

# THE VOICE

## MAGAZINE

September 15, 2004  
Volume 12 Issue 36



## **Course Extensions and You**

*New policy means no more last minutes extensions*

### **Indigenous Studies 203**

*New course teaches about the history of indigenous culture in Canada*

### **Voice Writing Contest**

*Second annual contest gives scholarship money to students, courtesy of The Voice*

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*Dear Barb*  
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*and much more...*

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Sep 15, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 36

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

## SCHOLARSHIPS NOT ALWAYS FREE TO APPLY FOR

Last week, when I read v12 i35 I clicked on the link for the "CBC Literary Awards Competition," my excitement grew as I thought I was actually eligible for a scholarship. You see, as with most students, I am often ineligible due to the type of degree I'm taking or the fact that I don't speak French or some other characteristic that disqualifies me. Other than the ones AU automatically enters each student for, I haven't had the opportunity to apply since commencing my studies.

When I came upon the one for writing I was overjoyed, but my bubble burst when I read that to 'apply', you must pay a non-refundable amount of \$20 to CBC. Yeah, ok, like my taxes don't give enough to CBC that I have to pay "Administration Fees" to apply for a scholarship.

What I'd like in future is information on whether or not you have to pay up front to apply for a scholarship. As a starving student, this is information greatly appreciated.

**Jody Waddle**

***Jody: Thanks for sharing this information with readers. You make a good point, that publicly funded companies might think twice about asking for money to administer a little community service!***

***The Voice scholarships column provides links and information on a variety of scholarships, but as you say, the number available to students who are older, who haven't a distinguishing ethnic heritage, who don't live in remote areas, and who do not otherwise fit into one of the larger "disadvantaged" groups, are very few. We try to provide as much information as possible in our limited space, and always provide links to the main scholarship website so that students can get more information before applying. Our column is only a starting point. I'd strongly urge all students to visit these sites and read the fine print. Occasionally, we receive a listing from a secondary source, which is not correct.***

***There are not many awards that require an admin fee (though it's very common in writing contests! I think the Voice writing contest is rare in not asking for a fee), but I'll do my best to make sure this information is included in future. Thanks for letting me know! In the meantime, please see the front page of AUSU.org for information on a batch of brand new scholarships for AU students in need!***

## THE VOICE

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**THE VOICE ONLINE:**  
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## EDITORIAL PAGES

### ANONYMOUS EMAIL

This little rant is not directed at anyone who has written me recently, and is not intended to isolate any individual student, but rather is aimed at those who use email in general, and specifically the majority of those who write to webmasters or computer helpdesks for assistance. I say this on behalf of myself, all webmasters, all AU tutors, and support and help staff everywhere.

Readers may be aware that in addition to editing The Voice, I am also the webmaster for the websites of AUSU. I consider emails to my webmaster account to be of the highest priority. I even answer many over the weekend and holidays, because no one should have to wait too long to get access to their account and the services that AUSU provides (after all, you pay for them!).

Unfortunately, I can only immediately answer about 25% of the email I receive. Why? Because many students seem to feel that I'm psychic! I'm flattered, but...

The vast majority of emails I get regarding account problems go something like this:

*Hi, I can't log in to my account. Can you tell me what's wrong? Bob.*

Or

*Hi, I forget my password. Can you send it to me? J. Smith.*

As many as 5-10% actually have no name or return address on the bottom at all.

I'm not sure how these people think that I know who they are, but I honestly don't! Yes, in some cases the email header includes a name, but many times it simply includes an alias. Even when it does include a name, and e-mail header is of no use to me. People very frequently use their spouse's account, their parents' account, or even a friend's account. Often their account is only set up to show a last name, or initials. I simply can't assume that the person named on the e-mail header is the one who has written. Never rely on an email header to tell people who you are.

This syndrome is curious to me, because it is prevalent only in e-mail. When people write letters with pen and paper they rarely forget to put their name on the letter, and often include a full address and contact information. As soon as they open an email program, all knowledge of how to format a proper letter goes out the window. Emails even to important persons (employers, tutors, etc) are written as casually as those to friends.

Here's the thing: I can't assist you with your account if you don't tell me what is going wrong. I can't access your account if I have no idea who you are. And, I cannot give out account information if all I have is your name, even if it is your full name. Look, any one of you could go on the AUSU forums and find a student post with a person's name on it, and then write to me: "Hi, I'm Jane Smith, and I forget my password." Were I then to send you Jane Smith's login information, you would be able to access her account and find out her student ID number, her home address, and her email address. All of this information is protected in our account system by encryption, and stored in a database that is accessible only to the webmaster and AUSU office. If I were to give someone your account information based on them only having your full name, you'd be furious! And with good reason!

So please be understanding when I'm unable to give you information on your account without asking you to write back and provide your student ID number, or your address, so that I can verify your identity on more than one criteria.



And here's some general advice for using e-mail, regardless of who you are writing. I know I've written some of this before, but I've had requests from the AU tutors to continue providing this information:

Every e-mail you send should include a signature on the bottom. Your signature should include, at a bare minimum, your name and your e-mail address. Don't bother with poems, quotes, smilies or fancy stationery if you are writing formally. You can set up a signature file to be automatically added to the bottom of every mail before it is sent. Very few people think to include the e-mail address on the bottom of an e-mail. They assume that the user can simply hit reply. Well in some cases, your email may be forwarded to someone and header information might become lost. Also, not everyone understands how to properly read an email header. Sometimes people write from one e-mail address but wish a reply to go to a different address. Therefore it is good e-mail etiquette to always use the e-mail address at the bottom of a person's email, rather than relying on the reply button. Your email address also helps confirm your identity.

Also, if you include attachments with your email -- such as assignments or articles -- put your name on the top of the file or in the file name. Otherwise, when the attachment is saved to the recipient's computer, it is no longer attached to the email it came with. If the recipient does not immediately open the file and type your name on the top, they may not know who it is from when they read it later on. The majority of Voice submissions do not include any identifying information in the attached file. For assignments, it's a good idea to put your name and student ID number in the header, so that it prints on every page of the file.

Make sure when writing formal emails, that your email account does show an alias, but something reasonable like your full name, your first initial and your last name, or just your last name.

If you are having a problem with a website, you have to explain what that problem is. What page were you on? Include the URL if you can, it's a simple cut-and-paste. What were you trying to do, and what did you click? Did you get an error message? If so what did it say? If you can copy the text, or include a screen shot, so much the better. I don't think most people would take their car to a garage and say "Hi, it's not working right, can you fix it?" No, you'd explain that it's stalling when you stop at a light, or failing to switch to a higher gear when you accelerate. Help staff need the same detailed info. Also, it's often helpful to have a little information about your computer, such as what browser you are using, and what version of Windows. I wonder if tutors often find it hard to answer student questions simply because the student didn't give enough detail. I can't imagine having to answer something like: "I'm having trouble with behaviorism. Help!"

