto, Ontario

May 23, 2004 to May 30, 2004

<http://www.harbourfront.on.ca/milk>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (416) 973-4000

E-mail: info@harbourfront.on.ca

Fax: (416) 973-6055

North America's best festival for young people. The festival, sponsored by Dairy Farmers of Ontario, is a celebration of the world's finest theatre, music and puppetry for young audiences.

TORONTO

Harbourfront Reading Series

For a full events listing, including locations and fees:
<http://www.readings.org/>

The Harbourfront Reading Series is one of the oldest and most admired public reading programmes in the world. Since its inception, over 3,500 of the world's most distinguished authors have read at Harbourfront Centre, including a dozen Nobel laureates. The Series is designed to introduce the Canadian public to the finest international novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers and biographers, while simultaneously providing Canadian writers with an internationally recognized forum in which to present their work.

Upcoming reading events include:

- Natalee Caple, Russell Smith, Michael Turner - Apr 21
- Susan Goyette, Steven Heighton, Michael Holmes,
- August Kleinzahler - Apr 28

TORONTO

The Clothing Show

Automotive Building - Exhibition Place

11:00 am - 7 pm Saturday, May 15, 2004

11:00 am - 6 pm Sunday, May 16, 2004

\$8. For more information call (416) 516-9859

To see a list of who is exhibiting please check out
<http://www.theclothingshow.com>

The Clothing Show is a bi-annual shopping extravaganza held at the Automotive Building at the CNE. Featuring the best from independent Toronto clothing and jewellery designers, clothing stores and wholesalers with savings up to 80 per cent off retail. The show also hosts the best selection of vintage and retro clothing, along with accessories from across Ontario. More than 200 vendors will participate in the show.

TORONTO

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/>

quebec

ELEKTRA

Montreal, Quebec

May 05, 2005 to May 14, 2005

<http://www.elektrafestival.ca/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (514) 521-4493

E-mail: carlos@elektrafestival.ca

Fax: (514) 274-9082

Director Alain Thibault launched the Elektra Festival in 1999. Since then this showcase for electronic arts and music has distinguished itself by its efforts to challenge the borders between different aesthetic approaches in emerging digital culture. Elektra attempts to look beyond the walls often erected between schools or styles and focus on presenting leading edge digital works based solely on their quality. Robotics, digital imaging and a broad range of types of music from electroacoustic to electronica share the stage. This eclectic approach to programming, combined with the exceptional environment offered by the Usine C, allows Elektra to open up the digital and technological arts to an increasingly broad public and to present major works by local, national and international artists.

newfoundland

GATHERINGS

St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

May 02, 2004 to Jun 18, 2004

<http://www.craftcouncil.nf.ca/>

For event & ticket information:

Phone: (709) 753-2749; Fax: (709) 753-2766

E-mail: info@craftcouncil.nf.ca

The Craft Council Gallery, 59 Duckworth Street, presents a group exhibition that explores a contemporary response to embroidery as seen through the eyes of four young Newfoundland artists: Stephanie Barry, Susan Furneaux, Catherine McCausland and Libby Moore. The work investigates this emotional connection that each artist feels

toward their chosen craft, to this land and its people, and to each other. Opening reception Sunday May 2, 2-4 pm.

nova scotia

TRURO TULIP FESTIVAL

<http://www.nstulips.com/>

May 21 - 24 2004

Truro, Nova Scotia

We invite you to come and view our spectacular tulips. In addition to the thousands of tulips, this year's spring blooms will include daffodils, hyacinths and numerous varieties of locally produced daylilies. From fireworks on Friday night to live entertainment to plant sales to various markets, this year's festival is sure to appeal to all ages. Arts In The Park 2004

OPEN ART EXHIBITION OPENING

Amherst, Nova Scotia

Open Art Exhibition Opening. Cumberland County Museum & Archives. Exhibit of Cumberland County Artists and Artisans. May 2-21.

April 26, 2004 to June 12, 2004

Admission: Opening free, exhibit daily admission.

