

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

September 8, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 35



Alberta U's Collaborate *Post-sec bands together for a piece of the pie*

All Folked Up!

Good times at the Edmonton Folk Fest

Walter the Farting Dog

Children's book contains sound life lessons

Plus: Poetry fiction feature

Plus:
Lost & Found
Dear Barb
Taking Notes
Canadian Fedwatch
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AUSU This Month
Flicks & Folios

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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.

Thank You, AUSU

This letter has been a long time coming, but student life can be so busy! I am a student at Athabasca University and so is my husband. We have three fantastic kids who love rearranging the magnets that we got in our Student Gift Packs. The first semester that my husband was at school, we had no idea that there was a Students' Union. Earlier this year, when we were having some problems, I was at the Calgary Learning Center and I noticed a copy of the Voice. When I read it, I thought it must be too good to be true! When I got home I went on the internet and spent time browsing the site. I had an assignment due in one of my courses, (titled something like, "Life as an Athabasca Student") and I edited it to include a section about AUSU. It has been months since then, and I still find the site so important. If I am feeling bad about something I like to visit the discussion boards. Getting a degree through distance learning can be an isolating experience and just being able to click on the AUSU site and read about other students going through similar things makes me feel better.

I know that Shirley Barg is no longer on the council, but she was such a big help to me and my family. She often called me at home for more information about certain problems we were having and never complained when I went on and on about something that was bothering me. Through her caring attitude she made me see that AUSU is there to give support to students who are feeling overwhelmed and lost by attending a university, which for some, is only accessible by phone or plane. I miss her but I know that the current members all have something special about them also.

Recently, we had a serious problem with our house and we lost a lot of food and some of our appliances. None of it could be claimed on our insurance. Again, AUSU bailed us out when we applied for an Emergency Bursary.

Christine and Tamra were so nice and patient with us and their kindness will not be forgotten. My children have become familiar with the names and people at Athabasca and whenever we mention AUSU, they smile, (and it's not just because they love the magnets). We are all alone, without family and friends in a new province and anyone who has helped us during this time has made a real impression on our children, especially the oldest one.

In short, I want to thank you for working to help others. So often, nowadays, people are mainly concerned with themselves and their own welfare. AUSU is not just some organization that pretends to care about their students, they really do care.

Thank you from my entire family,

Jeanne Dupuis

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FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Alberta's Universities Collaborate

Debbie Jabbour



Alberta's four universities have embarked on an unusual collaborative venture, brought about by our province's new debt-free status. Debt-free, you say?

Yes - for those who are non-Albertans, our premier (none other than Ralph Klein), has announced that, due to aggressive budget cuts over the past few years and higher than anticipated oil revenues, Alberta has paid off all debts. With the debt paid, we are apparently "rolling in money" and the government is asking Albertans where they would like our new revenues, this "unexpected" windfall, to be spent.

A survey has been mailed to each home in an attempt to gather feedback. Although the survey is ostensibly to allow Albertans to make choices regarding Alberta's future, like many surveys, it blatantly manipulates responses. We are given nine items that we can rate on a priority scale. Some of these are fairly obvious, such as "reduce taxes", "protect Alberta's environment," or "provide a quality, affordable Alberta health care system" (although one wonders if this refers to a unique Alberta-style privatization plan?). Others are completely ambiguous, for example, "respond to growth in cities" (huh?) or "preserve rural communities" (perhaps something like the recent Alberta government BSE bailout that was supposed to go to rural cattle producers and instead gave millions to two U.S. meat packing plants?). Still others are quite open to interpretation, such as, "provide an outstanding education system" or, "provide support to Albertans who need help" (are we talking single Albertans who receive a maximum of \$400 a month on welfare, or are we referring to other kinds of help, such as support for the arts?). The survey also includes choices to "invest in Alberta's infrastructure" and "build a more diverse, innovative economy."

The survey section itself only takes up a single page of the eight-page foldout. The rest of the brochure goes on to detail several key areas that Albertans should be thinking about, making it very clear just how our government would like us to vote on the survey.

First up is the topic of infrastructure, followed by a stronger economy. Preserving Alberta's environment also gets a paragraph, as does "ensuring that all Albertans benefit from our province's prosperity" including low income, people with disabilities, seniors, and Aboriginals. The vote persuasion section concludes with paragraphs on preserving Alberta's tax advantage and saving for the future, followed by a little chart showing "where your money goes" with expenditures from 1994-95 compared to 2004-05.

Amazingly, according to the chart, health care expenditures have gone from 3.9 billion to 9.1 billion; education from 3.8 to 6.4, and social services from 1.5 to 2.4. "Other" expenditures have only risen to 5.1 from 4.3. The implication is obvious. Alberta is apparently already spending plenty on health care and education.

Of course, those of us who remain informed know that this is nonsense. We know, for example, that Alberta's tuition fees continue to rise, even while fees in virtually every other province stay put. We know that Alberta has experienced a jump of 6.5 percent tuition this past year, one of the highest across Canada. We know that even Newfoundland, the supposedly "have-not" province, has managed to freeze tuition fees. We know that tuition in Alberta has increased 273 percent since 1990, when according to Statistics Canada, tuition was \$1286 a year. So when the Alberta government attempts to snow us by telling us that government spending on education has increased from 3.8 to 6.5 (%?), we know better.

Alberta's four universities also know better, and admirably, they have banded together in an effort to persuade the government to finally start investing in post-secondary education. I first became aware of this last week

when I heard a radio advertisement discussing the importance of investing in the future of Alberta's young people, urging the government to spend money on post-secondary education now that we are debt-free. I was surprised to hear, at the end of the commercial, the words, "a message from the Universities of Lethbridge, Athabasca, Calgary and Alberta in support of post-secondary education."

My surprise was not just at the unusual collaboration, but at the reference to "Alberta's youth," as if they were the only ones who would benefit from post secondary education. Since a good number of Athabasca University students are mature adults, I would have expected a broader statement that encompassed more than just Alberta's young people. Indeed, even campus-based universities are increasingly comprised of older students who are going back to university to enhance their ability to compete in today's economy.

Today, however, the Edmonton Journal ran another advertisement from the four universities. The ad is almost full page, and is set out in a survey format, listing desirable investments for a debt-free Alberta as including; "health care, roads & buildings, technology, arts & culture, economic development, environment, reducing poverty, and education" with check marks in boxes beside them. Underneath the boxes, the ad states boldly, "higher education makes *all of the above* possible." So true.

I was pleased to see our universities take this direction, working together to focus our government on the fact that post secondary education should come first - since everything else is a by-product of education. It has long been recognized by researchers that an educated population is one where poverty does not exist; where the health care system is not strained to its limit. An educated population does not destroy the environment, and economic development and technological advancements abound in educated communities. An educated populace has time to devote to arts and culture, because they are not worn down by the daily grind of eking out an existence. In short - educate people, and all the other problems become manageable.