This all may seem really basic, but I continue to hear from AU tutors and the AU Tutor Services department that people continue to write to their tutors without including a name or their student ID number. I've also spoken with members of the Athabasca University vhelpdesk for computer students, and they report the same issues -- especially students reporting that they are having a problem, but providing no details as to when or how the problem occurs. Sometimes we suggest a remedy that you have already tried. This wastes everyone's time, and makes us seem less effective. Tell us what you've tried to avoid this.

I really have to wonder, how do you think we know who you are and what the problem is? This is especially problematic if you're writing from e-mail account that uses an alias. There really is no way in the world for an email recipient to track down the owner of [cutiepie@emailservice.org](mailto:cutiepie@emailservice.org). Believe it or not, many people write formal letters to their tutors or other professionals with this kind of email address! Do you think the tutor even opens that email? If they are really scared of viruses and spam, they might not. I've been told that some tutors don't like opening emails that don't have an identifiable name right in the sender field.

Some have suggested that AU ought to give all students an email account to avoid these problems, but this is a very costly and complex solution to a problem that is solved simply by students being a little more formal in their writing, and making sure they have an email account set aside for formal email.

This is not really a problem for me in terms of how I do my job. When I receive e-mails without any identifying information, or with vague comments about unspecified problems, I simply hit reply and ask for the information that require. I know the vhelpdesk sends out similar request all the time. The problem is simply that you have to wait longer for assistance, and I really like to be able to solve your problems

quickly. I hope to address this problem in the near future by implementing a form on the AUSU web site which users will have to fill out in order to contact the webmaster. This is probably inconvenient for some people who would rather e-mail directly, but with a form I can ask for the information I require. I understand the university is considering a similar approach. It seems like a shame to have to do this simply to get people to include their name on a letter, but that's the state of email these days.

Students also need to keep in mind that if you use a free email service like Yahoo or Hotmail, you cannot rely on that service to the same extent that you might be able to rely on the email account provided with your internet service. If you have internet service at home, you almost certainly have several email accounts included with your internet. AUSU.org sends out mass email to a subscriber list about once a month. I get about 150 bounced emails each time. About 90% of these are from Hotmail and Yahoo accounts (if you subscribe to AUSU updates and don't get them, now you know why). Often the problem is that the user's box is full, as these free accounts have very small limits. Sometimes hotmail just seems to screw up and say an account is invalid when it's not. I know that the AU tutors are having this problem, and many are quite upset to hear that students are accusing them of not replying to their emails, when in fact the tutor is unable to reply because these free accounts are bouncing replies. Also, large organizations like AU -- and many home users -- use spam reducing services and "black hole" lists to reduce unsolicited email. Freebie accounts are more likely to set off spam filters, especially if your freebie service is including little ads in the footers or if you are using animated smilies, and other add-ons. AU Tutor Services has asked that students please use their home ISP account when emailing their tutors, and not a hotmail or other free account.

The AUSU Study Buddy program also suffers from these problems too. I get about one bounced mail each week from someone who is trying to hook up with a Study Buddy, but the listed person's email account is bouncing the request. I never know what to do, because the person who is listed probably really wants a Study Buddy! If you haven't had any replies to your Study Buddy post, are you certain your account is accepting replies? Remember, I can't email you to let you know when this is happening. I wish I could!

If you are not getting responses, consider that it might be a problem on your end that is blocking your email, and ensure that you consider this before contacting tutor services stating that your tutor will not reply (and before contacting my employer to say that I won't reply!). Avoid Hotmail unless you want to set up a second account for entering contests and posting online. Also, make sure that you check if your spam filter has deleted replies before assuming that no one responded. Lots of users tell me that they have never set up an email account through their ISP! Why wouldn't you? Some say it's because they want to use webmail rather than downloading email to their home computer, but you can use webmail to access your ISP account as well. Keep this in mind. Try web2mail.com if your accounts don't have webmail built in.

Please remember: to get prompt and effective service in response to an email request, ask yourself before you hit the send button: Will they know who I am? Have I described my problem accurately? Have I made any attempts to solve the problem which did not work? And most important: "Do I understand what it is that I want from this response?"

I think I can speak for the tutors, vhelpdesk staff, and all helpdesk staff everywhere when I say that we really want to help you as quickly and effectively as possible, and that it's very rewarding to be able to give people the information that they are really looking for. That is, after all, what we're here for.

**Tamra Ross Low**  
**Editor in Chief**  
**[voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org)**

## NOTICE TO AU STUDENTS

### *COURSE EXTENSIONS AND YOU*



As of September 5, 2005, all course extensions will need to be purchased before the start of the final month in your course contract. This was the decision of Athabasca University's Academic Council at the September 15, 2004 meeting.

Your AUSU representative at the meeting spoke against this change and some concerns were noted by other members of the Academic Council but in the end, the motion passed.

For those students new to AUSU and the Voice, you may not remember our earlier coverage of this issue. So a bit of background is in order.

Athabasca University purchases tutor time on a "block" basis. Each tutor is paid for a certain number of blocks each month, and each block holds a certain number of students. As registrations to each course come in, students get assigned to blocks, filling them up, and these get given to tutors based on seniority and how many blocks that particular tutor wants to take. If more blocks are filled than there are tutors willing to accommodate them, AU has to quickly find more tutors or do some extra negotiating to make sure all the students have a tutor.

However, because extensions come in after the deadline for registrations (over 50% of students request their extension in the last 4 days of the month), that means at the end of the month, tutors are often taking on those extending students in excess of the number of blocks they've agreed to take. This puts AU in violation of their contract with CUPE, and makes it so that tutors are unable to spend the full amount of time they want on individual students.

AU's solution to this problem is simply to make it so that students will have to register their extensions before the start of their last month, that way making sure that tutor services has time to find or negotiate ways to accommodate the additional blocks

This is a solution that AUSU feels leaves students out in the cold. There is a reason, after all, that most students do not extend their courses until the last 4 days, and that's simply because most of the students who are extending thought they'd be able to finish in time. Now those students who are unsure if they're going to be able to finish or not by the time they have one month left will find themselves having to put out a significant expense to guarantee that they have the time they need, or risk not being able to complete it. Unfortunately, there are no refunds, so if you request an extension and then find you don't need it, the money is still gone.

The second reason that a lot of students extend is because of the difficulty of scheduling exams. Even for those of us in Alberta, scheduling an exam at the ELC or CLC can be a serious head-ache, as if you don't call in soon enough, there is no guarantee they'll have a spot for you.

