

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

July 28, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 29



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Volume 12, Issue 29

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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.

AU COMPUTING SERVICES HELP DESK SUMMER HOURS

The Computing Services (CS) Help Desk's summer hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m daily, from July 5 through August 27. The CS Help Desk can be contacted by using the online trouble reporting form at http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/compserv/helpdesk/students/helpdesk_students.html

(with the form link in the upper left), emailing helpdesk@athabascau.ca or phoning 1-800-788-9041, ext 6405. Make sure you leave your name, student ID number, and, if calling outside these hours, a number where you can be reached the next working day.

THE VOICE

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EDITORIAL PAGES

AU B. Admin to Close

The AU School of Business has recently announced that the Bachelor of Administration program will close to new registrations as of December 31, 2004.

The closure applies to the degree program, including all concentrations, as well as the post-diploma program.

Students who are currently enrolled in the program will be allowed to continue their studies as normal, and most or all of the business courses that are part of the discontinued program will remain available for students who are enrolled in the program, and as part of the new business programs offered by AU.

To replace the old BAdmn credential, AU will be offering more choices of business degrees, including a Bachelor of Management, a Bachelor of Health Administration, a Bachelor of Professional Arts - Governance, Law and Management, and a Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations.

The Bachelor of Management "3-year degree program incorporates courses from each concentration in the existing Bachelor of Administration to provide a more well-rounded program of study for business students," according to the web page AU has posted to announce the closure.

The reason for the closure, according to the School of Business, is that the current B.Admin concentrations are being expanded into separate degree programs to offer more choices to business students. AU stresses that "these changes will in no way detract from the BAdmn degree you have earned or are in the process of earning" and that it is common for colleges and universities to revise their program offerings from time to time.

For those who wished to enrol in the BAdmn, AU recommends the new Bachelor of Management program, which "incorporates courses from each of the" BAdmn concentrations, adding that the four year B. Management will offer additional senior courses in various specializations. Students moving from the BAdmn to the BMgmt or the BComm will not be required to pay the standard change of program fee.

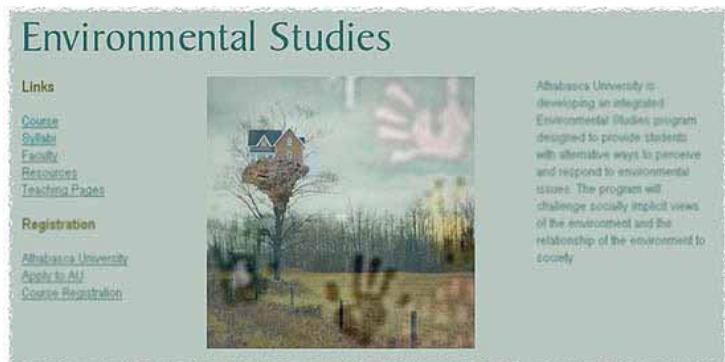
Transfer credit assessment from previous post-secondary education to the new BMgmt program is expected to be the same as it was for the BAdmn, however "evaluations on a course by course basis may change dependent on whether the courses meet a requirement in the Bachelor of Management." Students are urged to contact a Student Advisor with the School of Business for more information before changing their program.

Students currently enrolled may wish to remain in their current BAdmn degree to avoid losing any credits. AU will allow students to continue in the old degree for as long as it needed for a student to complete the credential. The closure affects new students only. It is not certain, over the long term, if all courses that are currently offered will remain open, as courses are also retired from time to time.

For more information on changes to the School of Business BAdmn program, students should review the information on the course closure information page, located here:

<http://business.athabascau.ca/content/bAdminClosure.html#top>

Tamra Ross Low
Editor in Chief



NEW ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COURSE AT AU

Environmental Impact Assessment (ENVS 305)

Katie Patrick

Recycling. Environmental pollutants. Environmental effects. Fragile ecosystems. Do any of these phrases sound familiar? You may have wondered how scientists can determine that certain practices or actions -- like building a highway over a marshland, for instance -- can cause negative effects on our environment. Wonder no longer! As of June 2004, Athabasca University's Environmental Impact Assessment (ENVS 305) unravels the mysteries behind impact assessments, leading you on a truly fascinating journey.

A three credit course offered through individualized study, ENVS 305 discusses how the effects of various systems can be assessed in relation to the amount of change produced in the surrounding ecosystem. Environmental Impact Assessment (ENVS 305) focuses especially on the environmental effects of large infrastructures, such as highways, roads, power plants, mines, landfills, airports -- you name it!

After a brief introduction in unit one to the concepts, theories, and practices constituting environmental assessment, the course plunges into real-life issues with the potential to affect the delicate ecological balance of our ecosystem. You'll be fascinated with the story of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, and the impact assessments for the Red Hill Creek Expressway.

Carefully interwoven among these delicate issues are nuggets of information related to environmental assessment. You'll discover the role of not only the government and legislature in environmental issues, but also the public -- yourself, in other words -- as well. How are new technologies assessed prior to their appearing on the market for consumer use or incorporation into infrastructures? You will discover the facts and rules behind this complex facet of environmental impact assessment. ENVS 305 is packed with information you never knew existed!

Your evaluation for ENVS 305 is student friendly. In addition to the final exam (worth 40%), the remaining 60% of your mark is determined by a short essay and a more detailed research paper. The short essay is worth 20% and focuses on a particular topic you have studied so far.

The research paper, however, allows you to expand your horizons on a particular area of environmental impact assessment, using the concepts taught in the course in addition to information drawn from outside sources (such as scientific literature). Prior to beginning your research paper, you submit a short description of your research paper topic, depth, and additional information, for 5% of your overall course mark. This ensures that you can incorporate any suggestions or advice from your tutor into your final research paper. Your completed research paper is worth 35% of your mark for ENVS 305.

For more information, visit the course syllabus at: <http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/envs/envs305.htm>. From this syllabus, you can visit ENVS 305's Centre (Centre for Global and Social Analysis).

NOTES FROM A BOOMER'S DIARY

Busby LeClair

Part One: Power Yoga



It was when my fingers were wrapped around the throat of the doofus with the Phish t-shirt, anti-WTO bumper sticker and scraggly goatee that I first began to understand the true nature of the *dharma*. It's odd, the layers of significance that are contained in an action. There I was, my hands choking the life from the insufferable oaf, feeling that sense of rapturous selflessness, that state of being utterly and completely in *the moment* that my spiritual consultant so often speaks of. I had never before experienced such utter joy, such intense - I don't know how else to put it - completion.

At the same time, though, my joy was dampened a bit by the awareness that all of my spiritual learning up to that point had led me to believe that there is something not quite *evolved* about choking the life from another human being, no matter how inferior and unenlightened he may be. No matter that he cut me off in traffic and took the last parking spot. No matter that his selfishness and poor driving caused me to spill my wheat grass frappe *and* be late for my power yoga class. Oddly, most of the spiritual guidebooks I've purchased from Chapters seem to imply that random acts of violence are a bad thing. It is during those times when our self-actualization is most tested, they nag, that we should be most centred in *the way*.

I realized, in that transcendent moment before the police sirens broke my meditative trance, what a load of crap that is. Like an epiphany, it became so very clear to me that what we really need, in this post-9-11, global-economy world, is a new spirituality - one that speaks to the way we really live our lives. What we need is a philosophy that takes the best aspects of Eastern spirituality -- the sexy yoga pants, five star Buddhist retreats, and Tibetan art coffee-table books -- and at the same time celebrates the little events -- like the three martini lunch, real estate speculation, and sabotaging the career of a co-worker -- that fill our days and help keep us grounded. What we need is a spirituality expansive enough to incorporate *zazen* and road rage, meditation and eBay, *koans* and logos.

A split second after this first insight arrived, I was visited by a second, even more profound revelation: Hey - we already have that philosophy! It's called Western civilization, and it's all about choice. Our choice, not other peoples'. We can buy scalped tickets to the Dalai Lama in the morning, and download porno in the afternoon. We can load up the trunks of our Lexuses (Lexii?) with doggy yoga mats and handcrafted ceramic bongos. We can visit a drive-thru ashram in Vegas.

By standing up to that Gen-X weasel with the shitbox Tercel, I was sending an important message to terrorists and layabouts everywhere: Do not fuck with our lifestyle, and do not make us late. Bullying and exploitation, when undertaken with correct awareness, are the mindful acts of an enlightened mind. The world is our fish-farmed oyster, and if it means laying a good old-fashioned shit-kicking on some pathetic neo-hippie slob, or invading a country or two, to preserve our right to pursue our spiritual / materialistic quest, then bring it on. 24/7, we're enjoying the best of both worlds - East Meets West, dude, East Meets West.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Registered Educational Savings Plans

Debbie Jabbour



As a proud new grandmother, I've been thinking a lot about how I will be fulfilling the many promises I made to my grandson while he was still in the womb. One of those promises is that I will do everything I can to ensure his access to post secondary education. Given that by the time he is likely to be going to university, he will need tuition funds in the vicinity of \$20,000 a year, any contribution I can make will be essential.

The reality, however, is that saving for education is a difficult task. I wish I could have done it for my own children, to prevent them going into debt carrying the burden of student loans, but I couldn't. When you are part of the middle class, struggling to raise a family of five, keeping food on the table and dressing them well, not to mention giving them a few benefits like dance and music lessons, there is simply nothing left over to stash

away in a savings account. Even that changed once I became a single parent. Struggling just to survive meant there was no longer room even for small benefits. When you have four school-aged children and are trying to figure out how to scrape up money for four sets of school fees, supplies, and clothes, saving money for university is a very distant wish on some far-away dream horizon.

Things haven't really changed. I'm not in any position to save for university, and I'll be facing significant student loan repayment myself. But I do want to do whatever I can to make life easier for my grandchild, so I've vowed to start some savings, regardless of how small, in the hopes that once I graduate I may one day find myself in a position where I can make some "real" contributions to those savings.

To that end, I've been checking out my options. Through my involvement with the student union, I've become quite familiar with Registered Educational Savings Plans (RESPs) and the Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG). As far as I'm concerned, these are benefits for the rich, and this opinion is reinforced the more I read about the topic.

RESPs are considered by many to be a good way to invest money toward education, and these investment plans are marketed to people by various companies belonging to a lucrative scholarship "industry." For many years, government regulations meant that if parents did not use these investment funds for post secondary education, a portion was lost - funds which the companies then re-invested to cover investment growth for those whose children did attend university.