I remain amazed that our premier, Ralph Klein, in spite of being a student himself, in spite of knowing the importance of post secondary education, in spite of understanding the struggles of going back to school later in life - still does not appear to be placing university education as a priority.

I would strongly encourage Alberta students to back your university in this initiative. Return your survey to the government (or go fill one out online), and let them know that you are in agreement that an investment in higher education is an investment in "everything that makes a good life possible." The government has said they will listen to what Albertans want - let's take advantage of the opportunity.

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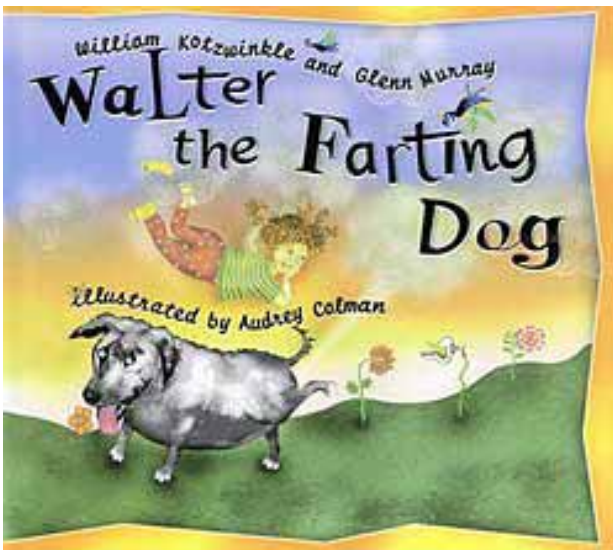
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Alberta's tuition fees going up; others stay put. Larry Johnsrude, *Edmonton Journal*, September 3, 2004.

WALTER THE FARTING DOG

by William Kotzwinkle and Glenn Murray,
illustrated by Audrey Colman
Frog, Ltd., 2001
ISBN 1-58394-053-7

Reviewed by John Buhler



The story of *Walter the Farting Dog* gave me a sense of *deja vu* because I once had a dog like Walter. My dog Berkeley had a conspicuous case of flatulence, and the veterinarian actually suggested that I try giving him over-the-counter anti-flatulence medicines. I always wondered what went through the cashier's mind as she scanned my weekly purchase of gas-relief tablets. Just like Walter, my Berkeley had a special diet, and just as in Walter's case, it failed to alleviate the gaseous emissions. Just like Walter's adoptive family, I too found my dog's outbursts embarrassing. Believe it or not, though, Berkeley was still a loyal and loveable member of the family, just like Walter. And it is Walter's relationship with his adoptive family that gives this book its special appeal.

The story, written for younger elementary school children, begins with Betty and Billy bringing home the smelly dog. While bathing Walter, the source of the smell becomes obvious. Even though their new dog farts "a lot", Betty and Billy do not mind. Father does not share the children's unqualified love for the dog, and as a result Walter undergoes numerous diet changes, even becoming vegetarian, but it is all to no avail. Eventually, Father threatens to send Walter back to the pound, forcing Walter to try and contain his gastric emissions. He resolves that he will never fart again, but the reader knows that this is impossible for Walter. I do not want to reveal the explosive ending, but the family pet is only spared from his dilemma when his socially unacceptable attribute makes him into a full-blown hero.

The subject matter of this book (flatulence) may make some parents a little uncomfortable, but it also makes the book attractive to young readers. Indeed, Robert Munsch in his story *Good Families Don't*, has already proven that this somewhat impolite theme is fascinating for many children. Taking up this subject, William Kotzwinkle and Glenn Murray may just help some children become interested in reading.

We can all be grateful, however, that "scratch-and-sniff" books have fallen out of vogue. Instead, Audrey Colman's colourful and vivid illustrations in *Walter the Farting Dog*, seen through the *sfumato* of Walter's emissions, help to portray the olfactory aspects of Walter's problem. Though highly amusing, the pictures of a somewhat embarrassed-looking Walter also manage to heighten our sympathy for his plight.

What I enjoyed most about this book is its positive message about relationships, and what it says about loyalty and family. As the dedication states, this book is "For everyone who's ever felt misjudged or misunderstood." And who has not felt misjudged or misunderstood at some time?



For the last three years, there has been something I often think about throughout the year, an added highlight to my summers, something that I used to hear from afar, or sometimes from right outside, but never was serious enough about going in. Now that I've had a part, the whole thing seems to pass way too quickly. Once more I am here craving more, wishing that all weekends could be that fantastic. I'm referring, of course, to the weekend of August 5-8, 2004, when the Edmonton Folk Festival rocked Gallagher Park. I wuz there!!

If you are one who is open minded and piqued by unusual and eclectic world music that may teeter between folk and tradition, this place is for you. If you are socially and politically aware and/or concerned -- which is not limited to "tree huggers" and "granolas" -- you've got to take a listen to some of the outspoken artists who have come through every year. If you rock and roll to the gospel and soul, you shall dig on what is most usually in store. You like jazz? You just might find it here! What about a bunch of world class international musicians having a live (needless to say, spontaneous) jam session, giving birth to new music right there for YOU the people? Could you ask for anything more?

A wide spectrum of musical genres is consistently offered at this festival. Every year you can be certain that you'll discover a rare and fantastic artist, or several, and enjoy a needed break from the typical mainstream crap that is being passed off as music these days. A creatively charged weekend such as this one has stayed alive because of "the people" and, of course, the musicians. But there is another essential element to this mixture: the volunteers.

Three years ago, I was happy to accept a position as a volunteer, which has brought me a new experience of the festival. The volunteers are the heart and nerves of this event and the team effort, coupled with tireless energy, is inspiring. It takes several weeks to prepare the grounds, starting with a fence to secure the area, and then such things as sewage systems, electrical wiring, and mapping the site for construction. There are seven smaller stages, the main stage, media/first aid tents, and crafts tents to be erected. Anticipation builds as a new tent pops up everyday and the hill gradually transforms into a whole new world. Once almost everything is in place, the concessionaires bring in their treat-mobiles and set up shop, along with the beer gardens, the outhouses, and other important facilities. After many hours of tweaking, final adjustments are made and a sound check is in order. Everything is connected and it works!

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Edmonton Folk Festival's inception. A big crowd was expected, but not dreaded. Some of the other major music festivals that occur in Alberta during the summer have gained bad reps because of the type of crowds they attract. It seems that for some of these events there are people whose musical experience includes getting wasted and creating havoc; therefore theft and violence is becoming more common. A music festival where you have to watch out for your neighbor and your possessions can undoubtedly diminish the whole point of the event. This is far from what the Edmonton Folk Festival is. Through the years, the loyal folkies have proven to be respectful of their neighbors. There's no need to bring up the elbows here because no one is in a hurry, and it is understood that there will be no pushing or shoving if a person wants to get in and stay in.