Outside of Alberta, the difficulties of scheduling an invigilator to take your exam can be even worse. In the past, students who couldn't manage to get an exam scheduled before the end of their contract date were at least able to go the route of taking an extension. It wasn't ideal, but it was better than having to take a failing grade and re-register.

As of September 2005, this will no longer be an option. If you can't get an exam scheduled before the end of your course term and are unable to get an extension, you may have no option but to take a failing grade on the course.

AUSU is looking for ideas, as there are still implementation details of the change to be worked out and it is hoped we can come up with a way to go about this that can address the needs of the students as well as those of the University.

[b]Editor's Note:[eb] I have been informed that AU VP, Academic Judith Hughes has told AUSU that in the case of a student being unable to schedule an exam with an AU learning center because the exam room is fully booked -- assuming that the student called in the requisite two weeks prior to the exam -- AU would accommodate that student and not require an extension. From my own experience, however, this was not the case when a member of my household was unable to schedule an exam due to the CLC exam room being fully booked two weeks in advance last year (we had to buy an extension so he could write the week later), and that this is also contrary to information I was personally given by a member of the AU Exam Services unit during a telephone interview last year, who said that AU does not guarantee exam space to students in cities with a learning center, and that when the exam room is fully booked students should look to other universities or colleges in Calgary and Edmonton where they may write. It is not clear if the policy has changed since last year, or if there are differing opinions on how the policy should be enforced. I hope to have an update on this issue in the near future.



**WRITE FOR THE VOICE!**

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





## THE SECOND ANNUAL VOICE MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST!

**\$800 in scholarships to be awarded  
\$400 each in the fiction and non-fiction  
categories**

**Write for The Voice and win  
money for your education.**

The Voice is launching its second annual writing contest, with categories for both fiction, and non fiction categories.

**Non-Fiction:** In 2000 words or less, write about any issue affecting students in post-secondary education today. You may write from a broad, world perspective, or focus specifically on Athabasca University or another Canadian school. You may discuss issues of gender, race, age, returning students, new students, campus violence, distance learning, etc. or introduce an issue we may not be very aware of. Feel free to use research or statistics in your article [with proper citations], or write a creative opinion piece.

**Fiction:** Free form - write a 2000 word or less fiction submission in any genre or any format. Short stories, poetry, a scene from a play, even a comic. Be creative!

Please read the contest rules and regulations and submission guidelines very carefully to ensure you are not disqualified. It's free to enter. The length limits are firm. To make it fair for everyone, all submissions that are over length will be returned to the writer for editing. Good luck!

### **Rules and Regulations:**

- Entrants must be students of Athabasca University. Student status will be confirmed with the AU registrar. Please ensure that the registrar has your current address and contact information.
- Winning entries will be published in an upcoming Voice issue. The Voice reserves the right to print non-winning entries at a rate of remuneration in accordance with current Voice freelance submission rates. The Voice may use portions of non winning non-fiction entries in a composite about students perspectives on post-secondary education today. No remuneration will be provided for such use.
- All decisions regarding this contest and the selection of winners remain with the judging panel and are final and binding.
- AU, AUSU, and Voice staff or council members are not eligible for the contest.
- Entries will be judged by a panel to be selected by the Voice Editor, and this panel may include: AU students, AU tutors, and/or AUSU council members. The panel will include at least 3 members.
- The Voice Editor will collect articles and oversee the judging, but will not be a judge.
- Entries must be original works which have not been printed or published elsewhere, and must not be course assignment papers or derivatives of.
- Entries must not contain any information that would make the identity of the author evident to judges. To insure fairness, all entries will be forwarded to the judging panel with a reference number attached, but no personally identifying information will be forwarded. The Voice Editor will keep the identity of the authors private until the contest closes. The Voice editor will keep a record of the authors of submissions, and will be the sole owner of this list.
- Entries will not be edited for grammar, spelling, or content, although The Voice Editor may black out any personally identifying information contained within the submission. Otherwise, entries will be forwarded to the judging panel, as is. All entries will be converted to use the same file format, font size and font style.

- **The deadline for submissions in both categories will be October 31, 2004. The winner will be announced by November 30, 2004. The Voice reserves the right to extend either deadline if necessary.**
- One grand prize winner will be selected in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. If no entries are received in one of the categories, the prize money will be returned to the Voice scholarship budget. Prizes will be awarded in the form of a cheque, payable in Canadian funds.
- The Voice reserves the right to add additional, secondary prizes.
- The Voice is not responsible for lost emails. The Voice editor will confirm receipt of all entries by email. Follow up if you do not receive a reply.
- All entrants agree to allow their name and city of residence to be printed, along with their submission, should it be selected as a winning entry. No further remuneration - beyond the contest prize - will be paid to the contest winner when their entry is printed.
- Entrants will be asked to sign a standard Release and Indemnity form; each prize winner agrees to release the Sponsor and its agents from any liability in connection with the prizes awarded in this contest.
- Any entrant found to be tampering with the contest results, or attempting to influence any of the judging members, or using any forums or other public communications media to advise others of which entry is theirs will be disqualified; or if The Voice editor determines, at her sole discretion, that any other form of tampering has been attempted, that entrant will be disqualified.
- No preference will be given to regular Voice writers. Entries will not identify the writer as a regular Voice contributor when sent to the judging panel.
- Where applicable, this contest is subject to all federal, provincial and municipal laws. Contest void where prohibited by law.

## **Submission Guidelines:**

- Your submission must be an electronic file, sent as an attachment to email. Submissions sent as the body of an email will not be accepted. Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) if you require instructions on how to attach a file to an email.
- Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format [.doc], rich text format [.rtf] or plain text format [.txt]. If you use a Word Processor other than Word or work on a Mac computer, you can save a file in one of these alternate formats using the 'save as' function and selecting the desired format on the save menu. Contact The Voice editor if you require assistance in formatting your submission. Users of older Macs may have to send entries in HTML format.
- All entries must be under 1500 words, due to judging time constraints. Length will be determined by the Word Count feature in Microsoft Word. Your References and Citations section will not be included in the word count. References should be formatted consistently according to a standardized publishing style guide, such as the American Psychological Association (APA) or the MLA press style.
- Entries should not include unnecessary formatting such as drop caps, graphics [unless the graphic is integral to the work], or unusual fonts. Entries must be text - scans of hand written or typed documents will not be accepted.
- Submit your entry as an email attachment. The email should include the following information: Your full name, your AU student ID number, an email address and telephone number where we may contact you, your home address, the title of your entry, and whether you are submitting a fiction or non-fiction entry. Make sure non-fiction entries are based on the topic question detailed above. Fiction entries can be on any topic you like. Do not include your contact information within your article - but be sure to include a title.
- Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
  - Non Fiction entries: will be judged on originality, creativity, accuracy, and how well your support your assertions with data or argument. You will also be judged on the presentation of your article, including professionalism, proper spelling, grammar and syntax, and readability. You may write in journalistic style or essay format.
  - Fiction entries: will be judged on creativity, entertainment value, and the originality or your writing style. Regardless of the genre you choose, you will be judged on the effectiveness of your piece, and your technical writing skills.
- Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) if you have any questions.