In 1998 the government changed the regulations to expand the list of eligible post secondary institutions to include colleges, and under the new family plan, parents were allowed to transfer unused funds to another child or to their RRSP. The industry also received a boost in 1998 when the Liberals implemented the CESG as part of their "improved" education budget. The CESG provides 20 cents for every dollar parents contribute to a child's RESP, matching funds up to a maximum of \$400 yearly - meaning that the more you can afford to save, the more the government helps you!

Even though they received a huge financial boost from these new regulations, the RESP industry has other problems. The Alberta Securities Commission 2002 industry report has revealed that in Ontario, several companies have been barred from taking on new business, while others are required to make monthly reports. The same has occurred in Alberta, where five scholarship plan dealers registered in the province in 2002 were found to be in breach of securities legislation (*Edmonton Journal*, July 21, 2004). Where does the problem lie?

The Securities Commission stated that although the investments themselves are safe, the companies in question are guilty of misrepresentation, and misleading and aggressive sales tactics, among other issues. Individuals signing up were not adequately informed regarding what would happen if the plan was terminated, and returns

were often quoted as much higher than they actually were. Some sales reps said they worked for a non-profit organization, even though the plans and their distributors are very much for-profit. The Alberta Securities Commission is working with these firms to try to fix the problems cooperatively, but it certainly seems that those who have extra money that they plan to invest in RESPs need to follow the adage, "buyer beware."

I certainly don't need further proof that RESPs are not a benefit to help low-income and disadvantaged families send their children to university, but a recent Statistics Canada report has provided it anyway. It came as no surprise to read that this report has confirmed that even though the government has aggressively marketed the CESG over the last four years since its inception, almost half of all Canadian parents with children under 19 remain unaware of the program.

What about the 53.2 percent who were aware of the program? They have higher incomes, better education, and are more likely to own their own homes. Thirty-five percent of those with incomes less than \$15,000 were aware of the grant, compared to 69.5 percent of those with incomes of more \$40,000.

Of parents with a high school diploma only, 36.6 per cent know about the grant, compared to 73.6 awareness among parents with post-graduate degrees. Similar statistics were apparent in home ownership, with only 38 percent of renters knowing about the grant, while 60.4 percent of "mortgage free homeowners" were aware.

These findings support what many have been saying about these education grants from the start: they are a perk for the rich and those who can afford to save. Surely it cannot be that difficult to see the obvious? Individuals who only have a high school education, who make \$15,000 a year, and who are paying rent, cannot even begin to think about stashing savings in a bank account for their children to access many years from now. On the other hand, individuals with university degrees, making good money, owning their homes mortgage-free, with plenty of cash to spare and earning over \$40,000 a year, can easily put away yearly savings of \$2000 per child. High income, privileged families are therefore eligible to receive \$400 of government grant money every year, while low-income families continue to be shut out of post secondary educational opportunities.

During the last four years, the federal government has given \$2 billion in registered education savings plans to this grant program. Direct study grants for low-income students only amounted to \$474.45 million for the same period. Even more telling is the fact that banks and mutual fund companies have flooded the market with RESPs, considering these a lucrative industry. Some statistics indicate that it costs the government \$1 billion a year just to administer the RESP/CESG program (see SUDS report, *The Voice*, August 3, 2003. v11 i36). Add to that the Alberta Securities Commission report on this lucrative industry, and one really has to wonder why the government continues to insist that they are supporting post-secondary education.

In Alberta, of course, babies born during Alberta's Centennial next year will "benefit" from a government grant of \$500 to further boost the savings of those wealthy enough to start an RESP for their newborns (see *Taking Notes: Alberta Government to Give \$16 Million for Education. The Voice*. Feb 18, 2004. v12 i07)

I find it deeply disturbing that saving for university is big business, a lucrative industry that primarily benefits the rich. But in spite of my ideological issues with RESPs, and CESGs, if I can manage it, I'm not averse to taking some government money if it means I can help my grandchild access post secondary education. In all honesty, I doubt any savings plan or grant will make much of a dent in what he will be paying for university, but at the very least, saving toward that goal will reinforce for him the importance of a university education.

Parents should scrutinize RESPs: Though investments are safe, sales methods sometimes questionable. Ray Turchansky, *Edmonton Journal*, July 21, 2004.

Many families, especially poor, unaware of education grants. *Edmonton Journal*, July 25, 2004. Sarah Schmidt, CanWest News Service, Ottawa.

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.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) -- The Yukon has become the latest Canadian unit to recognize the equivalence of a same-sex marriage to a standard heterosexual union.

I could easily make this column into a celebration of the latest small step towards the complete inclusion of homosexuals in mainstream society. It is a goal I favour and champion to anyone who asks me about it. But that would be just another partisan view, hardly able to sway anyone but those who already agree.

The conflict is between those who want the definition of marriage to be gender-blind, and those who want to reinforce the traditional man-woman definition.

The gender-blind argument in this debate goes: "Homosexuals are essentially no different from the rest of us, so gay marriages should have the same status as straight marriages." The man-woman argument goes: "But a real marriage is between a man and a woman, so we should codify it in law."

The question is clear: What is a marriage?

That depends on whom you ask. I know one couple that can't even agree. She points out that after having lived together for one year, they are technically common-law married. He most certainly does not agree.

A stereotypical argument? Most certainly. But there was a time when even that definition of marriage would have set politicians on the rhetorical warpath. Whether it's progressive recognition of a changing society or the defence of conservative family values, the basic viewpoints never really change. It doesn't even really matter if you call the right or left. The point is that there are always some people willing to accept changes in society, and some who are not.

How we shall define marriage? That is what the politicians of Canada, America and Australia -- where the gay marriage debates are most vocal -- must decide right now. The legislators of these countries must work out what a marriage will be for their respective countries. It will affect how millions of people live their lives from the church to the courthouse, to the workplace, to the bedroom.

Hang on. Would you want Paul Martin telling you how to live your life in its most intimate detail, as a marriage surely is? How about Stephen Harper? Jack Layton? George Bush? John Kerry? These people can't just show up at my house uninvited and start telling me what to do with my life.

No matter your personal taste, distaste or disgust with any or all of these public figures, the very notion of public debate on gay marriage led by politicians ignores the most important part of it. Marriage is an intimate relationship. What our politicians think marriage should mean is only relevant to their own individual households. Only because they hold legislative power do their views on the subject appear to matter more.

Should something as impersonal as the bureaucratic machine, the government, decide on the most personal elements of our lives? The prospect sounds uncomfortable. The argument over the definition of marriage should not be led by anyone. It should take place in every household in Canada.

But how, asks the hypothetical critic, is this house-unto-itself debate supposed to be put into legislation?

Why, I respond, should we want to bind our most personal intimacies with the cold chains of law?

WHO ARE WE REALLY WATCHING AT THE OLYMPICS?

John Rieti

This year's games may have too many distractions

The Muse, Memorial University of Newfoundland

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) -- One month from now, every patriotic sports fan will tune in to the Olympics. As for the athletes, the teams have been picked, flag bearers selected, and uniforms fitted. Their dreams have been dreamt and their excitement is close to unbearable. But many athletes must wonder if their achievements go unnoticed, hidden behind sponsor's logos, under a cloud of suspected doping, and engulfed in a world of political unrest.

The games were first created to watch individual athletes push themselves to new heights, and compete with one another -- to inspire one another. While still the case, the games now look like a battle between Nike and Adidas.

As sporting companies develop new technologies allowing athletes to perform at their "highest level," one wonders if such physical performance would be possible without millions of dollars in research and development combined with corporate competition. Take swimming, for example.

At the Sydney Olympics, Speedo unleashed the Fastskin swimsuit, allowing swimmers to break many world records. The suit marked a new level of technology that will be surpassed this year by Speedo's Fastskin 2. Adidas is also releasing a new speed suit for sprinters that keeps the body in optimal position and temperature while running. While these advantages in technology make races more interesting and breaking world records far more frequent, it also detracts from the accomplishments of the athletes.

Perhaps the biggest source of controversy this year is doping. Every year authorities claim they are cleaning up the games, yet steroid practices get worse. The United States track and field trials were perhaps the most discouraging sight of the summer, as brilliant performances by up and coming track stars were dulled by controversy.

Drug use among athletes is one of the darkest sides of sports, intensified this year due to the questioning of many of the world's top athletes. In the past 12 months, star athletes, such as Barry Bonds, Lance Armstrong, Zinedan Zidane, Marion Jones and many others, were heavily targeted and tested for drug use, having both their reputation and performance compromised. But as companies, like the now infamous BALCO, create undetectable designer steroids, it becomes impossible to believe that this year's Olympics will be clean.

This year's events are set in a scary political situation as well. Geographically close to some of the most dangerous areas of unrest, this year's games present a huge target for terrorist attacks. Several athletes have decided to skip the games simply to protect themselves. While this won't affect the participating athletes' performance, it is likely to become an issue that overshadows what could have been many interesting competitions.

When Athens takes centre stage and the torch is lit, the main stories should be about individual achievements, and exceptional displays of athletics. The games everyone wants to see have clean athletes turning in performances earned from an entire life's training.

The games shouldn't be about whether Nike sponsored teams had an advantage, or if one company's steroids were better than another, and especially not about how many snipers are positioned around the stadium. The Olympics are about the best athletes in the world, competing on the biggest stage in the world. As a sports fan that's all I need.



Dear Barb:

I am a 24-year-old AU student in my final year. Lately I've been finding it difficult to feel enthusiastic about anything. When friends call wanting me to go out and party I find myself making excuses. I'd rather just stay home and watch TV. I'm starting to wonder if maybe I am depressed. What do you think?

Blake in B.C.

Good to hear from you Blake. Depression is one of the fastest growing maladies of our time. In fact 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men can expect to be diagnosed with depression in their lifetime. The fact that you took the time to write is a good sign. You are not hiding your head in the sand; you realize that you are not immune to depression.

I see, Blake, that you are getting ready to graduate, which means you are about to enter a new phase of your life. I'm assuming you are planning on starting your career, as you refer to this your last year of school. Along with any lifestyle change comes stress, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Have you ever heard the saying "change is good?" As well, along with change comes growth. Each hurdle that we overcome in life, gives us confidence in

our abilities, thus raising our self-esteem.

The causes of depression are varied. It may be biological in nature resulting in a chemical imbalance in the brain, or depression could be the result of a stressful or traumatic event in our lives. For example, suffering from a chronic illness, such as cancer, experiencing the death of a loved one, financial difficulties, or anything that strongly influences the direction of one's life has the potential to lead to depression. In addition, some people may not have learned efficient ways of dealing with stress in their family of origin. Thus, they may have difficulty coping when faced with the challenges of life.

Everyone has days where they feel down or not interested in doing their regular activities. Having these feelings for a few days or even a week doesn't mean you are depressed. It is probably your body's way of telling you to slow down, perhaps indicating a need to reassess your direction.