It's 4:25pm on Thursday, the opening evening headlining with Jaobjoby at 6pm. As is new policy, ticket holders will enter in groups of 25, at one minute intervals. The first group is escorted and led down the hill by a bagpipe player. In previous years, once the gates were opened everyone was let in for a wild, free-for-all

scramble for the best piece of grass (I'm talking about the hill here people!). Although this was the extent of any sort of mayhem, it wasn't the safest way to get everyone seated. This year's goal; walk, don't run. This became the pace for the weekend. What a thrilling moment it always is -- watching from the bottom as the hill goes from green to pure human in about fifteen minutes.

Jaojoby, a group of approximately eight from Madagascar, was impressively jubilant with a really upbeat mix of drums, great percussive rhythms, and voices that accomplished exactly what was intended; to get the people to dance! The urge was unbeatable. One thing that gives me such reverie, is to see people so moved by music that they groove with no reservations. At the folk festival you will always see young and old in rare form; free and dancing like most only do in the privacy of their living rooms. This is a place where people from all walks of life have come to ground level with no other agendas for the weekend but to live and let live. And it's a family affair!

The Dixie Hummingbirds followed Jaojoby, with a sweet and rich blend of harmonies that felt divinely inspired. This group recently marked their 75th anniversary, so you can imagine how much soul was coming through in their voices, and how tight their sound was. Then, Hawksley Workman projected a clear and beautiful sound, which I never realized he had. His true talent was revealed, as it usually is, in his live performance. This night was an awesome way to break into the weekend!

My favourite artists were on Sunday night. The group Lhasa, although not everyone's delight, captivated this audience. The group features a beautiful singer named Lhasa de Sela, who is intense and intriguing. Singing songs in English, French and Spanish, the combination of instruments brings elements of gypsy and circus music to mind. This haunting and unusual sound is more than likely a reflection of her own life, as she traveled through Mexico, the United States, and Canada, and even joined a circus with her three sisters. To some she might seem strange, but to the dedicated and impartial crowd of the Folk fest, she seemed to feel right at home.

To (almost) wrap up my feel good weekend, the ever vibrant Ani DiFranco rocked the mike. This was the second time I had seen her live and I certainly hope it's not the last. Like DiFranco, who has brought her charm to the festival more than once, many of the acts coming through are regularly invited back and gladly return. That speaks volumes for the success of this great festival from the organizers to the dedicated attendees.

The best part of my weekend as a volunteer was attending the volunteer parties, which makes all the work put in before, during, and after the festival more than worthwhile. Also, these parties combine three of my big loves; dancing, music, and people (you thought I was going to say beer didn't you?). There are always bands from the festival that play inside the ballroom, which are usually the lively, highly danceable groups. This year Spirit of the West had the house shaking on Sunday at the wrap up party. Then there are the quiet rooms upstairs, which are often crowded and littered with festival musicians who happily jam with whoever is up to it. It's fantastically refreshing to see all free to be themselves, as well-known and even famous musicians jam with the local Edmonton talent.

So here I am, several weeks later, still thinking about that great weekend and how I can get my fill next year. I hear there are folk festivals equally as fantastic in Vancouver, Canmore, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, and Montreal, to name a few. Since the musical lineups are different for each festival, one could attend all of them and not have it feel repetitive. I've been told there is a similar vibe or ambience among the Folk festivals across Canada, so it's possible to be a part of this magical time more than once a year.

A home away and near to home. A brief pause from the hustle and bustle of 9 to 5. A place where you can trust that what you give you will get back in even better shape. A time to meet new people, reconnect with old friends, and discover new music. The perfect opportunity to get all folked up!

still life with avocados

dogs at the door of the bungalow
drawn by the heat of conversation
the untouched bowl of avocados
sitting on the kitchen table

whiskey-fuelled and reincarnated
two lovers naked in their history

after years
and too many conquests
after too many wars
waged with themselves
they return to the scene of their greatest
triumph
in the cradle of each other's arms

in the cradle of each others arms
in the cradle of their otherness
they attempt to reinvent
the boundaries of their hemisphere

the untouched pile of avocados
balanced on the kitchen table

his head balanced
in her lap

the wild light thrown
by passing buses

her hair falling down
across his face

builder's handbook

do good work, keep the edges
simple and straight

approach the wood
with a sense of wonder

keep all in balance

don't compromise your work for others
(if the plan looks wrong, disregard it,
fall back on your experience)

if it gets too heavy
let someone help you
don't lift it all onto your shoulder

don't build too high
or work too late

after all,
it's just a house



Dear Barb:

I am a 24-year-old student in my last year of university and have been dating the same woman for the past four years. We get along great and enjoy each other's company. I know she wants to get married and start a family, but I don't feel 100% sure that she is the woman I want to marry. Am I being unfair to her by continuing in the relationship even though I have my doubts about its longevity?

Doubting Derrick in St. Catherines

Good question, Derrick. Marriage is one of the most important, if not the most important decision you will make in your life. Even if it doesn't work, its impact will be felt for many years, especially if children are involved. Therefore, you are right in realizing you have to be 100% sure before taking this huge step.

Since you have been dating this woman for four years and you are only 24, I would tend to think you have not had a lot of previous dating experience. Assuming your girlfriend is the same age, she probably hasn't had a lot of experience either. Subsequently you may not know what qualities you are looking for in a life mate. Dating a variety of people will allow you to recognize what qualities you prefer in a marital partner. Perhaps you also need to ask

yourself what may be missing in this relationship that is causing you to feel this may not be the person you want to marry.

Communication is very important in a relationship and is the foundation for building a strong marriage. Do you feel you have this type of communication in this relationship? As well, do you share similar religious and cultural backgrounds, or are the differences in these areas something you have discussed and will be able to work around in a marriage relationship? Moreover, have you discussed your future plans together -- are you both going down the same road, or do you see a potential problem in this area? Do you both want children, or have you decided children will not be a part of your relationship? Will you both work outside the home? How about your families, do you get along with each other's family? These are some questions that may help you decide if marriage is in the future for the two of you.

Moreover, if you have not shared your doubts with your girlfriend, perhaps this would be a good place to initiate good communication in your relationship. She is entitled to know your feelings. If you are not open with her now, it will be difficult to build the trust that is important in a marriage.

If you are able to work through all the above questions and you still have doubts, maybe the problem is with your ability to commit. I am sure you have heard of people who are afraid of commitment. It is a very common problem, mostly with men. If you feel this could be your situation, perhaps talking to a counselor may help you sort out the reasons for this fear of commitment.

In answer to your question Derrick, I believe you are being unfair to yourself and your girlfriend, as you both deserve to be with someone with whom you are able to share your hopes and dreams.

Thank you for bringing up a very important issue. I hope I have been able to steer you in a direction that will assist you in making this very important decision.

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.



NIGHTDRIVE

Way past midnight on a moonless highway half way through Saskatchewan, headed back from a funeral, and the radio is playing a ballad by Journey or Air Supply. Probably the reason why some genius invented push buttons for car radios.