## New Course: Indigenous Studies I (INST 203)

*Katie Patrick*



Are you undecided as to which Athabasca U course to register in next? What about studying a bit of history blended with anthropology, with a dash of political science sprinkled overtop?

Although this may sound like a culinary arts course, Athabasca University's newest course, INST 203, doesn't teach cooking -- but it does introduce you to the exciting world of Aboriginal studies.

You've likely heard of the French and Indian War, the Indian Act, the British North American Act of 1867, but, like me, it's possible you've never really had the opportunity to fully discover their niche in Canadian

history.

Indigenous Studies I (INST 203) will lead you through Aboriginal history in Canada, beginning with the first European settlers on Canadian soil. You'll learn the reasons behind the conflicts between Europeans and Aboriginals; you'll also have the chance to delve in depth into the treaties, acts, and other policies proposed by the Canadian government toward Aboriginal peoples. Why were all the treaties made? What exactly do treaties like the Indian Act and the Constitution Act of 1982 consist of? INST 203 (Indigenous Studies I) will enable you to satisfy your knowledge on important issues like these.

Indigenous Studies I (INST 203) consists of three units, each of which contains several sections. You'll first discover the terminology associated with Aboriginals and treaties; you'll be able to explore the Indian Act in detail.

The second section delves into the myriad of treaties proclaimed by the Canadian government with Aboriginal peoples -- a thorough section which will effectively answer all your questions concerning Aboriginal-related treaties. The final unit explores the part the Metis have played in history. You'll gain answers to questions such as: Who exactly were the Metis? What was their contribution to Canadian history?

The course closes with a section discussing the impact of the Metis in Canadian politics and judicial system.

Your marks in Indigenous Studies I (INST 203) are calculated by three exercises (worth 15%, 20%, and 25%, respectively), which focus on your knowledge and insight on certain key areas of the course. In addition, the remaining portion of your mark (40%) is achieved through completing a final exam.

Why not try a blend of Aboriginal studies with history, anthropology, and political science? It'll surely be a rewarding learning adventure.

Check out the course syllabus at: [www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/inst/inst203.htm](http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/inst/inst203.htm)

## **Alleged election irregularities a 'national issue'** **Canadian electoral system needs review, NDP official says**

**Megan Thomas**  
**CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief**

OTTAWA (CUP) -- The New Democrats have dropped a legal challenge over alleged voting irregularities during the June federal election in exceptionally tight ridings near Regina, but say the controversy has reduced voter confidence in Canada.

"This is a national issue," said Don Mitchell, head of the New Democratic Party's riding association in Palliser, one of the ridings in question. "I think we need to look more closely at (the system) we have here." The high expense and difficulty in proving the irregularities necessitated dropping the challenge, said Mitchell, who maintains the alleged voting irregularities occurred.

In the Palliser riding, NDP candidate Dave Proctor lost by 124 votes -- out of 33,326 -- to Conservative candidate Dave Batters. Liberal candidate Gary Anderson was edged out by Conservative Tom Lukiwski in the Regina-Lumsden-Lake Centre riding by 122 votes.

The NDP mounted the challenge after allegedly discovering that some people had voted in the wrong riding, in part due to incorrect information provided by Elections Canada.

Voters were able to enter a postal code into the Elections Canada website to find out which riding they were in. But because the ridings in question have rural components, the NDP alleges that some voters were told to vote in a riding where they have a postal box, not in the riding where they live.

A University of Regina professor experienced such an irregularity when he typed his postal code into Elections Canada's online system.

"We live in a rural area, and when I punched it into the website, it came up for a constituency different than the one that I was in," said Howard Leson, a political science professor. "There are all kinds of people who potentially voted in the wrong constituency. That did not mean that they voted in the wrong constituency, only that the potential was there."

But Leson is not surprised that the NDP challenge was abandoned.

"Normally it is very difficult to controvert an election, because you have to go out and find people who actually ought not to have voted in the constituency, and you have to be able to prove it," he said.

The practice of telling people where to vote based on postal code needs to change, said Leson.

"I would think a parliamentary committee should have a long look at this," he said. "I don't think it worked well this time, and I don't think it will work well in the future. There is less confidence in this system than in the old one."

Until the 1997 election, Elections Canada used a system of enumeration, where door-to-door verification of voters was carried out. Last June's election marked the first experiment with a permanent voters list, avoiding the significant cost of enumeration.

"We need some combination of a standing registry and enumeration," Leson said.

But Elections Canada spokesperson Miriam Gennaro maintained the system is not flawed and the organization is not aware of any irregularities in Saskatchewan or anywhere else in the country.

Batters, now the clear winner in the Palliser riding, said he is glad to put the controversy behind, adding that he thinks the NDP challenge was baseless. "The bar for these challenges to go forward must be higher," he said. "I really thought this was an abuse of our justice system."

## Post-secondary review compromised, student groups say

*Panel member tells magazine tuition must rise*

*Reka Szekely*

*CUP Ontario Bureau Chief*

TORONTO (CUP) -- Before releasing a single document, the panel set to review Ontario's post-secondary education system is already coming under fire from student groups. That's because one panel member has made comments to a popular news magazine that appear to presuppose the outcome of the review. An unnamed member of the Bob Rae panel is quoted in the Sept. 6 issue of Maclean's as saying that "tuition is going to have to go up."

The Canadian Federation of Students responded by saying the panel had been compromised and by questioning its members' objectivity. "It's just one more flag that's going up around the Rae review," said Jesse Greener, provincial chair of the CFS. The student leader said he's concerned panel members have already decided tuition increases are the answer to Ontario's university and college funding woes.

"If everyone agrees that there's a funding problem, then that's a first step. But where are we going to get the funding from?" Greener said. "That's the kind of discussion we need to have, and I don't think that's the kind of discussion the Rae panel is interested in."

Ruth MacKay, project manager for the post-secondary review, says the panel is still committed to consulting the public and stakeholders. "No conclusions have been reached," she said. "Certainly, the panel is in the process of reviewing all options."

The Rae review is now accepting submissions from stakeholders, including universities as well as student, parent and faculty groups, through its new web site. It plans to issue a discussion paper in late September, which will be followed by public consultations.

The consultations will include a series of town hall meetings on college and university campuses. Finally, the panel will make recommendations on the funding and structure of post-secondary education in January 2005.