However if these feelings are ongoing and accompanied by feelings of hopelessness, loss of appetite, an inability to concentrate, or thoughts of suicide, they could suggest depression. If you are experiencing any of these feelings on a consistent basis I would advise you to speak to your family doctor who can refer you for treatment.

Today there are various options available for managing depression. Depression is nothing to be ashamed of; it is an illness and can be treated. Usually a combination of treatments will be utilized. For example, drug therapy and /or individual or group counseling are some options. The choice of treatments should be decided between you and your family physician.

Again Blake, thanks for writing and best of luck with your future endeavors.

E-mail your questions to 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. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.



SUBVERSIFY YERSELF

Fifteen ways to unleash your inner anarchist and overthrow the tyrant that holds you in check.

1. Burn your "World's Best Barbecue Chef" apron. Organize a seance or a luau.
2. Cancel your subscriptions to *Macleans* and *The National Post*. Subscribe to a French surrealist magazine or blow the cash on a glow-in-the-dark Buddha.
3. Head down to the library and take out every book you can find on a single esoteric subject. Learn everything you can about the history of the ferris wheel or the life cycle of the cockroach.
4. Instead of going to Blockbuster on Friday night for a copy of *The Last Samurai* or *Mambo Italiano*, find yourself an independent video store and rent a good Bollywood film or a copy of Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander* or Chaplin's *Modern*

Times.

5. Diversify your music collection. Browse through used record stores for recordings by Jah Wobble, Charles Mingus, Edith Piaf, Hank Williams. Pour yourself a gin martini and listen to them back-to-back.
6. Make a promise with yourself to get your nipples pierced on the day that you retire.
7. Take out your daytimer and make a weekday date with yourself to do something you would not ordinarily do. Drive out into the country to pick mushrooms or wild strawberries; take mid-week tango lessons; have a naked picnic in the living room with your significant other.
8. Copy out sections of *Moby Dick* on handmade Japanese paper and nail them to your kitchen door.
9. Spend one day each week exploring one of your five senses. Start with smell - walk around smelling peaches, pipe tobacco, low tide and black tea.
10. Reconcile yourself to the fact that, like the rest of humanity, you're likely one part John to two parts Ringo.
11. On a hot summer night, turn your house inside out. Move the couches and chairs out onto the lawn. Rent an old projector and watch your parents' home movies on the wall of the house. Watch your sister riding a tricycle nine feet high.
12. Get over your fear of being stared at by walking through the mall with mismatched shoes.

Primetime Update

Week of July 23, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

WHAT'S NEW ON PRIMETIME

AMAZING RACE – Wednesdays – 9pm on CTV

Last week, Alison and Donny fought a whole lot, Jim and Marsha were set up by the bowling moms, and Chip/Kim and Kami/Karli became allies and later fought over a taxi, becoming over-competitive and ruining each other's friendship.

This week, teams must first drive themselves to Buenos Aires and then fly to San Carlos De Bariloche, Argentina, where they must seek out the mayor to give them the next clue. Brandon/Nicole and Charla/Mirna agree to help each other. When Brandon and Nicole get their car stuck in the mud the girls stop to help them (Charla gets a minor shock from an electric fence in the process). However, when the girls take a wrong turn, Brandon and Nicole turn the right way and take off without their allies. Marshall and Lance end up with a flat on the road and must take 13 minutes to change their tire.

At the airport there are multiple departure times beginning at 9:10 am, however only standby tickets are available until 10:30 am. Jim and Marsha are the first to purchase standby tickets, however the other teams secure priority and the Daddy/Daughter team must wait until 11:30 am to depart.

9:10 Flight: Colin/Christie, Charla/Mirna

9:40 Flight: Marshall/Lance, Brandon/Nicole

10:30 Flight: Linda/Karen, Bob/Joyce, Chip/Kim, Kami/Karli

11:30 Flight: Jim/Marsha

When they arrive, teams select an SUV -- which some have trouble driving -- and head to the civic center where they meet the mayor and get the next clue. Teams must then walk two blocks to a chocolate shop called the Chocolate Factory located amidst many chocolate shops. Roadblock: One person must bite through chocolates (in total there are 11,000) and find one with white filling. Marshall and Lance spend over an hour tasting chocolate (after yelling "Bitch" out their window to Charla and Mirna).

After putting way too many chocolates in their mouths, teams must drive to Villa Catedral (a ski village) where they take a gondola to the top of a mountain and search for their next clue. Detour: Smooth Sailing (tandem paragliding off of a five thousand foot mountain) or Rough Riding (bike down a rough 6 mile course). All teams choose smooth sailing. There are no major problems during this task.

Pit stop: Drive 14 miles to Bahia Lopez, a tiny island in the middle of a lake (teams must walk through some shallow water). In order of arrival the teams are:

1. Colin/Christie
2. Charla/Mirna
3. Brandon/Nicole
4. Bob/Joyce
5. Kami/Karli (who take their clothes off and swim through deep water)
6. Linda/Karen
7. Chip/Kim

8. Marshall/Lance

9. Jim/Marsha

Despite catching up to the team in front of them, the airplane mishap was too much of a delay and Jim and Marsha are eliminated from the race.

THE TEAMS

Bob/Joyce – 61/54 – Retired/Medical Practice Administration – Internet Dating Couple

Brandon/Nicole – 25/21 – Actor/Model - Dating

Charla (dwarf)/Mirna – 27/27 – Store Manager/Lawyer - Cousins

Chip/Kim – 46/44 – Owner of Web Company/Owner of Recruit Company – Married parents

Colin/Christie – 24/26 – Cell phone store owner/pharmaceutical sales rep - Dating

Kami/Karli – 26/26 – Café Manager/Student - Twins

Linda/Karen – 45/41 – Mother, tennis teacher / mother, homemaker – Best Friends

Marshall/Lance – 31/26 – Restaurant Owner/Restaurant Owner – Brothers/ Restaurant Owner

ELIMINATED

Alison/Donny – 23/21 – Unemployed/Student -Alison was on Big Brother 4 - Dating

Dennis/Erika – 27/25 – Mortgage broker/wedding planner - Once Engaged

Jim/Marsha – 53/26 – Helicopter Pilot/Law Student – Father/Daughter

BIG BROTHER 5 – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays – 9pm on CBS

On Saturday, Marvin put Holly and Lori on the nomination chopping block. On Tuesday we watched Jase win the power of Veto and take Holly (his lust interest) off the block despite her protest, and put up Karen, Lori and Will's ally.

On Thursday, Lori was evicted and Drew won the HOH competition.

On Saturday, Drew nominated Holly and Nakomis for eviction and it caused some problems with Scott and Jase (Holly's sweetheart).

At the food competition everyone got a taste of alphabet soup, they literally swam in the stuff to spell out the foods they wanted for groceries. Everything from beer (of course) to lobster and pork.

The four horsemen continue to fight with each other about women and strategy. See what happens Tuesday on Big Brother 5.

PROJECT DNA: Michael and newfound sister Nakomis (Jennifer) are still in the house, however both vow to get rid of the other if it comes down to it. Adria and Natalie have two weeks left to keep their secret. If they can pull it off both will be given a spot (as themselves) in the house.

MEET THE HOUSEGUESTS

Adria (30) – Web Designer from Birmingham, AL. Married

Diane (22) – Cocktail Waitress from Burlington, KY. Single

Drew (22) – Recent College Graduate from Urbana, OH. Single

Holly (20s) – Model from Los Angeles, CA. Single

Jase (28) – Volunteer Firefighter from Decatur, IL. Single

Jennifer (21) – Restaurant Hostess from San Antonio, TX. Single

Karen (30) – Portrait Artist from Saddle Brook, NJ. Married
Marvin (36) – Mortician from Conway, SC. Single
Michael (23) – Security Officer from Durant, OK. Engaged dad.
Scott (26) – Sales Representative from Pittsburgh, PA. Single.
Will (26) – Registered nurse from Tupelo, MS. Single, gay.

ELIMINATED

Lori (26) – Yoga Instructor from Boston, MA. Single
Mike (41) – Commercial Painter from Eastpointe, MI. Single dad.

CANADIAN IDOL – Wednesdays, Thursdays - 9pm on CTV

The Top Ten: Each week we'll review what song each finalist sang, what I thought (not that anyone cares), and what the judges thought.

This week, I asked a friend to record both shows for me as my great Aunt was visiting from Victoria and I spent both nights with her and her family. My friend recorded both shows, but she recorded the results show over top of the first 1/2 hour of the performance show. So, I missed the bios on the first four singers. You can check out the website if it's extremely important to you and I'll try to get some info for next week.

Joshua Seller - Try

Josh was the first to try out the new stage. As a result, the judges commended his performance but they thought it was safe, no risk – likely because they weren't really sure what was to come later.

Brandy Callahan – Nobody's supposed to Be Here

The judges argued over her talent. It went from recognition of her vocal ability to the destruction of her performance and ability to appeal visually to the audience.

Shane Wiebe – My Song

He belted his heart out, but took no risks. The judges didn't like it.

Manoah Hartman – Halleluiah

My opinion of this song was that it could have been way better; it didn't turn my head at all. The judges agreed. Zack even threatened to change the channel.

Jason Greely – Cuts like a Knife

Jason is from Newfoundland. Not only is this guy great looking, he's a big time entertainer. His voice and style are great. As far as his talent goes, all of the judges agree. During the top 28, Sass Jordan announced that this guy's "her type."

Kalan Porter – Born to Be Wild

18, from Medicine Hat, AB. Plays violin in a string quartet, fiddle in a family band, and he's a local Alberta hottie!! Surprisingly, this eighteen-year-old has a very strong and mature voice. The Calgary Sun picked him as their favorite to win, and the Canadian Idol judges like him a bunch too. He's got my vote (and the vote of my 64 year old boss, who hates reality TV).

Theresa Sokyorka – Good Mother (Jan Arden)

23, from Saskatoon, SK. This one looks like she was born on the prairies in a house without a TV, and no exposure to real style. Her looks are a little too plain for me, but she took a bad song and made it her own and did an all right job of it. Respect granted, but I don't think she'll win. The judges gave her an overwhelming amount of praise... maybe it was better live than on TV.

Kaleb Simmonds – Everything I Do, I Do It for You

21, from Dartmouth, NS. He's a gospel guy. I didn't like it. His eyes look very very angry; he was singing a love song for crying out loud. He tried to hard, too many riffs. The judges liked it though.

Elena Juatco - Mary Jane (Alanis Morissette)

19, from Vancouver, BC. Elena was the last person entered into the top ten. It was good. Not great, just good. Alanis has always been one of my favorite artists and it's really hard to top her. The judges agreed.