Further down the dial a solemn CBC host interviews a man who has written a book about the Franklin Expedition, and later on there's a woman who claims to have been abducted by aliens. Janice is asleep in the passenger seat, her head resting against the window, *One Hundred Yearss of Solitude* slipping from her fingers. I turn the radio off and listen to sound of the wheels on the road.

Sometimes I wonder how much of my life has been spent on road trips like this, measured out in Tim Horton's double-doubles, deep in the night on deserted highways. I remember pretending to be asleep on the back window ledge of Dad's Monte Carlo on the way

home from the cottage, watching the trees and street lamps recede into the distance, waiting for him to pick me up and carry me inside the house. Or sitting in the front seat, imagining that the car is a boat carrying us down a long, winding river.

Years later, eighteen hour days driving with friends down twisting coastal roads, a pack of cigarettes up on the dash, laughing and heading to Montreal or San Francisco. Watching the gas gauge and wondering how many miles five dollars will equal. Pitching tents at the end of abandoned logging roads. Immortal.

In between towns the thermos full of coffee arrives at my bladder, and I pull the car to the side of the road. It's late August and the bailing is finished. The deserted fields look eerie and beautiful in the headlights, the great round bails like immense sleeping beasts. Grasshoppers and locusts and moths the size of tea cups dance about me.

I want to wake Janice up and get her to walk out into the field with me. I want us to lie on our backs and look up at all swirling constellations. I want us both to see them with the sense of wonder that I had when I was a kid, no older than our daughter is now, and my father had just explained to me that some of those ghostly lights up there are great burning worlds of gas, and others are mostly ice, and some of them aren't even there anymore - gone maybe thousands of years before their light ever reaches us. Terrible and beautiful. I want to tell her how good it feels to have someone with me on this trip, because these places in the middle of nowhere can sometimes be so quiet. I close the car door softly so as not to wake her, and ease back onto the road.



Praying for School Funding?

Alberta Learning has decided to inject about twenty million dollars into the educational system. Unfortunately, this money will go into only two school regions around St. Paul. The reason for the funding is to upgrade and expand the current facilities there in order to provide the Francophone, Protestant, and Catholic students with their own schools.

To separate the Francophone students I can understand, simply because it can be unwieldy in terms of staffing teachers able to teach in two separate languages -- especially in Alberta. I wish this wasn't the case and that we had more truly bilingual schools. After all, we're supposedly a bilingual country, so having our children know both official languages doesn't strike me as being that far out of line.

But it's not as if extra math teachers need to be hired to provide the Catholic view on mathematics. I'm sure that a protestant math teacher would be just as capable of teaching the basics of long division. So rather than creating a whole new site just to separate one from the other, simply put the money into properly expanding what they have now to accommodate both. After all, a new building will of course require all new maintenance staff and contracts and all the rest of that. Basically we're losing economies of scale here.

Beyond that, I'm a little bit annoyed at having to spend so much money so that Catholic students do not have to mix with Protestant students.

For one, why is it specifically Catholic students and not, say, Muslim, Anglican, Unitarian, or any of the other religions that receives such special treatment? If we can't justify it for any of the various other religions in Canada, how is it justified for those of the Catholic faith? And could a Muslim family have grounds for suing Alberta on grounds of religious discrimination by not providing them with a separate school?

It's best, in my opinion, to ditch religion entirely from the public system. If a family wants their child to receive a religious education, more power to them, but let them do it through the private system.

First Ministers on Drugs

If you've been keeping up with the news lately, you know that the premiers recently went to Ottawa and asked them to come up with a plan to pay for all pharmaceutical coverage across the country. The Federal Government understandably gave them a quick and blunt refusal.

It's too bad, but hardly unexpected. Not only did the provinces go in simply demanding more money, but a couple of them, namely Quebec and Alberta, did so while boldly stating they'd accept no conditions on the payments, and a couple more went in with the idea that they could tie health payments with equalization payments as well.

Given this unpalatable offer, I'm hardly surprised that the Federal Government didn't agree with it.

This wasn't an answer to the problem of the sky-rocketing cost of drugs, this was simply looking for more money to come from the Federal Government, so that our income taxes would grow on the federal side rather than the provincial ones.

Now they're all (well, all except Klein, who had a rehearsal party for Alberta's Centennial to attend. Why do your job when you can stuff your face?) meeting to try and figure out a way to convince Ottawa to go along with them.

However, to pull nine to twelve billion out of the Federal Budget, while at the same time hoping for no strings on the money and more strings on the Feds is simply unrealistic. What they should be looking at are ways to address the pharmacare problem directly, rather than simply raising our taxes and hoping it doesn't get worse. That simply won't happen as the big drug development companies have a vested interest in making sure they get as much money out of us as they can.

Perhaps it's time to take a serious look at alternatives to drug therapy, or even alternatives to privately made pharmaceuticals. After all, if they think that throwing money at the problem will make it go away, I have to think they're already on their own drug plan.

A native Calgarian, Karl is perpetually nearing the completion of his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Information Studies. He also works for the Computer Sciences Virtual Helpdesk for Athabasca University and plans to eventually go on to tutor and obtain his Master's Degree.

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Primetime Update

Week of September 4, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

WHAT'S NEW ON PRIMETIME?

AMAZING RACE – Wednesdays – 9pm on CTV

I'm very mad about the way this show is progressing. We're down to five teams, and there's still five more non-elimination points in the race. Last week Kami and Karli were given their break and this week, the religious model couple who took a chance on the fast forward, but in the end refused to shave their heads, got a break. The highest point of excitement was the 180 ft waterslide the teams had to conquer. Anyway, maybe next week it'll be more exciting.

This week's order of arrival:

1. Colin/Christie
2. Chip/Kim
3. Linda/Karen
4. Kami/Karli (who started this leg with no money)
5. Brandon/Nicole (who will start the next leg with no money)

THE TEAMS:

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

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

WHO'S BEEN ELIMINATED?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Last time I wrote, Adria was HOH and Marvin and Will were nominated for eviction. In summary, Adria also won the power of veto that week and Will was sent home, which really ticked off his alliance of Nakomis, Diane, Drew, and Karen.

The following week, Nakomis was HOH, and she retaliated by nominating the twins, Natalie and Adria, for eviction. Adria won the power of veto, took herself off the block, and Nakomis substituted her brother, Michael for eviction. On the Thursday, we said goodbye to Natalie.

Last week, Marvin was HOH. Out of his extreme bitterness toward the twin's deception, he again nominated Adria as well as Michael for eviction. Karen, who Adria chose to compete on her behalf, won the power of veto but did not use it. On Thursday, we said goodbye to Adria. Afterwards, Drew won the Head of Household competition.

PROJECT DNA: Nothing new. Show is actually getting kind of boring.