The CFS and its member student unions are co-ordinating a postcard campaign asking the panel to reduce tuition. The cards are addressed to Rae, the former premier who is the panel's chair, and the CFS hopes to have the bulk of them to Rae by the end of the month to coincide with the release of the discussion paper.

At Carleton University in Ottawa, the student union has included the postcards in their handbooks and will pay to send postcards dropped into mailboxes they've set up across campus to Rae. "I think it's very important for students to have a fair understanding of what's happening with the review," said Lindsay Mossman, vice-president of Carleton's student union. "We're providing them for every single student, so they can take action." Mossman says she hopes to see between 7,000 and 10,000 postcards go out from her school.

At Toronto's George Brown College, the student union is planning to speak to classes and distribute the cards. They hope to mail about 5,000. "We've brought them out during orientation, and the students really took to them," said Stephanie Pickett, a student union vice-president at the college. Both Pickett and Mossman were angered by the comments in Maclean's.

"It's infuriating because it's saying you've already got this biased person on the panel saying the tuition increase is the only solution, but it's not," said Pickett, who wants the government to increase funding and grants.

Greener said he hopes the postcards, as well as an upcoming petition campaign aimed at members of the provincial parliament, will influence the review. "The perceived politically easy route is to get funding from students because people feel students will roll over and allow tuition fees to increase," he said. "It's unfortunate that university students are seen as a cash cow and a resource to be exploited," he added.





**Dear Barb:**

***Sometimes when I go to my family doctor I feel rushed, especially if my reason for being there is not really serious. Because of the shortage of doctors I'm concerned that maybe I'm taking up time that someone with a more serious condition may need. A friend of mine has been seeing a naturopathic doctor and she has been urging me to go as well. I am seriously considering this, but I'm wondering what kind of training and education a naturopathic doctor receives? Also what conditions do they treat and what sort of treatments do they provide? I would appreciate any information you could offer.***

**Confused Carolyn in Oklahoma**

I will try my best, Carolyn, to give you some information to clear up your confusion and aid you in making an informed decision.

You are probably justified in feeling rushed as family doctors today are stressed to the limit. Unfortunately there doesn't seem to be any immediate relief in sight. Some of the reasons for this were expressed in The Voice Article - July 7, 2004, "Taking Notes Doctor Shortage" by Debbie Jabbour (v12 i26). "In a survey of medical students, 80 percent indicated intentions of

*specializing rather than remaining in family medicine. Higher pay and a less demanding workload are the main reasons cited, with high student debt load the driving force."*

Due to this health care crisis many people may be searching for additional sources of medical treatment. Perhaps a naturopathic doctor working in conjunction with your family doctor could to offer some relief to this situation. However a naturopathic doctor is not meant to replace your family doctor, as each has their area of expertise.

In regards to what kind of education and training naturopathic doctors receive, it is quite extensive. Initially four years of university education is required before being considered for admission into an accredited College of Naturopathic Medicine. Once accepted they must then complete four more years, which includes three years of premedical studies. Graduates receive a degree providing them with the designation "Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine."

A naturopathic doctor's approach to illness is to treat the entire person, not just the symptoms. Therefore your first visit will require quite an in-depth investigation of your lifestyle, diet, etc. As a result, treatment varies from individual to individual. Some treatments naturopathic doctors offer may include nutrition counseling, botanicals and homeopathy, massage therapy, acupuncture and lifestyle counseling. Naturopathic medicine is about assisting the individual in finding balance in all aspects of their life.

Naturopathic doctors treat many conditions. For example arthritis, fibromyalgia, high blood pressure, arteriosclerosis, heart conditions, as well as skin conditions, including eczema and psoriasis. Even common, every day maladies such as colds, ear infections, and headaches can be treated with naturopathic medicine. Emotional and mental health issues may also be discussed with a naturopathic doctor.

I hope I have been able to shed a bit of light on this situation, Carolyn. However, you are the only one who knows if naturopathic medicine is the kind of treatment with which you will feel comfortable.

Perhaps the family of the future will include a naturopathic doctor along with a medical doctor and dentist as a fundamental part of their health care.

*E-mail your questions to [advice.voice@ausu.org](mailto:advice.voice@ausu.org). Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality: your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.*



## NOTES FROM AN ISLAND

It's the last week of school vacation, and we're spending it on Mayne, the smallest of the Gulf Islands. We're camped on a low bluff overlooking the waters of Active Pass. We've been here for about a week, and have fallen into gloriously lazy daily rhythm. In the morning we make thick black coffee and cook scrambled eggs or porridge on our single burner stove. The rest of the day is pretty much devoted to exploring the tideline -- turning over rocks in search of crabs, exploring tidepools, and reading books while Jessie, our seven year old, makes necklaces and bracelets from kelp and limpet shells. We skip flat stones across calm waters, eat picnics of crusty French bread and sharp white cheddar and tangy pear chutney while kestrels soar and glide far above us.

One morning, when the sun is warm enough to entice us, we swim for hours in a sheltered bay while two seals repeatedly dive and surface a dozen or so feet from us. Exiting the water, we watch small, crystal clear jellyfish float around our ankles. Gingerly, we pick our way past larger wine-coloured jellyfish the size of dinner plates. On a stretch of sand, Jessie and I are engaged in a serious architectural project. A miniature citadel of sand emerges at the edge of the tideline. There are schoolhouses, longhouses, libraries, fortresses, and observatories -- all decorated with sea glass and sea china, their walls covered with seaweed vines. It's a kingdom where time stands still, and the only currency is sand dollars. Like all great empires, it will eventually crumble and fade.

After eating fish and chips at the Springwater Lodge, we watch the ferries passing by, lit up like floating palaces. An hour later we're squeezed into the Ag Hall, along with a sizeable number of the 900 or so permanent local residents, for the monthly Friday Folk Night. Sweat flying, we're stomping our feet and clapping our hands to a local band playing traditional Celtic reels on fiddle, harp, accordion and drums.

At the farmer's market the next morning we buy organic apples and loose leaf tea. We eat homemade scones packed with fresh berries and listen to a busker with a six string singing *Fields of Gold* and *Solsbury Hill*. Jessie asks if he knows *Baby Beluga*, but he declines to play it out of respect for Raffi, who apparently lives on the island. He compensates with a rousing version of *Puff the Magic Dragon*. Seconds later, improbably, Raffi himself appears out of the crowd. He borrows the busker's guitar, sits on the bench across from Jessie, and asks if she has any requests. After performing *Baby Beluga*, he blows her a kiss and wanders off up the road with a shopping bag filled with fruit.

On our last night there, Jessie and Janice are in bed early in anticipation of getting up for the early morning ferry. They're buried in their sleeping bags, reading *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*. The tent is lit from within by electric Coleman lantern light -- a glowing cocoon wedged between woods and sea. I wander down the beach for a few minutes to listen to the waves and watch the stars and make some disconnected observations by flashlight in my notebook about the end of another magical summer.