Jacob Hoggard – Put Your Head on My Shoulder (Paul Anka)

20, from Abbotsford, BC. This guy looks like he'd be the life of any party: piercing, spikes, and all. Don't go after him though ladies; he's got a girlfriend. Very unique. His smile knocked me off my feet, and his voice was better than that. The judges thought he was wonderful; however they brought forth the question of his sanity.

WE'RE IN FOR A GREAT SEASON OF CANADIAN IDOL!!!

The Results Show: Over 2.1 million votes in total

All the members of the top ten performed a "You Make Me So Very Happy." It hurt my ears. There were too many mismatched voices all trying to do their own thing.

This week's bottom three: Manoah Hartman, Brandy Callaghan, and Joshua Seller

Who went home? Brandy Callaghan

FOR LOVE OR MONEY – Tuesdays – 10 pm

Last week we said goodbye to Andrea as well as seven of the fifteen original guys. This week, Rachel goes to the House of Blues Casino with the majority of the guys. She spends alone time with each guy in a room upstairs. Rudy intrigues her and Caleb disappoints her. At the end of the date Rachel announces that on one hand of blackjack the man with the most chips wins a ride home with Rachel in the limo – alone.

David S wins and he literally carries her down to the limo. He then tells Rachel that he does not believe in love at first sight to which Rachel responds to the camera that he could be a potential moneymaker for her. (If she picks a guy who really wants to be with her instead of the money then she too gets the choice between him and money).

At the beginning of the episode (which I missed), Josh volunteered \$275,000.00 of his potential winnings to go on one alone date with Rachel. So they get all dressed up, go to a Grand Ballroom (Bellmore Hotel) and have dinner. They dance, and spend some time alone in the limo. He even goes so far as to spend a vast majority of the money on a necklace for Rachel. But Josh pushes the physical stuff a little too far and she reprimands him. But then she realizes that if she gives him what he wants and he chooses her over the money she could be a very rich woman.

Later, Josh inspires jealousy in every other guy in the house. All of the guys tell him that he's guaranteed a spot in the next round.

Before the elimination ceremony Rachel is given the opportunity to see the cheque amount of any one man. The power now back in her hands, Rachel takes a peek at Mike's \$250,000.00 cheque. Prior to knowing his amount she seemed to be really into him and she thought that he was truly into her... but, he's got a rather large cheque...

The Elimination: Rudy (who says he's more upset about losing the money than he is about losing Rachel because she sees him as more of a friend), and Josh (who moved too fast)

Next Week: Skeet shooting, some poor guys fall in love, Rachel slips up just a little, and another guy is sent home.

THE MEN

Caleb – Realtor, from Tempe, AZ	\$1,000,000.00
Chris – Fitness Professional, from Tempe, AZ	\$250,000.00
David S. – Sales Representative, from Miami, FL	\$1.00
Mike – Corporate Financial Sales, from Santa Monica, CA	\$250,000.00
Morgan – Sales, from Chicago, IL	\$1.00

ELIMINATED

Alex – Industrial Engineer, from Omaha, NE	\$500,000.00
Josh – Real Estate Project Manager, from Lake Tahoe, NV	\$225,000.00 (spent \$275,000 on date)
Rudy – Mortgage Broker, from Newburyport, MA	\$1,000,000.00

LAST COMIC STANDING – Tuesday and Thursday, 9PM

For the last few weeks I've been following this show, and it's hilarious. We started with ten comics who compete in different kinds of competitions in stand up comedy: for example, performing stand-up in laundromats, tour buses, Friar's club roasts, and children's birthday parties. The comic who wins the challenge each week is granted immunity.

After the challenge the comedians vote, in a photo booth, for the person they think they can beat in a head to head challenge (on stage). The person with the most votes then chooses one of the people who chose them and the challenge is set. In the event of a tie, the two people with the most votes compete against each other.

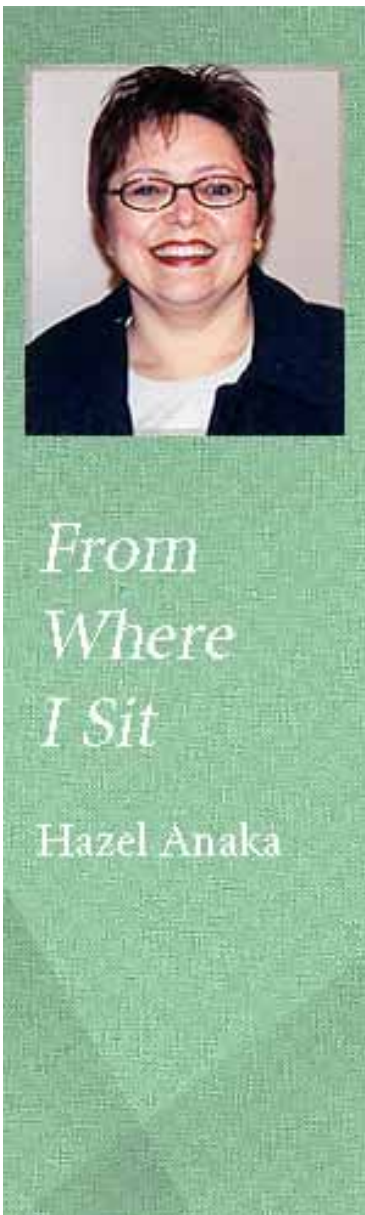
This week the challenge was to pitch a TV sitcom to a bunch of couch potatoes who then score the pitch. The highest score wins. Tammy Pescatelli, who is one of my favorites, won with her pitch about a Sicilian mob family. The guys on the panel thought she was hot.

For the vote, all of the 10 initial comics are involved and the head to head is actually a three way: Alonzo Bodden, Corey Holcomb, and John Heffron. In the end John and Alonzo move on and Corey goes home.

The final five will compete on stage and the phone lines will be open for voters to vote for their favorites. In the end, America will decide who is going to be the last comic standing.

The Final Five: Tammy Pescatelli, Gary Gulman, Kathleen Madigan, Alonzo Bodden, and John Heffron. As well, each of the rejected comics gets one final chance to succeed, but only one will join the final five.

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



FOR BETTER, OR WORSE

Lately I've been thinking about marriage. Not surprising, really. The media attention and public furore over the possibility, no likelihood, of same sex marriages keeps the issue front and centre with sound bites, interviews, theatrics and predictions of hellfire and damnation.

Much closer to home I'm contemplating our 30th anniversary. When I was in my twenties I used to believe that if anyone celebrated their 25th they had to be a couple of old farts. And sure enough, it's true. Juuust kidding. It's funny how the definition of old keeps moving out a decade or two further than where we're at.

Things have come a long way since 1973. We were married in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Andrew by a young priest whose first language was not English. How else can I explain why he didn't understand my objection to one particular phrase in my vows? I was required to say "love, honor and OBEY". No such thing in Roy's part. Much as I questioned and protested the inequity, the priest just smiled and didn't budge from the church's stand. And so it was.

When Greg got married last summer in the Russo Greek Orthodox Church those vows and church conventions weren't up for debate either.

And that's okay. I've come to understand that churches, priests, and traditions exist for a reason. Whether those reasons are still valid or reasonable is another debate and one I won't be tackling.

I do know that for many people marriage commissioners like me are offering an alternative. Each couple approaching me to officiate their wedding has their reasons for going the civil marriage route. Some have conflicting religious backgrounds. Some have no religious beliefs at all. For some it's a second marriage because of death or divorce. Some do it just to avoid the parental/familial pressures that sometimes drive couples to despair.

Often couples want a hand in writing their own vows or selecting quotes and readings that reflect how they feel. Many of them desire a theme or location or options just not available to them with a church wedding. Perhaps there are children or a pregnancy to factor in. Whatever the circumstances we can make it work. In my mind, all things being equal, a civil marriage is preferable to no marriage at all.

Marriage commissioners are required to be open-minded and non-judgmental. I suspend my own beliefs because in the grand scheme it really doesn't matter what I think. It does, however, matter what they think. I do my best to ensure that this day be as special, memorable and stress-free as possible. I give the couple as much leeway as the law will allow. I bring to them the benefit of my experience -- both good and bad -- of things that can and do go wrong.

My role is to help two people who love each other make a meaningful life commitment. For better or worse, it's all about live and let live, from where I sit.

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COYOTE UGLY Film Review

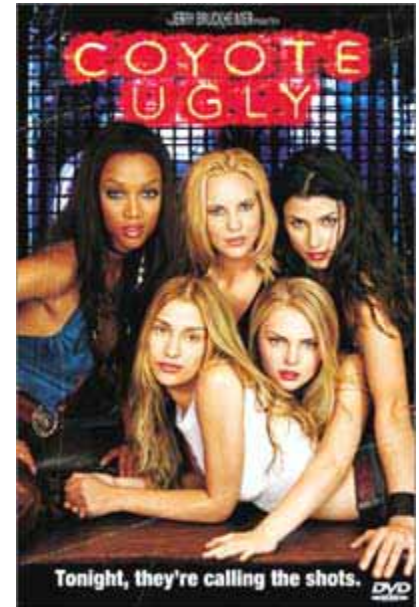
By Laura Seymour

All July - Musicals

Jerry Bruckheimer has turned out a lot of hit films including Gone in 60 Seconds and Armageddon. He added this little musical beauty to the list in 2000.

To get this film you start with getting the hottest model on the planet, Tyra Banks, teach her to do a hot dance on a bar and throw in a cast full of women who can hootenanny with the big guns.

The story goes that a young gal (Piper Perabo as Violet Sanford) moves to New York to pursue her dream of being a famous songwriter. She sings well on top of buildings, but in real life she runs the minute life gives her a shot! In the meantime she needs a chance to pay rent and eat. Along comes a strange bar where women rule! A woman runs the bar and she hires hot women who down drinks with the clients. Wild antics happen on a regular basis. The locals aren't exactly what I'd call quiet folks looking to drown their sorrows in a neighborhood bar; they yuck it up and are as loud and wild as they can be.



At first, Violet isn't sure she can handle this raunchy life. She is a bit unsure. She drops drinks, doesn't know the lingo and fails miserably. By the time she catches on, she has to deal with a few other problems.

Bruckheimer is smart enough to realize that the innocence of Violet's character is where the focus of the film should be. He lets us see her tender and nervous self. She is magnetic of course.

The first rule of the bar is to appear available but never be available. The women get the cash they need, attention they adore and the wild life they enjoy. They string along the mostly male bar flies and this seems fine at first. The problem is that Violet has fallen for one of the guys and she is trying to follow the rules. She gets into some serious trouble with the boss when there is a fight at the bar. She is told off in no uncertain terms.