<http://www.creda.net/~ccmuseum/>

yukon

YUKON ART SOCIETY

Whitehorse, Yukon

May 25, 2004 to Aug 13, 2004

<http://www.steveslade.com/park.htm>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (867) 668-3136

E-mail: steve@steveslade.com

Steve Slade, working with the Yukon Art Society, produces a 12 week summer concert series in Downtown Whitehorse. It features a different "act" every lunch hour (M-F) beginning immediately after the May long weekend and runs through till early august. Every week there is a different visual artist showcased. This festival is free to the public.

international

ALEXANDRIA, VA - USA

In2Words: Numbers & Words

June 10-July 18 and July 24-August 22

DEADLINES for both exhibitions: FRIDAY, APRIL 2.

\$25 for slides of up to 3 works.

Call 703.838.4565 x 4

Email: targetgallery@torpedofactory.org

Send SASE to:

In2Words, 105 N Union St, Alexandria VA, 22314

An exhibition in two parts exploring the use of numbers and words in art. Part One:Numbers, juried by Sarah Tanguy, Independent Curator, Washington, DC, exhibit dates: June 10-July 18. Part Two:Words, juried by Krystyna Wasserman, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC, exhibit dates: July 24-August 22. All artists/all media. Broad interpretations encouraged. Artists can apply to either or both exhibits. Awards up to \$650.

The Unconventional Convention on Starting and Operating a Visual Art Center

ALEXANDRIA, VA - USA

May 21-22, 2004

Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA

Registration fee by March 1: \$300, \$350 thereafter. Organizations may pay registration for 2 attendees and send up to 5 representatives.

Contact AACVAC at: conference@torpedofactory.org

Call 703-838-4565 x 6.

<http://www.torpedofactory.org/conference/>

A convention focusing on how to start and operate visual arts centers for the benefit of both artists and the public. The exciting program will feature five panel sessions with experts and representatives from the following fields: Cultural Tourism; Visual Art Center Prototypes; Architectural Renovations and Occupational Health Considerations; Community Outreach and Support; and Self-Governance. The panels will allow groups planning such centers to learn from established organizations and will provide existing centers an opportunity to compare experiences. The two-day program will include a closing night celebration that coincides with the Torpedo Factory Art Center's 30th Anniversary.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

KEN DRYDEN SCHOLARSHIP

Value: Maximum of \$3,000, renewable annually

Deadline: May 7

Notes: For Canadian citizens or landed immigrants currently or formerly in the care of the Canadian child welfare system; designated a temporary, society or crown ward or designated a temporary or permanent guardianship order or assigned a social worker or child protection worker or placed in group or foster home. Must be under the age of 30 at time of application and planning to pursue or currently pursuing undergraduate degree or diploma at accredited colleges or universities in Canada. Must submit 3 short essays on achievements, aspirations and personal support.

Instructions: Transcripts and letters of reference are required. For more information, please visit <http://www.youthincare.ca/scholarship/>

ABORIGINAL HEALTH CAREERS BURSARY (AHSF)

Value: Up to \$12,000/year for college programs, and \$13,000/year for university programs.

Application deadline: May 15

Approximately 20 bursaries are available for aboriginal students in Alberta entering their second or subsequent year of post-secondary education in a health field. Applicants must be Indian, Inuit or Métis and have been residents of Alberta for a minimum of three years prior to applying.

<http://www.ammsa.com/bursary-ab-heritage.html#anchor1747673>

ROSE MARGARET KING MERIT AWARDS

Value: Up to \$12,000/year for college programs, and \$13,000/year for university programs.

Application deadline: May 15

Administrator: Edmonton Community Foundation

Notes: The number of awards and amounts will vary. Must be an Edmonton resident, or a returning student who received most of his/her primary/secondary education in Edmonton. The chosen program of study must lead to a recognized degree, diploma, certificate or license. Please visit the Web site for full details and a list of qualifying institutions.

Contact Information:

Edmonton Community Foundation
710 Royal Bank Building, 10117 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5J1W8

Phone: 780-426-0015

Fax: 780-425-0121

Toll Free: 866-626-0015

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

E-mail: info@dollarsforlearner.com



58TH ANNUAL QUALITY CONGRESS

May 24-26

Metro Toronto Conference Centre, Toronto, ON, <http://aqc.asq.org/>

Conference Contact: Robin Barry; Phone: 414-298-8789 x7364; Email: rbarry@asq.org

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Board Members/Trustees - Business Executives - Staff developers

The 58th AQC combines networking with learning, entertainment with knowledge exchange, business with pleasure. Join thousands of quality professionals for three days of ... • networking • celebrating quality • international activities • educational sessions • team competitions • recognition Keynote Speakers: Dr. John A. White University of Arkansas chancellor and president of Baldrige Award Board "Quality Success at the University of Arkansas." Jennifer James Urban cultural anthropologist, columnist, lecturer, and consultant "Thinking in the Future Tense." Keith Harrell Former IBM marketing executive, speaker "Positive Attitude Toward Change."