MEET THE HOUSEGUESTS

Diane (22) – Cocktail Waitress from Burlington, KY. Single
Drew (22) – Recent College Graduate from Urbana, OH. 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.

EVICTED

1. Mike (41) – Commercial Painter from Eastpointe, MI. Single dad.
2. Lori (26) – Yoga Instructor from Boston, MA. Single
3. Holly (20s) – Model from Los Angeles, CA. Single
4. Scott (26) – Sales Representative from Pittsburgh, PA. Single.
5. Jase (28) – Volunteer Firefighter from Decatur, IL. Single
6. Will (26) – Registered nurse from Tupelo, MS. Single, gay.
7. Natalie TWIN 2 (30) – Birmingham, AL
8. Adria TWIN 1 (30) – Web Designer from Birmingham, AL. Married

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 the theme was "the standards." The idols all got the chance to perform two songs with orchestral accompaniment. All of the idols did wonderful. I didn't vote this week, because I wasn't sure who I liked best. The judges were all blown away by the performances as well, but most agreed that it's probably Jason's turn to say goodbye.

Theresa Sokyrrka – "It's Only a Paper Moon" and "Dream a Little Dream of Me"

Kalan Porter – "Moon River" and "The Way You Look Tonight"

Jason Greely – "I Won't Dance" and "It Had to Be You"

Jacob Hoggard – "Straighten Up and Fly Right" and "Unforgettable"

People Canada Already Sent Home:

Shane Wiebe, Kaleb Simmonds, Elena Juatco, Joshua Seller, Manoah Hartman, Brandy Callahan

This weeks bottom two: Theresa Sokyrrka and Jason Greely

Who went home? Jason Greely

NEW SHOWS STARTING THIS MONTH:

Survivor: Vanuatu	Thursday, Sept. 16th 2004 (Probably 9pm)
Last Comic Standing: Battle of the Best	Tuesday, Sept 7th, 2004
The Apprentice 2	Thursday, Sept. 9th, 2004
Father of the Pride	Wednesdays
Joey (spin-off of Friends)	Thursday, Sept. 9th, 2004

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



From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

DINING ALONE

Dining alone is a character building exercise -- particularly for a woman. Not so much at Wendy's, where I absolutely adore the Mandarin Chicken Salad, or at the Kingsway Garden Mall food court, where the hustle and bustle and noise level can drive you batty.

I mean some classy joint. Like the Pradera Café and Lounge at the Westin in Edmonton. Recently I was seated alone directly in front of the sliding door entrance looking out diagonally at the corner of 100 Street and 101A Avenue. Solo diners of either gender often bring a newspaper or book along. I fought the urge to bring a book to hide behind. I could have amused myself by eavesdropping on neighboring tables but chose not to. Despite the fact it was Juno week there was nary a star in sight that night so people-watching wasn't much fun either. When Mike checked me in, he said the hotel would be full of press people. I was hoping for glitterati. Was it true or was he just trying to prevent an unfortunate stalking incident? Either way I didn't see a soul I recognized.

Dining alone in an upscale restaurant forces one to really study the menu. It means turning inward to discover what you really want to eat rather than turning the decision into a game of consensus or being unduly swayed by others' choices.

It promotes daring, a broadening of one's tastes, some trial and error experimentation. When my Leaves of Mescaline Salad arrived I'd wished I'd paid more attention to Martha's primer on greens and the finer points of salad building. So that's what pine nuts taste like.

Dining alone promotes mindfulness. It forces me to slow down and savor. It infuses a sense of sophistication, albeit temporary and artificial. It means I'm more likely to engage the servers in conversation than if I were caught up with friends. It allows a first-hand look at how a maitre d' may seat a woman alone. Am I scootched off in a corner at a tiny table or right next to the washroom or kitchen door?

Dining alone, like many solitary pursuits, requires more of us. We're forced to face the reality, however briefly, that in fact we are in this alone. Spouses, children, friends, and family are wonderful companions on the journey but ultimately, largely, we travel alone. Those of us who are most comfortable in our own skins, in our own company, don't mind these challenges. It provides breathing space, silence, thinking time. Most of us love the company of others and comfortably carry the conversational ball but we also like the distance, the anonymity of aloneness.

Dining alone needn't be scary. Maybe Arby's with your nose in the Edmonton Journal is a good place to start. Before long I predict you'll seek out opportunities to eat alone in nicer and nicer places. Before long you'll go from feeling strange and conspicuous to feeling worldly, confident, and oh, so lovely. These are good things, from where I sit.

**Reprinted with permission*



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Film Review

By Laura Seymour

Focus on Vin Diesel

This film is the big action flick that made Vin Diesel a serious name in Hollywood. His salary is now 20 million (supposedly), though I hear the agents, managers and associated expenses chew up the bulk of it. This film has a rather odd effect on me apparently. The following conversation took place as I planned to watch the DVD for this review:

Me: Uh, this one is apparently an action flick. Wanna start with it? It's called Triple X.

Husband: (with wary look on face) Uh, dear that will be the *third* time we've seen this.

Me: (looking lost) This?!

Husband: Yeah.

Me: Was I there?

Husband: Uh huh.



I popped in the DVD and pretty much watched a half of it. Then I paused it in mid exciting action stunt: "You're SURE I was here?"

"Yeah. See, the first time you saw the trailers on cable and wanted to see it. The second time I had to remind you of the plot because you'd forgotten it."

Apparently it happened again!

We finished watching the film and the ONLY shot I remembered was Vin flashing a silver tray up to blind a sniper on the roof. (I'm obviously a huge fan of this guy, huh?!) So the plot goes like this. (I'll write this while my, apparently, fading memory remembers it!)

Vin plays Xander, a heavily tattooed guy and a thrill seeker. He jumps out of airplanes wearing a boogie board, skis down mountains and bungee jumps, etc., and films his exploits for broadcast. There is a thin plot about him having some kind of do-gooder attitude. I hate the fact that I'm sketchy on where he's doing this (internet or cable TV), and why!

He has tons of buddies and they help him with set ups to let him do amazing stunts. He picks on bad guys and broadcasts this "shame on you" message to the world via this media I can't get straight in this unbelievably fast moving film.

Stunt hell, or is that heaven, abounds. Great flames erupt from buildings and he flies through the air on a motorcycle (which is just NOT Vin Diesel enough to me -- he needs a honkin' big cool Harley to get my attention). As he's flying through the air he whips out a gun, hangs on to the seat with one hand and shoots with the other. He then returns to the seat and lands safely. EGAD! I say, take out a condom, do the girl 'till she screams and then call me!! Can't they up the action out there? (groan)

Xander gets recruited (or is that tricked) to be a government agent by Samuel L. Jackson (wearing one honkin' big scar). Xander is thrown into situation after situation that the real government guys can't handle and is forced to travel to Europe to bring down a huge ring that has a nuclear bomb and all kinds of super cool weapons that the prop and special effects team dreamt up! (The absolute favorite is watching the yellow fluid turn green and then black). This is apparently bad news as people die.