Reviews that focus on a man's point of view in this film get cranky. They call it uneven and give a thumbs down because the focus wasn't on the bar. They call the women "teases" and use the C word!! I wasn't happy about that. I think the problem is those viewers wanted to watch a sexual fantasy come true and they can't help but be frustrated when it doesn't happen! I say, "Go rent some porn and stay away from the main stream films!"

Coyote Ugly is well done but it isn't a "deep" or important look into the bar fly world. That in itself is kind of a shame. I would like to see more character development when we get films that tackle an interesting subject. I didn't know about the real bar or the lifestyle these women must suffer. No steady beau!!

I recommend this film to those who understand you are NOT going to see nudity in the bar, women dishing out sex to every living male, just plain good old fun that the men love to see.

Laura Seymour first published herself, at age 8. She has since gone on to publish a cookbook for the medical condition Candida. She is working toward her B.A. (Psyc).

CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



Ontario on the Right Track

The Provincial government of Ontario has announced a number of changes to the student financial assistance programs in the province. At an estimated cost of 20.9 million, the Ontario government is taking some steps to make post-secondary actually accessible.

One of the changes put through is that the amount of expected parental contribution will be significantly dropped, thus allowing more students to get student financing, even if their parents haven't had disposable income to be putting away for them. This will be a significant boon to those families where, despite their best efforts, there was always a little more month left at the end of the money.

Another interesting change is that students who have exhausted interest relief and are still having a hard time making their loan payments, may be eligible for further assistance from the Ontario government in making reductions to the principal of their loan. This means that those students who perhaps took a risk at trying to go to post-secondary and for whatever reason weren't able to graduate or simply found themselves in a field where demand had collapsed, may still have the opportunity to get out from under the debt. While not as good as not incurring so much debt in the first place, at least this program gives hope to those who are looking at post-secondary and wondering about the risks of student loans.

The other changes are both in helping newcomers to Ontario be able to access the student finance system sooner and so get a start on their career training right away.

All in all, it boils down to a province that seems to have recognized that in an information based economy, the key to success is to ensure your citizens have the education to be able to use the information.

AU not part of Alberta Degree Council

The Ministry of Learning in Alberta recently announced the formation of their Campus Alberta Quality Council. This Council is responsible for reviewing new degree programs that Alberta institutions may want to establish and to ensure that quality control is maintained.

Notable is that of the 11 people on the Council, not one of them has a relation to Athabasca University. Also of interest is that while positions on the Council include two for Calgary and Edmonton, and one for each of Urban, South, and Central Alberta, there is effectively nothing covering Northern Alberta at all. The closest AU might get to an advocate on the Council is one of the two Out-of-province positions on the Council might be sympathetic to AU's attempts to expand.

Considering that AU is planning on a number of expansions in degree granting, especially at the Master's Level, we as students should probably be concerned about this. Will the Council be fair to the merits of each program presented to them, or will they be partisan to the benefits of their own particular universities or cities? Without a representative there from an AU board, we can only hope that the former applies.

If it doesn't, AU's plans for growth could be in jeopardy, which in turn means that our university would likely turn to where it always does when it needs more money.... to those of us paying tuition. So keep your fingers crossed with me.

Interested in Interest?

The Bank of Canada released an update to its monetary policy report last week. This update basically says that the time of super-low interest rates may be coming to an end soon. It predicts that Canada will reach our production capacity peak in mid 2005 and that in order to ensure inflation doesn't start at that point, they'll have to discourage people from spending. The traditional way to do that is to raise the interest rates.

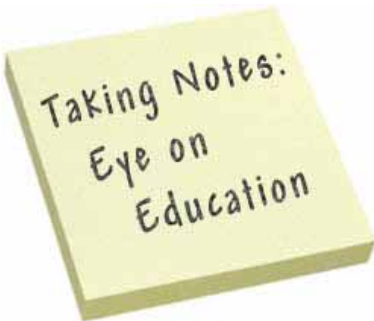
This becomes important for those on student loans or with mortgages coming up for renewal, as it may be time to consider locking the rate in for a while. Of course, how much the interest is going to go up is something they can't tell us, as it depends a lot on what the international markets do and how much they buy from us.

For myself, I've always been lucky that my borrowing has been done at fairly low rates, but I've of course heard the stories from my parents about interest rates in the double-digits and people having to basically ditch their homes just to get out from under the interest payments. We can hope that our governments have a better handle on that kind of thing these days but I think it's only human to be a little worried.

Hey, maybe if we all slow down our spending now, we can make sure the rates stay low so that we can all still afford those things that really matter.

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.

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



COMPUTER MARKING

Debbie Jabbour

For many graduate students, working as a teaching assistant (TA) is not just a way to supplement one's income, it is an important learning opportunity that can prepare us for a career in academia. These opportunities, however, are diminishing, and some attribute this to the role of technology in making computer marking the preferred choice on many campuses. As class sizes increase, it becomes more difficult for professors and TAs to mark by hand. Multiple-choice exams have been graded electronically for many years, but now the technology has been turned toward grading more complicated online tests

and exams that include written responses and short essays. The Intelligent Essay Assessor can be used to assess a student's writing skills and subject comprehension, providing an overall essay score and real-time feedback about grammar, style, and organization with a critique tool.

Not only do these computer marking tools replace teaching assistants and markers, saving money on salaries, automatic grading also has the advantage of providing instant feedback. This type of interactive marking can be used in laboratory situations where detailed feedback can allow students to resubmit work until they get the answers right. Allowing students to identify right and wrong answers immediately when writing an exam, rather than waiting days and weeks for a marker's results, is considered by many to be a far more effective system of learning.

Certainly many questions still remain about the overall efficacy of this method. Rating a student's written work still requires a significant human element, and the impersonal approach to marking cannot be used for more advanced work. As more universities embrace online course management, however, electronic marking will become more common.

Computer marking becomes weapon of choice for college profs: Larger class sizes are making traditional role of teaching assistants obsolete. *Edmonton Journal*, July 26, 2004. Sarah Schmidt: CanWest News Service, Ottawa.

AUSU THIS MONTH



THE AU BUSINESS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION IS HERE!



New AUBSA site, now online -- see the Clubs pages for information

Finally, the long anticipated AU Business Students' Association (AUBSA) has a brand new website on the AUSU server, and the club is officially taking members.

This club is open to all students with an interest in business, and will be adding more business related resources over the next several months.

To learn more about the AUBSA, visit the club homepage at:
<http://www.ausu.org/clubs/aubsa/index.php>

Contact aubsa@ausu.org for more information. Members of the AUBSA also 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

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

NORTHERN STUDENT SUPPLEMENT

Value: \$500 - \$1500

Application Deadline: N/S

Administrator: Northern Alberta Development Council

Notes: An incentive for northern Alberta students with a high financial need to enter post-secondary programs. It supplements the Alberta Opportunities Bursary. \$500 to \$1500 depending on financial need. If you receive the Northern Student Supplement, your student loan will be reduced by an equivalent amount.

You may receive the Northern Student Supplement if you:

- are a northern Alberta resident;
- have high financial need;
- are in your first or second year of post-secondary training.

Contact Information:

Web site: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=871>

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Value: Masters Level - up to \$9,300 and Doctoral Level - up to \$10,500

Application Deadline: None

Administrator: Alberta Scholarship Programs.

Notes: To reward the high level of achievement of students pursuing graduate studies in Alberta. Applicants must be Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants and enrolled full-time in a faculty of graduate studies in Alberta.

Applicants are selected by their Alberta institution.

Contact Information:

Website: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=39>

EACH YEAR SOFTBALL ALBERTA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO QUALIFYING STUDENT-ATHLETES TO ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

For more information about the individual scholarships, go into the link below or contact your District Organizer or the Softball Alberta office at: (780) 461-7735.

The deadline for all scholarship applications is September 1st.

Web site: <http://www.softball.ab.ca/scholar/2004.pdf>

Searching for Internships

Shannon Maguire

General Motors Internships

Website: <http://www.gm.com/company/careers/student/intern.html>

Position description: General Motors offer internships and co-ops in the areas of business and engineering in the US.

Pay: Paid. Competitive compensation. May be eligible for paid housing and reimbursement of travel expenses.

Eligibility requirements: Must be a full time student registered at an accredited university who is pursuing a Bachelor's, Master's or PhD degree. You must also have completed your first year and be able to present evidence of academic achievement and leadership ability. You must also wish to pursue a career in Engineering or Business. For the Co-op your university must have a sanctioned co-op program.

Time and length of position: Internships range from 10-12 weeks.

How to apply: You can view available positions and apply online at the General Motors website mentioned above.

Lufthansa Airlines Internships

Website: http://www.be-lufthansa.com/jobs_and_career.html

Position description: Various positions available in Germany.

Pay: Yes. EUR 550 gross per month.

Eligibility requirements: Must be enrolled in a college or university program for the entire duration of the training period, have knowledge of MS Office, speak German and English, and be able to travel. They are also searching for some specific personality traits which are listed on their website.

Time and length: Positions range from 3-6 months and may start at any time.

How to apply: Visit the Lufthansa website mentioned above and apply online.

National Organization for Women (NOW) Internships

Website: <http://www.now.org/organization/intern.html>

Position description: Internships are available in Washington, D.C. on one of the following teams: Government Relations/Public Policy team, Field Organizing team, Membership team, Direct Mail and Fundraising team, Communications team, Web team, and the Political Action Committee. More detailed descriptions of what each team does is available on the NOW website mentioned above.

Pay: Unpaid. College credit can be arranged.

Eligibility requirements: Interns should be dedicated to women's issues and feminist organizing.

Time and length: Internships are offered in the spring, summer and fall. Full and part time positions are available. A minimum of three days a week is required.

How to apply: Deadlines for applying are: November 20- spring, March 15- summer, and July 30- fall. Your application must include a cover letter stating why you want the internship and why you think you will perform well in a fast paced feminist environment, a current resume, an application form (available on website), and two letters of recommendation.

You should submit the application and any further questions to:

Karen Johnson, Executive Vice President - Phone: 202-628-8669 ext. 125

National Organization for Women, 733 15th Street NW, Second Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005

E-mail: nowinterns@aol.com

Lands' End Internships

Website: http://www.landsend.com/jobs/internships/current_openings.html - Lands' End is a direct merchant selling clothing, luggage and home products through the internet, catalogs and inlet stores.

Position description: Positions are available in advertising, business outfitters, corporate communications, creative, design, employee services, facilities, financial services, information services, internet, inventory, merchandising, operations, quality and retail. See the website for detailed descriptions and a list of current openings.