#### Failure Earns More

At least, if you're an Olympic level athlete, it does. After a very disappointing Olympic showing this year (which I attribute mostly to the Canadian Olympic Committee for a ridiculous policy of only allowing people that are supposedly the 12th best in the world or better to go), the federal government has decided that they need to invest more money into the system.

So, Minister of State (Sport) Stephen Owen announced a funding injection of 10.1 million for carded athletes and equipment purchases. This will be split between the Athlete Assistance Program, which will receive 4.6 million, increasing that particular program by a about a third, and 5.5 million which will go to Canada Sports Centres for the purchase of equipment, science, and sports medicine research.

While I agree that our athletes desperately need this type of increase, I find it disconcerting that it takes a poor performance on a world stage to make our government realize this. Incidentally, this also has some relation to our post-secondary system as well, as the Athlete Assistance Program also grants tuition bursaries to carded athletes who train at colleges and universities. The tuition assistance is fairly generous, totalling up to \$10,000 per year. While athletes can't train at Athabasca University, they can certainly undertake their studies there, no matter where they train.

Does this mean we could come to see AU as a school for athletes? It's a funny thought. Perhaps if we did though, we could then bring added pressure to Mr. Owen to support AU.

Maybe not a great idea, but at least it's something different from simply raising tuition.

#### Alberta Leads All Provinces Funding Education

Alberta is very pleased to announce that statistics Canada has shown that for elementary and secondary schools, Alberta is providing more funding per student than any other province. (The territories still spend much more than us, but there are premiums involved for getting teachers and education up north)

When looking at the full report, the picture is nearly as rosy as they paint it. We do pay our educators more, their wages have gone up significantly in the last 10 years and what our teachers make is at least comparable with what the average full-time employee makes (though still slightly lower)

What they don't point out however, is that we're one of the few provinces that have had increasing enrolments, and that while over the past five years the number of educators we had went up, as of last year they actually went down. A smaller number of educators with a rising enrolment is generally not a good sign.

Also they neglect to say that when you compare operating expenditures in our schools to our Gross Domestic Product (or how much money Alberta makes as a province) we are on the absolute bottom of the list, and that includes the territories, and that this ratio has actually gone down over the past five years. So while the province might be doing better as a whole, it's not the schools that are seeing their share of the benefit.

Of course, all this applies only to our elementary and secondary schools. I'm waiting for the report about post-secondary. Somehow I doubt there'll be as much crowing.

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

# Primetime Update

Week of September 12, 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 four teams, and there's still another non-elimination point in the race. Last week Brandon and Nicole were excused from not being able to shave their precious religious heads.

This week, however, the highlight was Chip's mistake of not yielding the twins, and then his scramble to complete the tasks to avoid being last. Activities included sledging down a turbulent river with small waterfalls, digging in a boiling mud hole for clues, and inflating a huge beach ball, called a zorb, and rolling down a hill inside of it. There's no more huge fights, or confrontations. The teams respect each other.

This week's order of arrival:

1. Colin/Christie; 2. Linda/Karen; 3. Brandon/Nicole (who started this leg with no money); 4. Chip/Kim

Finally an elimination round, Kami and Karli were sent packing.

#### 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

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

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

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

Last Saturday an emergency HOH competition was held, and immediately Marvin was evicted from the house. Afterward, Nakomis was again granted HOH.

On the block: Drew and Michael. The boys, along with Drew's bedmate Diane, plotted against the Nakomis/Karen alliance and joined forces to allow Diane the power of veto. As a result she takes Drew off the block, leaving Nakomis with the only action of replacing him with Karen. Since Drew and Diane were the only ones to vote, Karen was evicted. After the eviction, Drew won the HOH competition and on Saturday nominated Nakomis and Diane for eviction.

Find out who will be in the final three, and who will decide who's coming with them this Tuesday and Thursday on Big Brother.



**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  
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
9. Marvin (36) – Mortician from Conway, SC. Single
10. Karen (30) – Portrait Artist from Saddle Brook, NJ. 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 judges chose the songs. The idols all got the chance to perform two. All of the idols did exceptionally well. Like last week, I didn't vote because I wasn't sure whom I liked best.

**Theresa Sokyrka** – "What the World Needs Now" and "Ready for Love"

**Kalan Porter** – "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" and "Nature Boy"

**Jacob Hoggard** – "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and "I Want You to Want Me"

### **People Canada Already Sent Home:**

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

### **Who went home? Jacob Hoggard**

The judges especially Zack, were mad to see Jacob leave. Zack has said multiple times that Jacob is the only competitor ready to put out an album and entertain the world. I like Jacob a lot, but at the same time I can appreciate that not everyone enjoys him the way I do.

### **THE APPRENTICE 2 Thursday, Sept. 9th, 2004**

If you didn't watch this show last season, you should have. It was more entertaining than Survivor, and much more intelligent. Basically, we start with 18 men and women (living in luxurious Trump Tower) who are divided by sex into two teams. Each week Donald Trump gives them business activities to perform, and the team who is less successful must go to Trump's boardroom, where the man himself will fire the weakest member of the team.

Each week, the teams elect a project manager (who, if the team wins, will be exempt from being fired the following week) who will lead them through the activities. On Trump's panel are Carolyn Kepture and George Ross, who will observe the team's efforts and help Trump to make major decisions.



Right away, each team must permanently give up one member to the opposing team. This person must act as the first project manager for the team of the opposite sex. For the men, Bradford immediately steps up to lead the women. Pamela (the really tall blond Cruella DeVille type chick) steps up.

That being said, let's meet this season's teams (names in bold are the project managers):

### **Mosaic**

Andy (23) - Recent Harvard Graduate (nationally ranked debater)

Chris (30) - Stockbroker

John (24) - Marketing Director

Kelly (37) - Software Executive

Kevin (29) - Law Student

### **Pamela (32) - Investment Firm Partner**

Raj (28) - Real Estate Developer (guy in red pants)

Rob (32) - Corporate Branding Salesman (Crustacean Nation)

Wes (28) - Private Wealth Manager

### **Apex Corp.**

#### **Bradford (33) - Attorney**

Elizabeth (31) - Consulting Firm Owner

Ivana (28) - Venture Capitalist

Jennifer C (31) - Real Estate Agent

Jennifer M (30) - Attorney

Maria (31) - Marketing Executive

Sandy (28) - Bridal Salon Owner

Stacie J (35) - Restaurateur

Stacy R (26) - Attorney

**The Task:** Each Team must develop a brand new toy for Mattel, and present it to a panel of Mattel's top executives. The team that creates the most marketable toy, judged by Mattel's panel, wins the challenge.