Don't get me wrong; Vin is a very capable and sexy action star. I'm just blown over by the effects, extremely fast dialogue and the unbelievable pace I'm supposed to keep up with. Could I breathe, do you think? Oh wait, I'm supposed to do that in the two kissing scenes. Now remember last week's review? This is the same director, Rob Cohen. He flunked kissing 101 for directors! The shot that finally gets some serious tongue going on, but there is a huge shadow running over the man's face just as they bring the camera around then what I see is her head moving side to side. Thrilling!

Of course after numerous ups of action and plot Vin (err Xander) saves the day. He is of course able to disappear to Bali with the girl (played by Asia Argento) and they supposedly live happily ever after! We can enjoy this film if we can mostly ignore the plot and can keep up with the pace! Maybe my fourth viewing I'll remember it and figure out whom he's broadcasting to!

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

This column focuses on a wide range of issues affecting post-secondary students. Students are encouraged to submit suggestions and educational topics they are concerned about, or personal experiences with courses or university situations they feel other students should know about. If suggest a topic or a course alert for taking notes, contact djabbour@ausu.org



Lines Continue to Blur Between Universities and Colleges

Debbie Jabbour

At this time of year there is a lot of media attention on students going to university, and the choices that face them. In Alberta, with the new degree-granting ability of colleges, change is in the air. Grant MacEwan Community College (GMCC) is preparing to offer full degrees in arts, nursing and child & youth care by the fall of 2005 (the college already offers 2-year university transfer programs). The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology is looking at applying to offer a new four-year bachelor of technology program.

Some have wondered if the increased competition will have a negative effect on current universities. University officials have argued that competition is not a bad thing, and pointed out that students will continue to be attracted to what they term a "full service" university with a reputation for research, master's degrees and PhD's.

For students, competition means greater choice, and more options. Up until now, it has also meant financial savings. Many students chose the 2-year transfer option at GMCC because it charged tuition fees that are about \$1000 a year less than the University of Alberta.

It has been noted, unfortunately, that the cost savings of attending a college instead of a university may disappear once the colleges have the ability to grant degrees. Currently the U of A spends about half its revenue on research. GMCC, on the other hand, puts most of its money into teaching and can therefore charge lower tuition. If GMCC is required to spend more money on research to support its new degree-granting status, tuition will rise accordingly.

Larry Johnsrude. Choices increase after high school: Tuition, class size, reputation all in play. *Edmonton Journal*, September 5, 2004.

AUSU THIS MONTH



AUSU On Klein's Paper

AUSU members continue to write to The Voice concerned about AU's response to Premier Klein's essay earlier this year.

Specifically, our members want to know how the media attention directed at the academic quality and marking of Mr. Klein's essay will affect the integrity of their hard-earned degrees.

The students' union had these same concerns. We were concerned that the reputation of an AU degree might be tarnished by this public examination of Mr. Klein's essay.

We immediately wrote to Dr. Judith Hughes, Athabasca University's Vice-President Academic.

Dr. Hughes responded that all students, whether they hold public office or not, are entitled to fair judgment of the facts and to have their case treated in confidence. Dr. Hughes assured AUSU that AU reached its decision about the matter following a thorough investigation of the matter. Further, according to Dr. Hughes, AU has already and will continue to take steps to maintain the integrity of its degrees, including improved media relations and the possible use of plagiarism detection software such as "turnitin.com."

The Students' Union appreciates Dr. Hughes' response and AU's efforts to be fair to all students. However, our members remain genuinely concerned. And rightly so. Studying part-time by distance education takes time and sacrifice, often for several years, fueled by the knowledge that the ultimate reward is a university degree respected by the academic and business community.

The Students' Union believes that this episode was a singular occurrence and is not reflective of the quality of the education that AU students receive. That said, I encourage all AUSU members to contact AU President Dr. Dominique Abrioux (dominiqu@athabascau.ca) or Dr. Judith Hughes (judithh@athabascau.ca), or by mail at 1 University Dr, Athabasca, AB T9S 3A3. Offer your opinion. Ask what steps AU will take to protect the integrity of your degree.

It's up to the university to protect our degrees. It's up to us students to ask questions.

AUSU Wants Your Opinion

The AUSU is in the process of improving our website and we would like to get your opinion on what needs to be done. You can help us out by sending us a list of your pet peeves about our website, your favourite parts of our website, your suggestions for what you would like to see added to or

removed from our website and/or any other comments that you feel will help us to make our website better.

Please send your comments to marketing-committee@ausu.org with the subject line "Website Comments." After we review the comments we may conduct chat room focus groups to discuss the website further with a group of volunteer students. Please let us know if you would be interested in participating in a chat room focus group.

The AUSU thanks you for taking the time to read and reply to this ad.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee Recruiting Members

The Marketing and Public Relations Committee (MPRC) was created by the Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU). It works to advise the AUSU and its committees on marketing and public relations matters and to develop and implement marketing and public relations programs and services on behalf of AUSU when entrusted to do so.

For more information on this opportunity, see this link: <http://www.ausu.org/committeead/index.php>

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

Our chat room is always open for student chats, but if you have a question for AUSU, or would like to get to know your council, drop by the chat-room during one of our scheduled councillor chat times. The chat is 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

ALBERTA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AWARDS - UKRAINE

Value: \$5000 each - five awards

Application Deadline: November 15

Notes: To recognize the accomplishments of intern, co-op, practicum, apprenticeship, and research students. : The applicant must be a post-secondary student or an apprenticeship student taking a practicum, internship, co-op, apprenticeship program, or a student conducting research (one-term). The recipient will be selected based on demonstrated past accomplishments and potential for improving relations between Ukraine and Alberta. A committee comprised of 4 members, representing the Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre from Grant MacEwan College, the Ukrainian Foundation For College Education, and one other member representing Ukrainian interests in Alberta, will review the transcripts and applications of all applicants and determine which students will receive the awards. The committee will attempt to balance awards among different programs. The full-time enrollment of the student will be confirmed prior to the award being issued.

Website: http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/pdf/scholarships/Awards_Program_Ukraine.pdf

CBC LITERARY AWARDS COMPETITION

The **2004 CBC Literary Awards Competition** is now open. CBC Radio and Radio-Canada invite you to put your talent to the test and enter your short stories, poetry, and travel writing. The deadline is **November 15, 2004**.

What are the Awards?

The CBC Literary Awards Competition is the only literary competition that celebrates original, unpublished works, in Canada's two official languages. There are three categories—short story, poetry, and travel writing—and awards totalling \$60,000, courtesy of the Canada Council for the Arts. In addition, winning entries are published in Air Canada's *enRoute* magazine and broadcast on CBC radio

Website: <http://www.cbc.ca/literaryawards/english/index.html>

FELLOWSHIPS FOR FULL-TIME STUDIES IN FRENCH


Value: \$500 per semester

Application Deadline: November 15

Notes: To assist Albertans in pursuing post-secondary studies taught in French. Applicants must be Alberta residents, Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants, and plan to enroll full-time in a post-secondary program of at least one semester in length. At least three courses per semester must be taught in French. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement during the previous academic year.