Pay: Yes. You can also receive relocation assistance, security deposit for housing, merchandise discount, access to activity centre (fitness equipment, pool, aerobics, etc), seminars, and training and workshops.

Eligibility requirements: Each area has different requirements that are stated in the description of the position in the current openings section of their website.

Time and length: Internships take place in the summer and range from 12-24 weeks.

How to apply: Resumes are reviewed and interviews are conducted from Oct to Mar and decisions made in April.

Resumes should be sent to: Lands' End, Code: LECLG, P.O. Box 549262, Suite 276, Waltham, MA 02454

E-mail: careers@landsend.com



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.

british columbia

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL
Vancouver, BC
24 July - 4 August 2004

The annual Vancouver International Comedy Festival, which takes over Granville Island in the heart of the city each summer, is one of the most important comedy festivals in North America.

Two daily outdoor stages feature the best street performances by artists from around the globe. Evening shows (performed in an intimate cabaret-style theatre) offer huge comic diversity - stand-up, musical, theatrical, improv and sketch comedy. The Opening and Closing Galas feature the Best of the West and Beyond. Expect international comics of a high calibre, as well as the best of home-grown Canadian talent.

Venue - Granville Island

Contact Details

Number +1 604 683 0883

Fax +1 604 669 0635

info@comedyfest.com

The Vancouver International Comedy Festival
1398 Cartwright St, Vancouver, BC V6H 3R8

Kaslo Jazz Etc Summer Music Festival
Kaslo, British Columbia
Jul 30, 2004 to Aug 05, 2004

Located in Kaslo, BC "the Little Swizerland of Canada". One hour drive north of Nelson, BC and four hours north of Spokane, WA. The stage floats just off shore on Kootenay Lake with the 10,000' Purcell Mts. as the backdrop. Patrons swim and boat around the stage, and dance in the sand on the shore. A great family event with lots of fine crafts, food and great refreshments. "A Music Festival in Paradise".

For event & ticket information:

Phone: (250) 353-7577; E-mail: kaslojazz@netidea.com

Fax: (250) 353-7577 -Web: <http://www.kaslojazzfest.com>

26th Annual Coombs Country Bluegrass Festival
Coombs, British Columbia
Jul 30, 2004 to Aug 01, 2004

A three day bluegrass festival the whole family can enjoy. Coombs Rodeo Grounds. Bluegrass musicians and fans will be pickin' n' a grinnin'.

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (250) 752-5096

E-mail: chrco@bcsupernet.com

GrizFest
<http://www.grizfest.com/>
July 31 - August 1, 2004
Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia

GRIZFEST brings you music from traditional to the edge of experimental. Focusing on Canadian talent the festival is a blend of various musical styles for your listening pleasure. Reflecting Tumbler Ridge's community spirit, the festival is a family-oriented event that includes a wide variety of activities.

Tickets range in price from \$30 to \$50 for adults, and from \$20 to \$40 for youths and seniors. All children 12 and under are admitted free and must be accompanied by an adult. Grizfest Tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

Tumbler Ridge Community Centre

Dawson Creek Chamber of Commerce

North Peace Cultural Centre in Fort St. John

CD Plus in the Grande Prairie Mall

For more information on purchasing tickets call 250-242-4246 or email trcentre@dtc.ca There is a \$5.00 shipping and administration charge on all mail out orders. Cheques can be sent payable to: Tumbler Ridge Days Society, Box 98, Tumbler Ridge, BC, V0C 2W0

Bard on the Beach
Vancouver, BC - June 3 - Sept. 26, 2004
<http://www.bardonthebeach.org>
call the box office at 604-739-0559, or toll-free 1-877-739-0559.

Celebrating its 15th season in 2004, the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival runs in open-ended tents on the waterfront in Vanier Park, against a spectacular backdrop of mountains, sea & sky. The 2004 season features the delightful domestic comedy The Merry Wives of Windsor, the courtship folly Much Ado About Nothing and the dark tragedy Macbeth.

saskatchewan

Government House Historical Society Victorian Tea - REGINA. SK
Tel: 306-787-5363; Fax: 306-787-5714

Enjoy a traditional Victorian Tea in Saskatchewan's unique and elegant Government House Ballroom. Tea served 1 - 4pm. 2004 dates: Mar 13 - 14, April 3 - 4, May 1 - 2, June 12 - 13, July 3 - 4, Aug 7 - 8, Sept 11 - 12, Oct 2 - 3, Nov 6 - 7, Dec 4 - 5 (reservations required for Dec dates only). Government House tours available. Groups of 8 or more, please call ahead. Due to construction, please call to confirm times. Mar 13, 2004 to Dec 6, 2004

Art Gallery of Swift Current presents Windowworks
SWIFT CURRENT. SK
Tel: 306-778-2736; Fax: 306-773-8769
Email: k.houghtaling@city.swift-current.sk.ca
Web: <http://www.artgalleryofswiftcurrent.org>

Experience an intriguing, charming and beautiful exhibition of art and heritage presented throughout downtown windows in Swift Current. Talented artists present site-specific paintings, sculptures, installation artworks and dioramas. Apr 1, 2004 to Oct 31, 2004

ontario

CARIBANA
Toronto, Ontario
From now until 2 August 2004

The annual Toronto Caribana is a feast of music and culture celebrating Caribbean-Canadian heritage, and the biggest Caribbean festival in North America. A party at Nathan Philips Square kicks off 18 days of fun.

Festivities include the Caribana King and Queen Extravaganza at Lamport Stadium, with a competition featuring the most exotic and astonishing of the parade costumes and the most popular carnival tunes.

The festival highlight is the Caribana Parade, held around Exhibition Place. The lakeside parkway is transformed into a free street party with pounding soca rhythms, steel bands, extravagant costumes, Caribbean food and a craft market.

Winding down takes place over the following couple of days at the Arts and Cultural Festival on Olympic Island, featuring more delicious food, music and dancing to calypso and reggae. Ferries to the island run from the Metro ferry terminal on Bay Street.

Cost
5-day pass C\$80; seniors & children C\$50
4-day pass C\$60; seniors & children C\$40
3-day pass C\$40; seniors & children C\$25

Contact Details - +1 647 777 1018

Haileybury Centennial
Haileybury, Ontario
Jul 26, 2004 to Aug 02, 2004

Haileybury Centennial Celebration - join us for the largest homecoming party in the community's history. Featured attractions - centennial dinner, opening ceremonies, parade, concert, Downtown Day, Branch 54 Legion Veterans Day, iode tea, museum tours, music in the park, heritage tours, children's games and activities, open houses, fireworks, closing ceremonies and talent show.

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (705) 672-3236
E-mail: jfranks@temiskamingshores.ca
Fax: (705) 672-2551
Website: <http://www.town.haileybury.on.ca>

Elora Festival
Elora, Ontario
Jul 09, 2004 to Aug 01, 2004

The Elora Festival is celebrating its Silver Jubilee Year with its most ambitious lineup in years. Starting with Beethoven's Ninth on Opening Night, the 25th Elora Festival presents some of the finest musicians Canada has to offer, as well as some of the most profound music the world has ever heard. This year the Festival is featuring such artists as jazz pianist Michael Kaeshammer, the Stuttgart Chamber Choir, the Gryphon Trio, the Tactus Vocal Ensemble, André Laplante, Randy Bachman, Spirit of the West and many, many more. Come celebrate our Jubilee with us in the beautiful Village of Elora! Elora Festival Singers, conductor Noel Edison; Russian Cossack State Dance Company; Emma Kirkby; Daniel Taylor; Stuttgart Chamber Choir; Parry Sound Ensemble; Spirit of the West; André Laplante; Randy Bachman and many, many more!

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (519) 846-0331
E-mail: info@elorafestival.com
Fax: (519) 846-5947 - Web: <http://www.elorafestival.com>

Westben Arts Festival Theatre - Concerts at the Barn
Campbellford, Ontario
Jun 26, 2004 to Aug 01, 2004

At Westben Arts Festival Theatre you'll hear internationally renowned Artists reveling in a uniquely inspiring setting - a newly constructed timber frame barn. Enjoy everything from full symphony orchestra and chorus to chamber music and solo piano.

Feel the power of Beethoven or the beat of Broadway. It's live, intimate, nonpretentious and contagiously uplifting! Events Include Gala Orchestral Weekend (3 concerts); Main Series (5 concerts); Music of the Night (5 concerts).

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (705) 653-5508
E-mail: westben@westben.on.ca
Fax: (705) 653-3180 - Web: <http://www.westben.on.ca>

York Shakespeare Festival
<http://www.resurgence.on.ca/>

Newmarket, Ontario
Through September 2004

We have another fantastic season planned for this summer. If you enjoy Shakespeare, you won't want to miss our productions.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
July 16 to August 7, 2004

THE COMPLEAT WORKS OF WLLM SHAKSPR (abridged)
August 12 to August 22, 2004
Audience members be ready to participate! We're staging London's longest running comedy, a theatrical tour-de-force featuring 37 of the Bard's plays in 97 minutes!

THE BOOK OF MIRACLES
August 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, 2004
Resurgence's Youth Summer Theatre Conservatory
Directed by Kyra Harper, this magical mythical piece, a kind of Trilogy of the Ring meets The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, tells the story of an evil magician warlord and the young warriors who must overthrow the tyrant.

Please see the website for event locations and ticket prices. They vary depending on the event and the age of the audience member purchasing the tickets. There are some packages available which include event tickets and accomodations.

Our office/hours: 227 Main Street South, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 3Y9

Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Telephone: (905) 954-1571 - Fax: (905) 952-0859
Mailing address: 879 Boronia Crescent, Newmarket, ON, L3Y 5J8

LONDON
London Fringe Theatre Festival
<http://www.londonfringe.on.ca/>
July 30 - August 8, 2004

This year's Fringe features theatre companies from across Canada and the US, as well as international performers from as far away as Japan and India. Our schedule features over 40 different shows, appealing to audiences both wild and mild, and appropriate for audiences ranging in age from the juvenile to the venerable... check each show's description for age restrictions. Performance tickets are priced no more than \$8.00 per person, making the Fringe the greatest theatre value for your dollar in all of London!
Visit the website for show times and directions.

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

LANAUDIÈRE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
Joliette, Quebec
From now until 3 August 2004

The Lanaudière International Festival - held each year just north of Montréal in Joliette - includes concerts and recitals held at the Joliette Amphitheatre and in local churches.

The Montreal Jazz Big Band with trumpeter Bill Mahar rediscover classics under the direction of Philippe Hudon and the programme also features a variety of evenings devoted to the music of Czech composer Dvorak, commemorating the 100th anniversary of his death.