GLOBAL EAI SUMMIT 2004

May 24-28

Conference Theme: Improving Best Practices...Strengthening Standards

May 24 - 28 2004, Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Alberta, <http://www.globaleaisummit.com/>

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Board Members/Trustees - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Business Executives - Product Developers - Researcher

Conference Contact: Leanne MacDonald; Phone: 403-512-3139; Email: lmacdonald@eaiindustry.org

Leaders from the End User, Academics & Solution Provider communities coming together to establish the business and technology direction of Integration.

AMTEC 2004

May 25-28

Conference Theme: In Touch with Technology

Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, <http://laurentian.ca/amtec/>

Conference Contact: Johanne Rioux; Phone: 705-675-1151; Fax: 705-675-4842; Email: jrioux@nickel.laurentian.ca

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Facility Managers - Product Developers - Library/Media Specialists

IN TOUCH WITH TECHNOLOGY will bring together academics, instructional designers, on-line developers, librarians, technical professionals, industry practitioners into one forum. Come and learn more about newest learning technologies and techniques. Meet leading developers and distributor of quality educational products. The conference will promote good practice, current technologies and solutions in the use of learning in education. The conference program will consists of keynote speakers, session speakers, workshops, trade show, award lunches and banquet. This is your opportunity to hear and network with experts in the field of learning technologies

CADE AND THIS IS IT 2004 CONFERENCE

May 30-June 2

Conference Theme: Pioneers in a New Age

York University, Toronto, Ontario, <http://www.pioneers2004.yorku.ca/>

Contact: Division of Continuing Education; Ph: 416-736-5616; Fax: 416-650-8042; Email: Pioneers2004@yorku.ca

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Board Members/Trustees - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Facility Managers - Business Executives

The conference will showcase accessible, effective and innovative educational strategies, as well as ways to leverage technology to provide new ways of learning online, at a distance, in the classroom and in the workplace. This event will be of special interest to those involved in education, training and professional development, including: the K-12, college and university sectors; educational administrators, policy-makers/decision-makers and governmental agencies; trainers in private, public and not-for-profit sector organizations; and technology experts. Program highlights: -8 pre-conference workshops; -internationally renowned keynote speakers from Canada, the US and the UK; -over 80 conference sessions delivered by leaders in the field of distance, online and technology-enhanced education and training; -an awards banquet recognizing excellence in open and distance learning, and in the educational use of learning technologies; and -many opportunities to network with other professionals. Visit <http://www.Pioneers2004.yorku.ca> for registration and conference details.

INTERFACE 2004

Jun 16-18

Conference Theme: e-Learning Magic

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Calgary, AB, <http://centreforlearning.sait.ca/interface2004/>

Conference Contact: Ingrid Stammer; Phone: 403-319-7245; Email: ingrid_stammer@cpr.ca

Who should go?

Teachers & Trainers - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Staff developers - Curriculum specialists

The Interface 2004 conference theme, e-Learning Magic, will bring educators, administrators, and corporate trainers together through presentations, workshops, and networking in the following areas: - New ideas in analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation of e-learning; - Innovative methods for the delivery of student services for e-learners; - Novel approaches to faculty professional development for e-learning.

FROM MY CLASSROOM TO YOURS 2004

May 10

Stockton College, Pomona, New Jersey, USA,
<http://www.theconferencecalendar.com/http://www.ettc.net/conference2004>

Contact: Dina Abbamondi; Ph: 609-652-4931; Fax: 609-748-6002; Email: ettc@stockton.edu

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Library/Media Specialists - Curriculum specialists

This conference will provide teachers and educational administrators with current information on the changing role teachers play in the 21st Century Classroom and on "best practices" for teaching and learning. You will learn firsthand of successful and proven learning activities that directly integrate technology and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards into classroom learning. Presenters include prominent educators at the state, regional and local levels.