The women are upset at Bradford's arrogance. Instead of putting ideas to a vote, Bradford tries to use his own idea, disregarding those of the rest of the team. Maria expresses her desire to strangle him. In the end, however, Mattel's design team rejects the "football guy" idea.

Later, Stacey J. freaks out that no one will pay attention to her silly 8-ball insistence. Her paranoia pushes her to confront some of the others. Then she tells everyone that she thinks they won and insists that they should just go claim their prize. The rest of the team responds negatively to Stacey's lack of self-control and some insist that she must be fired.

When Mosaic goes into the focus group (with the kids) Pamela criticizes a kid's haircut. Carolyn (Trump's colleague) was in the same room and seemed agitated with the lack of professionalism.

**The final projects:** Mosaic: plastic figurines called "Crustacean Nation" that are different animals that have morphed from different kinds of sea creatures. The panel tells them that their line of action figures was a little bit old.

Apex: A remote control car, called the Metamorpher, which has all kinds of removable and interchangeable parts. The panel really enjoyed the novelty of the cars.

The clear-cut winner is Apex. They win dinner with Donald Trump himself, in his home. Mosaic will go to the boardroom.

**The Boardroom:** George and Carolyn criticize the team's inability to relate to male children, as well as Pamela's criticism of the children's appearance. The general consensus is that Pamela and Rob are responsible for the team's failure. Pamela is given the choice of two, or three, people to bring back into the boardroom with her. Instead of jeopardizing a fourth person, Pamela decides to hold Rob and Andy partially responsible for the team's loss. Pamela is criticized for her edge, Rob is criticized for his lack of contribution, and Andy is criticized (by Pamela) for his lack of experience. In the end, however, Trump decides to cut the useless fat and fires Rob.

**Next Week:** In another 90-minute episode, Stacey becomes a loose canon and teams must create a brand new flavor of ice cream, and in the boardroom Trump calls someone stupid.

### FATHER OF THE PRIDE Wednesdays

This show is absolutely hilarious. I won't be doing any updates on it, but do watch it if you have the time. It's a great laugh. It's a cartoon about a lion named Larry (the voice of John Goodman), who is the star of a magic show. The basic story line involves his ability to overcome obstacles on his way to stardom. Other characters involve a variety of animals as well as cartoon depictions of Siegfried and Roy. The setting is in Las Vegas, where the animals act similar to humans (always a riot).

### JOEY Thursday, Sept. 9th, 2004

I wasn't overwhelmed by this show, but it was all right. Joey, of Friends fame, moves to L.A. where his sister (Drea DeMatteo of the Sopranos) has found him an apartment with a "view" of the Hollywood sign. Joey gets a new agent who gets him auditions for a cop show, an entertainment TV show, and a show called Nurses (which goes big time after Joey turns it down). The second plot line involves Joey's sister Gina and her son Michael. Michael is in his twenties, has graduated from university and works as a rocket scientist, but is still living with his mother. When he and Joey spend some time together, Michael insists that Joey should let him move in, to get away from his mother. A lot of the action centers on getting Gina to agree that it's all right. **I won't be doing updates on this show.**

### LAST COMIC STANDING: BATTLE OF THE BEST Tuesday, Sept 7th, 2004

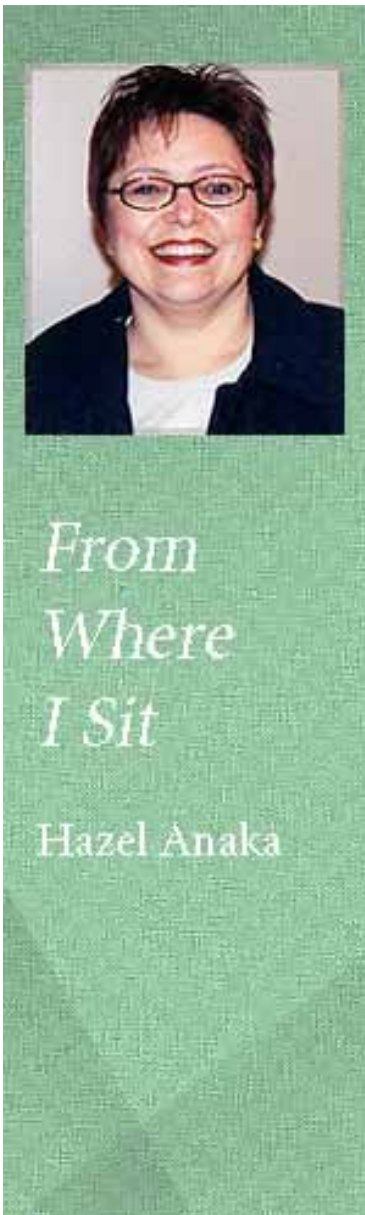
I won't be doing updates on this show either, but I will be watching. The reason is that there's not much to tell. It's a very entertaining piece of work, and I do recommend watching. Basically, the comics from season one and season two compete against each other. Each week the houses choose four comics, at the end of the show the viewers vote on the favorites and the next week the comics with the least amount of votes are dismissed (one from each house). Definitely take a peek, though.

### NEW SHOWS STARTING THIS MONTH:

Survivor: Vanuatu

Thursday, Sept. 16th 2004 (Probably 9pm)

**If there are any other shows you want updates on, or any comments you wish to make, please email me at [abaldwin@shaw.ca](mailto:abaldwin@shaw.ca)!**



## ARE YOU LISTENING?

Have you listened to your body lately? No, I mean really listened. I find the older I get, the more interesting, albeit disconcerting, a process this is.

Most of us are living in over-drive. Anaesthetized by food, drink, work. Overlooking the body's early warning system. Oblivious to the whispered hints. Maybe not even getting the not-so-subtle whack on the side of the head.

I have gotten better at noticing when something is amiss. Some days it seems I'm falling apart -- bit by bit by bit. I'm more aware when I'm clenching my jaw or scrunching my shoulders up around my ears. I consciously, deliberately relax.

I notice the now familiar pain of sciatica when I sit too long. Until harvest 2001 and countless hours in the combine, sciatica was just another word. Now I know firsthand how debilitating the pain can be. I know firsthand how frustrated and impatient I felt as the weeks and months wear on with little visible improvement.

I know that too little sleep makes me cranky and short-tempered. I know caffeine makes my eyelid twitch. I know my menstrual cycle now has a mind of its own. I know the discomfort of acid reflux.

I now need artificial tears for dry eyes, labello for dry lips, lotions for dry skin. I'm about a year away from bi-focals. I know that waiting 'til you're in pain for your first full body therapeutic massage is too long.