Contact Details
Lanaudière International Festival
Number +1 450 759 4343
Second Number +1 514 842 2112 (bookings)
festival@lanaudiere.org
1500, Boulevard Base-de-Roc
Joliette, Québec J6E 3Z1

TWIST WEEKEND
Montreal, Quebec
29 July - 1 August 2004
10pm-7am Cost \$50

As Pride parties go, they don't come much better or bigger than Bad Boy Club Montreal's Twist Weekend. This special summer weekend features the famed all-night Twist Party and coincides with Montreal Pride.

The main event on Saturday night features DJ Manny Lehman. The second takes place at Club Stereo on Sunday night, with the Mega-T Party on the Sunday afternoon.
Contact Details; BBCM Foundation - +1 514 875 7026

Montreal Pride
Montreal, Quebec
26 July - 1 August 2004

Montreal Pride, or Divers/Cité, is the city's eclectic expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered pride. Prepare yourself for seven days of queer colour and culture unlike any other. More than just a parade, Divers/Cité has grown to become an end-of-summer

cultural festival complete with concerts, shows, art, theatre, conferences and parties.

Contact Details

Divers/Cité

Number +1 514 285 4011; Fax +1 514 285 8793

Email info@diverscite.org

Address 4067 St-Laurent BP 203, Montréal, Québec, Canada, H2W 1Y7

Les FrancoFolies

<http://www.francofolies.com/franco2004/splash.asp>

July 29 - August 7, 2004

Montreal, Quebec

Les FrancoFolies de Montréal: A unique experience! Almost 200 free outdoor shows in the French-speaking capital of North America. For ticket and venue information, please see the website.

new brunswick

Doaktown Salmon & Fiddlehead Homecoming Festival

Doaktown, New Brunswick

Jul 29, 2004 to Aug 02, 2004

Nite Lite Parade, Fireworks, Craft & Trade Show, Music, BBQ's, Salmon and Fiddlehead suppers, Canoe Camp, Woodsmen's Competition, and Teen Night etc.

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (506) 365-7668

E-mail: janice@nbnet.nb.ca

Website: <http://www.doaktown.com/festival.html>

nova scotia

Histoires de la Baie

Belliveau Cove, Nova Scotia

Histoires de la Baie. Guided interpretive walks in three coastal parks in the Municipality of Clare; Parc Joseph et Marie, Smuggler's Cove and Mavillette Beach Park. Highlights Acadian culture, folklore, natural history and local ecology (tides, marsh, clams, etc). Tours available in English and French. Regular tours offered weekly June to October, see website for detailed schedule. Special tours available upon request. Admission: \$5 adults, special rates for groups. May 1, 2004 to October 1, 2004 Admission: \$5 adults, special rates for groups. <http://www.clarenovascotia.com>

Photography Show

Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Photography Show. Sherman Hines Museum of Photography. Photographs from a recent book by Sherman Hines featuring Mahone Bay, Wolfville and others. Subject to change. May 1 to December 23 - Admission: free <http://www.shermanhinesphotographymuseum.com>

Soiree Acadienne / Acadian Music

Pubnico, Nova Scotia

Soirée Acadienne / Acadian Music. Musée Acadien, West Pubnico. Music by local artists with singsong of Acadian songs. Bring your musical instrument. Everybody welcome! Taste traditional food. First Wednesday of each month. May 5 - Nov 3, 2004

Admission: \$4.00 - <http://www.museeacadien.ca>

Farmer's Market

Belliveau Cove, Nova Scotia

Farmer's Market. Belliveau Cove Wharf. A quality merchandise market open in the Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas at the Belliveau Cove Wharf beside the tourist bureau. Products available include meats, produce, prepared foods, herbs, plants, art, craft & much more. Open Saturday mornings from 9 am to 2 pm.

May 15 - Oct 9 - Free - <http://www.clarenovascotia.com>

Stone Soup Festival

Moser River, Nova Scotia

May 15 - Oct 31 - <http://bay-of-islands.org/festival/>

For event & ticket information:

Telephone: (902) 347-2602 Fax: (902) 347-2602

E-mail: gail@bay-of-islands.org

Originating in 2002, Stone Soup Festival is a gathering place for musicians, songwriters, storytellers and variety performers to see and be seen. Hosted Eastern Shore Talent Showcase in 2003 offering exposure to new talent. Studio on site at the Bay of Islands Centre and ongoing events all summer long.

Themed festival based on the experience of bringing a skill or talent to 'add to the pot'. Stone Soup 2004 features open mic, outdoor camping venues, including writers, storytellers, theatre and sustainable living events from May 15 to Oct 31. The Eastern Shore in Concert is featured on the Jul 30 - Aug 1st long weekend, 2004.

YUKON ART SOCIETY

Whitehorse, Yukon - May 25, 2004 to Aug 13, 2004

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

Info: (867)668-3136 - Email: 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

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 both exhibits. Awards up to \$650.

NEBUTA MATSURI

Aomori, Aomori, Tohoku, Japan

1-7 August 2004

Demons, spirits and mythical warriors on floats crowd the streets of Aomori every year in August, as Japan's answer to the carnival in Rio takes off and more than three million visitors flock to the city to take part in the wild celebrations and dance in the streets.

The festival is both a celebration of the short northern Japanese summer and a preparation for the harvest. Nebuta means drowsiness, and it is believed that the purpose of the festival was to wake people up for the task of harvesting in the fall. Whether this is true or not, you certainly won't be drowsy while the festival is going on. More than 200,000 haneto dancers, chanting "RASSE-RAH, RASSE-RAH", gyrate wildly to the beat of drums, shouts and flutes and the cheering of the crowds.

Contact Details

Japan Tourist Office

10 Fl., Tokyo Kotsu Kaikan Bldg., 2-10-1, Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0006

Phone +81 (0) 3 3201 3331 UK +44 (0) 20 7734 9638

Fax +81 (0) 3 3201 3347 - Email jnto@jnto.go.jp

FAIRBANKS SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

Fairbanks, Alaska USA

Until August 1st, 2004

For two weeks every summer the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus hosts a huge arts event with performers from all over the world. Plenty of theatre, opera, dance, visual arts and music is on the menu, as is figure skating - it is Alaska after all!

Venue

University of Alaska Fairbanks - Tel +1 907 474 7211

Contact Details

Number +1 907 474 8869

Email info@fsaf.org

PO Box 80845 - Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

ARAB & CHALDEAN WORLD FESTIVAL

Detroit, Michigan USA

31 July - 1 August 2004

First known as the Arab World Festival, this annual festival at Hart Plaza has been going since 1972 and is the largest Arab-Chaldean-American cultural event in North America.

Each year more than 100,000 people attend the three-day event to enjoy a variety of Arabic and Chaldean food, exhibitions and an impressive entertainment programme.

Venue - Hart Plaza - Tel +1 313 877 8077

Contact the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau for more information.

211 W Fort St, Suite 1000

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone +1 313 202 1800 - Fax +1 313 202 1808

BAGELS & BACH

Omaha, Nebraska USA

Starting August 1st, 2004

Sunday mornings are given a musical twist at the Joslyn Art Museum, with various classical music treats - Bach an emphasis - from local and international talent.

Opening Hours 11.15am

Cost US\$14; children US\$8

Venue

Joslyn Art Museum

2200, Dodge St

Omaha, Nebraska USA

Tel +1 402 342 3300; Fax +1 402 342 2376

Email info@joslyn.org

Arsenic and Old Lace

Salisbury, NC

29 July - 1 August 2004 - 7.30pm

matinee 1 Aug 2.30pm

The Piedmont Players bring Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring to the Meroney Theatre, Salisbury.

The comedic concoction of this play centres around two little old ladies whose hobby is poisoning little old men. In addition, there is a trio of nephews - one a loveable lunatic who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt, one a theatre critic, and one a psychotic murderer on the run - a sexy but confused fiancé, an alcoholic plastic surgeon and Brooklyn's most obtuse policemen for the audience to contend with...

Venue

Meroney Theatre

213, S Main St

Salisbury, North Carolina

28144 USA - Tel +1 704 633 5471

SAN DIEGO PRIDE

San Diego, California USA
30 July - 1 August 2004
Opening Hours Parade 11am

San Diego's gay community comes out for three days each year to celebrate San Diego Pride. The celebration kicks off with a political rally at the Organ Pavillion in Balboa Park, in commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York's Greenwich Village, which many consider to be the commencement of the contemporary Lesbian and Gay liberation movement.

The next day ushers in the mammoth parade, filling University Ave between Normal St and 6th Ave, down 6th to Ivy Lane, while Balboa Park also hosts a festival with a wide variety of attractions.

Contact: +1 619 297 7683 - Email email@sdpride.org

INTERNATIONAL SURF AND HEALTH FESTIVAL
Los Angeles, California USA
30 July - 1 August 2004

Muscle-flexing Baywatch-style is highly in evidence at this Californian surf festival. Three of southern California's finest beaches - Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo - come alive with more than 3000 fit competitors and over 100,000 spectators.

America's best lifeguards take on an Australian all-star team in a series of volleyball matches, beach runs, swimming races and, of course, surfing competitions. There are also open competitions for those who feel up to taking part.

Cost - Free to spectators - various fees to take part
Venue - Manhattan, Hermosa & Redondo Beaches
Contact: Email john.york@redondo.org

COLORADO RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL
Larkspur, Colorado USA
From now until 1 August 2004
10am-6.30pm

Cost - US\$15.95 - 5-12 yrs US\$8; under 5 free

Get medieval on your family by sending them 400 years into the past to hang out with knights in shining armour, court jesters or even Henry VIII, at Larkspur's Renaissance Festival.

This award-laden family festival takes place in a "medieval village" every Saturday and Sunday from June to July - a purpose-built 16th-century playground that nestles in the beautiful mountains of Larkspur, Colorado. Enjoy over 60 shows daily, full-armour combat jousting, music, comedy, a marketplace filled with artisans selling their wares and gourmet dining fit for would-be kings and queens.

Contact Details
Colorado Renaissance Festival

+1 303 688 6010 - pjfrank@coloradorenaissance.com

409F South Wilcox Street Castle Rock, CO 80104

NHRA NATIONALS
Sears Point, Sonoma, California USA
30 July - 1 August 2004

The NHRA Nationals, from the Sears Point Raceway, feature some of the fastest motorsports action on the planet. The hot rods are capable of accelerating from zero to 100 miles-per-hour (160 km/h) in less than a second and can reach top speeds of 300mph. The three days feature over 400 competitors racing in ten different categories, including Top Fuel, Funny Car and Pro Stock.