Application: Application forms are available from Alberta Scholarship Programs, and from the Student Awards Office at Alberta post-secondary institutions that offer programs taught in French.

Website: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=23>



Searching for Internships

Shannon Maguire

UBS Financial Services Internships

Website: <http://graduates.ubs.com/career/intern/en/>

UBS has internships available in Chicago, Deutschsweiz, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Houston, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Melbourne, Milan, New York, Paris, Romandie, San Francisco, Singapore, Stamford, Sydney, Ticino, Tokyo, and Weehaken. On their website you can search for internships by location, field of work or business group. Available fields of work are client advisory, client relationship management, controlling, debt capital markets, finance, human resources, information technology, investment banking, investment funds, investment management and research, management support and specialized functions, marketing and communications, municipal securities, operations, private client group, research, risk, sales, sales trading and trading. Their business groups include investment bank, global asset management, wealth management USA, wealth management and business banking and corporate center. The UBS website contains details about each internship and the deadlines for applying for them.

Dow Jones Internships

Website: <http://www.dowjones.com/careers/internships/index.html>

Dow Jones offers four formal internship programs that are usually offered May through August. They also have other internships available from time to time that are listed on their website. Their main internship programs are in journalism, newspaper fund, production and technology. The 2004 technology internship is closed and the 2004 production internship was suspended. Keep checking the Dow Jones website for details of the 2005 programs for these internships. The details for the newspaper fund and journalism internships are as follows:

Newspaper Fund Internship

Website: http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/cs_internships.asp

Position Description: Internships are available in the business reporting program, newspaper copy editing program and the sports copy editing program. The business reporting program consists of a one week training seminar and an internship at a daily newspaper or news service covering business and consumer news. The newspaper copy editing program consists of a seminar and an internship at a daily newspaper working as a news copy editor. The sports copy editing program consists of a two week seminar and an internship at a daily newspaper working as a sports copy editor.

Pay: \$350 a week for a minimum of ten weeks. Students who are returning to school in the Fall will also receive a \$1000 scholarship.

Time and length: Summer internships.

Eligibility requirements: Must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate level program at a college or university. You must be a minority (African-American, Hispanic, Asian American/Pacific Islander or American Indian/Alaskan Native) to apply for the business reporting program.

How to Apply: The deadline for the business reporting program is Nov 1, 2004. The application must include and application form, a resume, 3-5 clips of your recently published work, a transcript and a 500 word essay. The deadline for the editing internships is Nov 1, 2004. The application must include an application form, a resume, a transcript and a 500 word essay. Application forms for both internships can be found on the Newspaper Fund Internships website.

Journalism Internship

Position description: Interns will be working in the area of business news and information reporting in one of the Wall Street Journal's bureaus.

Pay: \$700 a week.

Time and length: The internships are ten weeks long, and they are offered in June, July and August.

Eligibility requirements: Must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate level program at a college or university. The internship is very competitive and usually given to students who have experience from other internships or through their school paper.

How to apply: Applications must be received by Nov 1, 2004. Your application should consist of a cover letter, resume and a dozen clips of your published work. The application should be sent to:

Cathy Panagoulas, Assistant Managing Editor
The Wall Street Journal
200 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10281

EBAY Internships

Website: <http://www.ebaycareers.com/university/internship.html>

Position Description: Ebay offers internships to students from all fields, but their internships are best suited for those with majors in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Human Factors, Information Technology, Finance and Marketing. Most internships are located in their San Jose office, but they have offices around the world.

Pay: Competitive salary.

Time and length: Internships are in the summer and are usually ten to twelve weeks long.

Eligibility requirements: Must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate level program at a university or college.

How to apply: You can apply online at <http://www.ebaycareers.com/jobsearch/apply.html>.



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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

Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

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

alberta

SYL PLAYS LIVE, CALGARY, EDMONTON & BRANDON



Check out this great, up and coming Canadian band.

Find out more and download sample songs on the band website at:
<http://www.thesyl.ca/>

Date: Thursday, Aug 19, 2004
City: Edmonton, Alberta
Venue: Crow Bar

Date: Saturday, Aug 21, 2004
City: Calgary, Alberta
Venue: Black Swan

Date: Thursday, Aug 26, 2004
City: Brandon, Manitoba
Venue: Houston's

british columbia

Victoria Summer Music Festival Victoria, British Columbia Aug 07, 2004 to Aug 28, 2004

In 1996, the Victoria Summer Music Festival is a non-profit organization formed by a group of local musicians and volunteer organizers to provide a summer season of chamber music concerts and to encourage further interest in and appreciation of classical music in Victoria. There are four concerts each year during August, featuring distinguished artists of international reputation.

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (250) 595-8243
E-mail: vsmf@islandnet.com
Fax: (250) 598-9788
Website: www.vsmf.org/vsmf

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

ontario

The Clothing Show Automotive Building - Exhibition Place Toronto, ON

10:00 am - 8 pm Saturday, September 18th, 2004
11:00 am - 6 pm Sunday, September 19, 2004
\$8. For more information call (416) 516-9859
To see a list of who is exhibiting please check out <http://www.theclothingshow.com>

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

Steam-Era
<http://www.steam-era.com/>
Labour Day Weekend
Milton, Ontario, Milton Fairgrounds

Steam-Era is the annual show produced by the "Ontario Steam & Antique Preservers Association" held at the Milton fairgrounds in Milton Ontario every Labour Day weekend. Our members are devoted to the preservation and restoration of heritage equipment and bring their painstakingly restored machinery to display and operate at Steam-Era. Steam engines from the turn of the century silently puff their way around the grounds. Hundreds of tractors and stationary engines along with antique cars, models and agricultural displays recreate life in the rural country a 100 years ago.

General Admission Rates per day

Friday ADMISSION

Adults\$6.00
Children under 12 with adult.....free
Unattended Children.....\$2.00

SAT.SUN,& MONDAY

Adult\$ 7.00
Children under 12 with AdultFREE
Unattended children..... \$2.00

Weekend passes may be purchased any time up to Saturday night.

Adult weekend pass - \$15.00 per person
Childs weekend pass (must be purchased with adult)
\$1.00 per child

Parking in grounds \$ 2.00 (per car)
Admission includes Grandstand Performances
Admission after 6pm is the same and is for the Grandstand

For general inquiries, please contact Dave Stirk (pres)
dse@look.ca or Tressure Joe Tielemans
jtielemans@idirect.com

For Membership inquiries, please contact Lorreta Tielemans kalandkids@yahoo.com

BuskerFest
Toronto, Ontario
Aug 26, 2004 to Aug 29, 2004

Every year world-class buskers and street performers juggle, flip, dazzle and amaze crowds on Toronto's front street in support of Epilepsy Toronto. The event runs over a four-day period at the end of August. Admission is only a small donation to Epilepsy Toronto and a buck-or-two to performers to show your appreciation. Location: On Front St., between Jarvis and Church St. Toronto ON Many activities and entertainment for children and adults. Come and be amazed at the spectacular and high energy performers at BuskerFest.