ASTD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION 2004

May 21-27

Washington Convention Center, Washington, District of Columbia, <http://www1.astd.org/astdInterim0304/>

Conference Contact: Virginia Artis; Email: vartis@astd.org

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Business Executives - Staff developers - Curriculum specialists

The ASTD 2004 International Conference & Exposition is the premier conference for everyone involved in workplace learning and performance. Features: More than 250 educational sessions Legends sessions featuring pioneers in the profession Forums and global panels Pre-conference workshops for in-depth learning Training, ROI, and Human Performance Improvement Certificate programs The leading workplace learning EXPO Networking opportunities with colleagues from more than 75 countries.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

May 23-26

Conference Theme: Teaching and Leadership

Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas, United States, <http://www.nisod.org/conference/index.html>
Conference Contact: Sheryl Powell; Phone: 512-471-1482; Fax: 512-471-9426; Email: info@nisod.org

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Library/Media Specialists - Staff developers - Curriculum specialists

The NISOD conference is the largest international conference to focus specifically on the celebration of teaching, learning, and leadership. It features exemplary practices and programs in workshops, seminars, and roundtable sessions; preconference seminars offering in-depth descriptions and demonstrations of successful initiatives; general sessions featuring keynote remarks on current issues in higher education; an exciting Expo Plaza of NISOD partners and supporters demonstrating products and services, and offering hands-on opportunities to experience the latest and best instructional and organizational tools; and NISOD's College Showcase, highlighting best practices in colleges across North America and beyond.

DISTANCE LEARNING ADMINISTRATION 2004

May 23-26

Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Jekyll Island, Georgia, . USA, <http://www.westga.edu/~distance/dla2004.html>

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Business Executives - Product Developers - Library/Media Specialists

Conference Contact: Stacey Rowland; Phone: 770-838-2563; Fax: 770-836-4666; Email: srowland@westga.edu
Alternate Contact: Melanie Clay; Phone: 770-838-3018; Fax: 770-836-4666; Email: melaniec@westga.edu

The Distance Education Administration Conference, sponsored by The Online Journal for Distance Learning Administration and The State University of West Georgia, focuses on the administration and management of distance learning. The conference specifically addresses the needs of those who plan, manage, teach and support distance education activities and courses. The conference invites proposals from the introductory through advanced level on topics related to: -Managing Growth in Distance Education -Training & Support for Distance Instructors -Support for Distance Students -Budget & Cost-Benefit of Distance Education -Marketing & Evaluation of Distance Learning - Distance Learning Ethics and Copyright Issues - Organizational Issues in Distance Education -Striving for Excellence

ETOM HIGGINS LAKE RETREAT FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS 2004

June 1-2

DNR Conference Center, Roscommon, Michigan, United States, <http://www.etom.org/events/index.htm>

Contact: Colette Perugia, ETOM Business Manager, Ph: 734-462-4570, Fax: 734-462-4589, Email: cperugia@schoolcraft.cc.mi.us

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Library/Media Specialists - Curriculum specialists

This two-day retreat for distance educational professionals is a long standing tradition in Michigan.

JOINT CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES (JCDL 2004)

Jun 7-11

Conference Theme: Global Reach and Diverse Impact

The Hilton El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort, Tuscon, Arizona, US, <http://www.jcdl2004.org/>

Conference Contact: Catherine Larson, Email: cal@eller.arizona.edu

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Library/Media Specialists - Curriculum specialists - Researcher

The Joint Conference on Digital Libraries is a major international forum focusing on digital libraries and associated technical, practical, and social issues. JCDL encompasses the many meanings of the term "digital libraries," including (but not limited to) new forms of information institutions; operational information systems with all manner of digital content; new means of selecting, collecting, organizing, and distributing digital content; digital preservation and archiving; and theoretical models of information media, including document genres and electronic publishing. The intended community for this conference includes those interested in aspects of digital libraries such as infrastructure; institutions; metadata; content; services; digital preservation; system design; implementation; interface design; human-computer interaction; performance evaluation; usability evaluation; collection development; intellectual property; privacy; electronic publishing; document genres; multimedia; social, institutional, and policy issues; user communities; and associated theoretical topics.