Venue
Infineon Raceway
Hwys 37 & 121
Sears Point, Sonoma, California
95476 USA Tel +1 800 870 7223
trackinfo@searspoint.com

CHINATOWN FESTIVAL
Boston, Massachusetts USA
1 August 2004

The event is free; located in Boston's Chinatown district.

Boston's small but central Chinatown celebrates its annual summer festival. Sponsored by the Chinatown Business Association, the event features lots of traditional Asian arts performances, from Japanese drumming to Burmese dancing and Peking Opera.

Visitors can expect martial arts displays and plentiful food choices - although the neighbourhood is predominantly Chinese, it also contains Vietnamese, Japanese, Korean and Thai restaurants. Chinatown is next to the downtown shopping district and the shops and arts institutions of the Back Bay neighbourhood, so you can combine a visit to the festival with your explorations of the area.

Contact Numbers: +1 617 635 3485; +1 617 635 2669

HOTLANTA RIVER EXPO
Atlanta, Georgia USA
1-4 August 2004

One of the hottest (literally) events on the gay and lesbian calendar - Hotlanta River Expo once again explodes across Atlanta this summer, as it has done since 1979. 2003 - the 25th expo - had as its theme "Journey Down the Nile" and will include the traditional Miss Hotlanta competition and a Mr Hotlanta dance contest, attracting people from all walks of life from all over the world.

The event always lives up to its name - it's a good time to undertake some serious revelling - and the silver jubilee was no exception.

Contact Details
Hotlanta River Expo Inc
Numbers +1 404 874 3976; +1 800 422 7895
hotlantariverexp@aol.com
PO Box 8375 Atlanta, Georgia 31106

SUNSET MUSIC FESTIVAL
Newport, Rhode Island USA
29 July - 4 August 2004

Kick back and relax to the sounds of the Sunset Music festival in a specially-erected, 2000-seat tent on Newport's waterfront. Contact: +1 401 846 1600 ext 2

CITY SOUNDS
Boston, Massachusetts USA
Various dates in August 6pm-8pm

The Boston Center for the Arts hosts a summer festival of worldwide music and dance on Thursday evenings during July and August. Taiko Drumming, traditional Arabic music, Haitian folk music and an 18-piece jazz band are all on the menu.

Venue
Boston Center for the Arts
539, Tremont St
Boston, Metro Boston, Massachusetts 02116
+1 617 426 5000

KEY WEST SUMMER FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL
Key West, Florida USA
30 July - 8 August

Cost for events vary; some are free.

Key West celebrates its second Summer Food & Wine Festival with wine tastings and courses, feasts, buffets and even mini-cruises at various locations, all aimed at getting those taste buds going and fine-tuning your palate.

Organised by the Key West Restaurants and Bars Association, the festival starts with the La Concha Hotel Opening Reception, where wineries from around the world offer free tastings (30 July). There are various wine tasting sessions and courses, including: Food and Wine Tasting with Chef Susan Ferry and Tom Carroll; An Introduction to Italian Wine with Daniel Burgio; Bubbles are a Girl's Best Friend Champagne Tasting and Walk, Wine and Wobble.... a wine tasting through the streets of old town Key West.

Other highlights include the Old Town Mexican Café Dinner, the Tenth Annual Master Chef's Classic, Sunset Champagne Cruise, Bagatelle's Lobster Feast, Hog-tober Fest and the Annual Schooner Wharf Battle of the Bars. Please visit the festival website for a full menu of events.

Contact the Florida Keys & Key West Tourist Development Council for more information.
Phone +1 800 ALL KEYS (255 5397) - Fax +1 305 461 3300

NEW FOREST AND HAMPSHIRE COUNTY SHOW
Southampton Showground, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England

27-29 July 2004 - Opening Hours 8am-6pm
Cost - £10.50 in advance

The New Forest and Hampshire County Show, held at the showground in Brockenhurst, has been taking place for the best part of a century, showcasing traditional country pursuits, new agricultural exhibitions and demonstrations. There is a full range of equestrian classes and livestock competitions and the horticultural marquee features many nationally acclaimed flower and vegetable entries, with classes for local amateur vegetable growers.

The main arena events include the Marching Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Bobb Hogg's Sheepdog Display and the Shetland Pony Grand National. Shoppers have over 500 trade stands to choose from, including the delectable creations of the local Womens' Institute. The Forest Fun Factory arena is a haven for children with entertainment all day long, blacksmiths take part in live competitions, and the show is also proud to host the world pole-climbing championships. These are just a few of the many attractions you will find at this year's show - a fun day out for all the family.

Tickets +44 (0) 1590 622409

ROYAL LANCASHIRE SHOW
Ribchester, Lancashire, England
27-29 July 2004
Opening Hours 8am-7pm (last admission 4pm)

Cost - £12; seniors £7; children £6; under 5s free
family (of five) £30

The Royal Lancashire Show, now held at Salebury Hall Farm just outside Ribchester, is an agricultural show with livestock competitions, events and trade stands. Glamour is added on Ladies Day, inspired by Ascot, and includes ladies' and children's fashion shows, makeovers and a Best-Dressed Lady Competition.

Venue - Salesbury Hall Farm
Contact Details
Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society
Number +44 (0) 1254 813769 - Fax +44 (0) 1254 812522
info@rlas.co.uk

5 Windmill Cottages, Preston New Rd
Mellor Brook
Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 7NT UK

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



WLICSMB'2004 - HANGZHOU CHINA

Oct 30 - Nov 1

The Sixth West Lake International Conference on Small & Medium Business

The WLICSMB is an important international conference on small businesses. Its basic objectives are to promote mutual relationships and provide business opportunities by developing communication linkages and networks among participating representatives from governments, academic communities, business & trade organizations, financial institutions and small businesses. The first WLICSMB took place in Hangzhou in October 1999. More than one hundred delegates from 16 countries participated in the conference. Since then, the conference has grown significantly.

WLICSMB'2004 - WLICSMB'2004 will last from Oct.30 to Nov.1, 2004 in Hangzhou, one of the seven ancient capitals of China which once praised as "The most beautiful and magnificent city in the world" by Marco Polo. Hangzhou sponsored its first West Lake Exposition in 1929, which had the same image as those of the Chicago Exposition in 1893, the Paris Exposition in 1900 and the Philadelphia Exposition in 1927. In 2000, Hangzhou successfully resumed the West Lake Exposition and since then the exposition has attracted people's attentions from all society. West Lake Exposition 2004 will be holding from Oct.16 to Nov.6, 2004.

As an important item of West Lake Exposition 2004, WLICSMB'2004 will bring together researchers and practitioners around the world to discuss the latest research around the world and exhibit advanced technology & new products. During the conference, Knowledge Management for R&D Organisations held by National Institute of Science Technology And Development Studies, New Delhi, India, also will be discussed.

MAIN CONFERENCE TOPIC - SMB and Knowledge Management

Subtopics - The Role & Function of SMB ; Survival & Development Environment for SMB; World Trade Organization and SMB Development; Internet Marketing for SMB; Relations between Banker & Business and Financing Modes; Governments' Support Policies for SMB; High-tech SMB and Venture Capital; SMB International Cooperation; SMB Human Resources Management and Development; E-business for SMB ; Small & Medium-sized Commercial Business and Chain Operation; Innovation of SMB; Knowledge Management ; R&D management ; Others.

Venue - Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, China. The official language is English and Chinese. Simultaneous interpretation between English & Chinese will be available during all sessions. It will cost you additional charge if you need interpretation services with any other language.

WLICSMB'2004 and ICKMR&DO'2004 SECRETARIAT

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BETTER PATHWAYS TO VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION **New online forum to discuss education and training issues**

Ongoing

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) believes that Canadian secondary schools are so focussed on preparing people for the academic stream that they are not providing preparation for a vocational pathway. The topic "Pathways to Vocational and Technical Education" addressing the questions above will be the first issue tackled on a new Online Forum launched by members of the Canadian Alliance of Education and Training Organizations (CAETO). Further topics will be announced every four to six weeks.

The Online Forum (<http://www.caeto.ca/forum>) is intended to be an exchange of ideas on national issues in education and training. Members intend it will act as a focal point to highlight exemplary practices and propose innovative approaches to a range of long-standing and emerging concerns. An external moderator will review contributions and summarize the discussion. Those summaries will be posted on the CAETO website. CAETO will undertake to bring the

results of the discussions to the attention of relevant public or private sector organizations/agencies to move issues forward.

This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Human Resources Partnerships Directorate.

For further information, contact: Gail Larose, Secretary-General, CAETO, Telephone (613) 235-8570, Fax (613) 235-7420, E-mail admin@caeto.ca

4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEER SUPPORT CONFERENCE

Jan 14th-16th/2005

Details to follow...

IPSI 2004

July 28-Aug 2

The International IPSI-2004 PESCARA Conference in Italy (IPSI = Internet, Processing, Systems for e-education/e-business, and Interdisciplinaries), will be held in the hotel Castello Chiola from July 28 till August 2, 2004. Detailed program and all relevant information are given at the web: www.internetconferences.net.

The main goal of this conference is to bring together the elite VIP scientists from all over the world, and to provide a forum for exchange of ideas in a number of related fields that interact.

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.

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

Provided by Lonita Fraser

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **PISTA '04** - July 21-25 - Orlando, Florida - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are transforming our societies, therefore papers about research results, solutions and problems of the applications of ICT in Politics and Society are highly encouraged. Details: <http://www.confinf.org/Pista04/website/default.asp>
- **EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004** - July 28 - 30 - Dhaka, Bangladesh. EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 is the platform for you to promote your Institutions and services and to recruit students in Bangladesh. Details: <http://www.expam.com/bangladesh/>
- **Learning Services Conference** - Oct. 1-2 - Edmonton, AB. AU's annual Learning Services Conference returns to the Crown Plaza Chateau Lacombe in downtown Edmonton October 1 and 2, 2004. Please mark your calendar. We anticipate a great conference this year, and welcome your participation. TO REGISTER: please use the online form at http://www.athabascau.ca/collab/lscconf_reg_form.html Just fill in the blanks and click "Submit." If the 2003 form appears, click on your refresh/reload button and it will revert to the 2004 form. TO RESERVE A ROOM at the hotel: please call 1-800-661-8801 and mention "AU conference" to qualify for the negotiated conference rate.
- **N.A.Web 2004** - Oct. 16-19 - Fredericton, NB - 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.

AU BUSINESS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (AUBSA) NOW ONLINE! The AU Business Students' Association website is now online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/aubsa/index.php>. If you are an AU business student, or a student with an interest in business, this club is for you! Contact aubsa@ausu.org for more information. It's free to join!

THE VOICE

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