For event & ticket information:
Telephone: (416) 964-9095
E-mail: volunteers@epilepsytoronto.org
Fax: (416) 964-2492

Website: www.torontobuskerfest.com

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION
<http://mmi.theex.com/>
August 20 - September 6, 2004
Toronto, Ontario

The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) is an eighteen-day fair that takes place in late August each year. If you would like to find information or schedules of events taking place at Exhibition Place throughout the rest of the year, please visit our What's On? or call (416) 263-3001.

General Admission = \$10
Seniors (60 & better) = \$7
Children (13 & under) \$7
Babes in Arms = Free

Monday, August 23rd and Monday, August 30th are Kids' Loonie Days. (Kids 13 and under get in for \$1 when accompanied by a paying adult.)

For \$15, parents may purchase 10 rides in the Kiddie Midway for children 13 and under and 48" or shorter.

Once on the grounds, visitors may purchase ride tickets at any Conklin ticket booth at the following rates: 1 for \$1; 14 for \$10, 28 for \$20; 80 for \$50; or 20 rides for \$23. Conklin midway rides require anywhere from 3 to 6 tickets.

CNE admission includes grounds admission only to Ontario Place but does not include the cost of their rides or attractions. Please contact Ontario Place for details at (416) 314-9900 or www.ontarioplace.com.

Amphitheatre (Ontario Place) concert tickets include grounds admission only to the CNE and Ontario Place.

Discounted rates are available for corporate or social groups of twenty or more. Please visit the group sales page of our website or call 416-263-3813 for more information. Please note that arrangements for group rates must be made at least one week in advance of the outing date

Ontario Renaissance Festival
<http://www.rennfest.com/orf/index.html>
Toronto, Ontario

The Ontario Renaissance Festival announces another fine year of fun and excitement, celebrating the best that the Renaissance period had to offer. Nestled in a wooded grove just a short drive west of Toronto, our village is overflowing with performers, craft shops, food purveyors and games, all set in Sixteenth century Tudor England. Performers from across North America continuously entertain on the Festival's five stages while the streets and woods are filled with characters to amuse and delight. Gasp at authentic full-armour combat jousting, listen to balladeers and music ensembles, and marvel at amazing jugglers, magicians, and comely wenches. More

than one hundred performers and characters fill the village with nonstop entertainment. Within this charming realm, one will find an array of handmade crafts by artisans from around North America including glass blowing, leatherwork, clothing, woodworking, stained glass, pottery and metalwork. Be dazzled by demonstrations while visiting the quaint shops. Enjoy the shops and shows while sampling the feast of foods the Festival has to offer. Savoury selections with portions fit for a king include succulent Steak on a Stake, massive Smoked Turkey legs, sweet desserts, and Knave Sandwiches. Quench your thirst with ales, mead, soft drinks, lemonade, iced tea, and assorted wines. Games of chance and skill are at every turn of the Festival. Free pony rides and a free children's activities area offer fun for all ages. 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

July 24, 25, 31
August 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29
September 4, 5

Visit the website for directions to the faire's location, and ticket purchase information. Ticket prices range from \$4 to \$60, and there are many ticket specials available.

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.

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



GROWING SEEDS OF PEACE
2nd Annual Alberta Peace Education Conference
in Athabasca, Alberta

Oct 22, 23, 24

Keynote Speaker: Former Senator Doug Roche
Roundtable with members of Edmonton Interfaith Centre
Choose from over 25 workshops and two concerts.

Registration form and detailed info at <http://www.peace.ca> or phone 780-675-2341
Sponsored by Centre for Global and Social Analysis at Athabasca University & The Athabasca Peace Initiative

We gather as learners, teachers, and advocates to explore the various aspects of a vision of a "just peace" and a "culture of peace", and how we might build peace through education wherever we are.

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.

MAIN CONFERENCE TOPIC - SMB and Knowledge Management

WLICSMB'2004 and ICKMR&DO'2004 SECRETARIAT

General Secretary: Mr. Renyong Chi
Secretariat: Zhejiang Provincial Institute of Small and Mid-sized Business
Address: Zhejiang Provincial Institute of Small and Mid-sized Business,
Zhejiang University of Technology,
Chaohui Xinchun, Hangzhou, P. R. China, 310032
Phone: +86-571-88320618 , +86-571-85967115 -- Fax: +86-571-88320618 -- E-mail: zjsmbi@mail.hz.zj.cn

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 information, contact: Gail Larose, Secretary-General, CAETO, Tel (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...

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.

Each night there will be live entertainment. For further information or contributions to enhance the intellectual and economic success of the conference, visit <http://www.uccb.ca/index1.htm> or email celtic.world@uccb.ca

Provided by Lonita Fraser

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **N.A. Web 2004 - Oct. 16-19 - Fredericton, NB.**
The Tenth Annual International Web-Based Teaching and Learning Conference. For details: <http://naweb.unb.ca/>.
- **The Provincial Literacy Conference - Nov. 4-6 - Calgary.**
For anyone with an interest in promoting a culture celebrating literacy. Humourist Susan Sneath and A-Channel's Dave Kelly will be the keynote speakers. At the Coast Plaza Hotel. Literacy problems cost Canadian employers an estimated \$4 billion every year and the country \$10 billion annually. (403) 410-6990, www.literacy-alberta.ca/events.htm.
- **Educating for Human Rights & Global Citizenship Conference - Nov. 11-13 - Edmonton**
Join local, national and international academics, researchers, pre-service and in-service teachers and community educators to explore issues and possibilities for human rights education and global citizenship. Topics include women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, human rights advocacy and education. Conference organizers are currently calling for proposals for paper sessions, working groups and multi-media and poster sessions. Organized by the Departments of Educational Policy Studies and Secondary Education. For information www.ualberta.ca/~hre04 or email hre04@ualberta.ca.
- **iCORE (Informatics Circle of Research Excellence) Summit - Aug. 2005 -Banff.**
The second annual iCORE Banff Informatics Summit will bring together leading information and communications technology (ICT) researchers for three days. The field of informatics encompasses computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics and mathematics. (403) 210-5335. <http://www.icore.ca/>.
- **Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership Symposium - Oct. or Nov. 2005, Calgary.**
The Chumir Foundation promotes an active, involved citizenry and principled leadership. (403) 244-6666. <http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/>.
- **InfraEDUCA 2004 - June 25-27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi -** The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialized Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distance Learning Systems, International Universities and Programs, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programs etc. Details: <http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>.
- **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/lsconf_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.

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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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