RIDING THE WAVE OF CHANGE 2004 National Education and Technology Conference

May 13-14 2004

Gimli Lakeview Resort, Gimli, Manitoba, <http://www.esd.mb.ca/wave>

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Board Members/Trustees - Technology Coordinators/Technology Specialists - Facility Managers - Business Executives

Conference Contact: Lloyd Roche; Phone: 204-642-6270; Fax: 204-642-7273; Email: lroche@merlin.mb.ca

This annual 2 day conference brings presenters from across Canada and the United States to cover the many timely issues in technology and education. Presenters regularly include both technology and education experts dealing with such subjects as multimedia, Internet and integrating computers into the classroom.

ECOO 2004

May 5-7

Delta Meadowvale Resort; Conference Centre. Mississauga, Ont., <http://ecoo.org/conference/>

Who should go? Teachers & Trainers - Administrators - Library/Media Specialists - Curriculum specialists

Organization Contact: Chris Forsyth; Phone: 905-773-3981; Email: office@ecoo.org

The conference is intended for elementary and secondary teachers, and promotes the use of information technology in the classroom. On Wednesday, May 5 ECOO will be offering 39 all-day hands-on workshops and on Thursday May 6 and Friday May 7 delegates may choose from over 200 different sessions on a great variety of topics by well known speakers and classroom teachers.

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

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

The conference is not centred around any one discipline or industry, and there are no keynote or panel discussions. In fact, scripted speeches are forbidden; as the website states: "Everyone is in on the common narrative." Rather than the usual Q&A sessions after a speaker has completed their talk or performance, the conference has adopted the practice of long breaks between sessions (and nightly parties) that invite conversation between speakers, performers, and attendees.

This year's presenters include...

Michael Adams - (President and CEO, Environics, Author, Sex in the Snow)

Henry Aubin - (Investigative Journalist, Author, The Rescue of Jerusalem)

Robert Bateman - (Artist, Naturalist)

Jane Bunnett - (Modern Jazz Musician)

Ken Finkleman - (Writer, Director, Producer; The Newsroom)

... and many more.

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

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

Provided by Lonita Fraser

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **MIEF 2004** - April 30-May 2 - Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Malaysia International Education Fair - The Malaysian education market remains one of the most important to overseas institutions, providing a high number of full-fee paying students to countries like the U.S., U.K., Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Being one of the most important market share for overseas recruitment for many years, Malaysia should definitely be a target in your marketing and recruitment strategy. Details: <http://www.mief2004.com/>
- **Online Educa Madrid 2004** - May 12-14 - Madrid, Spain - The meeting point for European and Latin American E-Learning Professionals. Meeting the networking needs of the international e-learning and distance education industry, the annual Online Educa Madrid conference is the key networking venue for strategists and practitioners from Europe and Latin America. Details: <http://www.online-educa-madrid.com/english/index.htm>
- **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>
- **CADE 2004** - May 30-June 2 - Keele Campus of York University, Toronto, ON - Planning is underway for the CADE and This is I.T. 2004 Conference: Pioneers in a New Age. The Conference is hosted by the Canadian Association for Distance Education, Education Technology Committee of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts of Ontario, and the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies in collaboration with Glendon College, York University. Details: <http://www.pioneers2004.yorku.ca/>
- **InfraEDUCA 2004** - June 25 - 27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi - The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialised Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distant Learning Systems, International Universities and Programmes, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programmes etc. Details: <http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>
- **N.A.Web 2004** - Oct. 16-19 - Fredericton, NB, Canada - The Tenth Annual International Web-Based Teaching and Learning Conference - Details: <http://naweb.unb.ca>

Know of a conference that is not on this list? Contact voice@ausu.org with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

classifieds

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.

CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY AND REIKI. "Tired of sore shoulders, back or neck? History of injury or overwork causing chronic pain? Stop treating the short term... treat long-term with Craniosacral Therapy and Reiki. Laura Seymour--level 4 graduate of Upledger Institute and teaching assistant. Calgary, (403) 262-5589.

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!

AU SCIENCE STUDENTS SOCIETY The AUSSS is now online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausss>. The club is open to all AU students with an interest in any of the sciences, and has a private discussion forum with the AUSU forums system.

RED DEER COFFEE GROUPS Red Deer Athabasca University students meet at the Chapter's Starbucks on the last Thursday of every month. From 8 pm to 9 pm, the goal is to share ideas that will help us all be successful AU students and collectively resolve our specific issues. Contact Ryan, lowrystcol@hotmail.com

THE VOICE

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