I know that abuse and neglect have a way of catching up with you. It reminds me of that old line: "If I'd I have known I was going to live this long I'd have taken better care of myself." I know that if I had a dollar for everyone with foot problems and orthotics I'd be rich woman. I know that those stupid, stupid shoes we all wore are exacting their price now as I gimp through life with plantar fasciitis.

I know too many pounds are causing or aggravating all sorts of problems. I know using the treadmill first thing in the morning is the only way to squeeze exercise into my life and into my day. I know that overdoing anything -- gardening, house painting, snow shoveling, playing -- hurts. I know that a fall in an icy parking lot four years ago, every so often still comes back to haunt me with hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder pain.

And I haven't even gotten to the potentially big stuff -- like cancer and auto-immune conditions. The stuff that requires referrals and specialists, mammograms and ultrasounds, biopsies and "oscopies". Those diagnoses that can change your life forever -- in a heartbeat.

I've had some scares. I've dodged the bullet. I'm changing those factors within my control. Question is, are you?

The time is now. Begin wherever you are. Start listening to your body. It makes sense, from where I sit.

*\*Reprinted with permission*



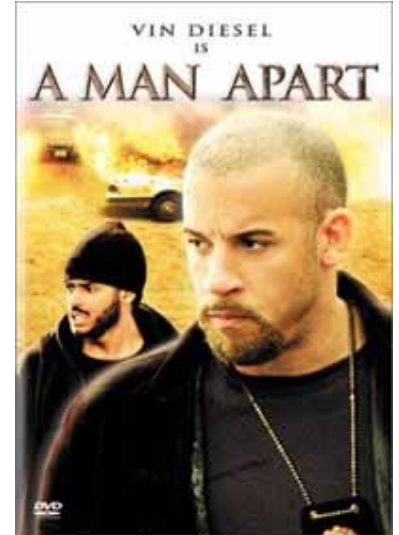
## A MAN APART *Film Review*

*By Laura Seymour*

### Focus on Vin Diesel

This film starts out like a lot of cop films. The lead character is a tough guy cop, Sean Vetter, played by Vin Diesel. He's dealing with the scum of society, but is different in that he doesn't hang around cops and he started out on the wrong side of the law. Then we walk into Sean's personal life and find a soft man with a fantastic relationship with his wife, Stacey, played by Jacqueline Obradors. They are magic, but the magic is elusive when she is shot in a botched attempt on his meddling cop life.

It begins as Vetter noses around where he's not supposed to, in pursuit of a prominent drug lord, who is finally brought down by the elite group of cops after more than seven years. Vetter's finally made the bust, and it feels good. Suddenly there are bad guys at the door and they aren't bringing wine! They arrive in the middle of the night at Sean's house and shoot both Sean and Stacey badly. She dies, but it takes a while before Sean can pull himself together long enough to dial for help.



I was more than just a little astonished at her death scene. It took me weeks to describe what I felt during this painstaking performance. I'm sure Diesel's work must have been improvised, since there is just no way I can imagine someone writing this complex performance. The performance is simply magic. He is blank, says nothing, and left me wondering where he was going with this. Now, I'm the first to tell you that, like a lot of people, I have "internet attention span"! Don't take long to get to the point with me or I'll go get popcorn. Somehow Diesel gets around that problem. He left me glued, sucked down the rabbit hole. I finally realized this was like a new lover coming into my life who refuses to follow the "formula" for lovemaking. Suddenly, he's playing with me and I'm revelling in one orgasm after another, wondering when we'll finally couple. Except he won't let me off the hook and I'm just going to enjoy the magnificent ecstasy he's coaxing out of me.

When Vetter is finally in the hospital and his buddies are able to talk to him they manage to tell him Stacey is dead. Diesel pulls out a nicely delivered cry fest and I figured we're finally back on track. I can finally get that lover to deliver and get on with things. Nope!

Vetter goes into a drug set up in an open lot. Oh no! He's back to this long performance and I'm wondering where we're going again. Again, I can't leave the screen. Why? What is it about this man's work here that I can't walk away from? As you might notice from the other film reviews, I'm not really a solid fan! But now he's got me. Forever he toys with me. I must be cranking up for orgasm eleven when he finally stops playing with me and loads up his damn gun to start shooting. Ahhhhhh, finally we get back on track. What a sweet release he is!

The film contains gritty images. Fair warning. The drug world isn't pretty and the pictures might get a bit tough in a couple of places. Diesel is very connected to his sturdy low-key Brando-like work. Here and there he brings out a touch of his love for Stacey by wiping blood from his ring. He has turned into a drinker/smoker and is not doing so well on a personal level. I would have liked to see the personal destruction dealt with a bit. Would a new widower, for instance, have trouble keeping the house clean or would he perhaps fuss over not throwing out his wife's belongings? It wasn't there.

A problem for me was the inoffensive but wholly unsatisfying ending. Vetter has a few words at Stacey's grave and walks off. I felt a deep sense of being unfulfilled and only felt better when I mentally rewrote the ending

and decided that about a year later he meets a lovely woman who, although different, makes him laugh and keeps his interest. After discussion this with Stacey at her grave, he removes his ring and gets on with his life. Vetter has *far* too much love to be without a woman for the rest of his life.

Still the film is sweet. Rent it. Let me know if you agree.

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

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



## **MBAs**

**Debbie Jabbour**

A recent newspaper report asked the question, "Has the MBA lost its lustre?" The article discussed the new trend toward liberal arts degrees as the preferred training in the business world, concluding that an MBA is no longer a ticket to wealth and success. Henry Mintzberg, a professor of management studies at McGill university, has written a book entitled *Managers, not MBA's*, in which he argues that management programs are not training students properly, turning out self-interested individuals who have little concern for the long-term interests of the company and are lacking in the "art and craft" of running a business. In

an effort to support his theory, Mintzberg uses examples such as the corrupt Enron culture, and the administration of Harvard MBA graduate George W. Bush.

The managing director of MIT's Entrepreneur Centre (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Ken Morse, is in agreement. He teaches a "charm school" for MBA's in which students are guided away from the "obnoxious, outrageous, egregious sense of entitlement" demonstrated by many MBA grads in the workplace. His program recommends that students join a company with the attitude that for the first year or so they will "know less than all the secretaries" (Jackson, 2004).

What are the implications of this trend for students? One executive search consultant stated that many recruiters are not impressed by an MBA that follows a Bachelor of Commerce, viewing these as interchangeable. She suggests that students would be better off with a liberal arts undergrad degree - since a liberal arts degree teaches how to research and read, how to learn and how to think.

Mintzberg himself has been named one of the Top 10 management thinkers in the world by the Financial Times, and he has developed an MBA program that is open to working managers only, one that incorporates this important liberal arts-type learning.

Athabasca University, however, has already been doing this for the last ten years! AU's Executive MBA is a progressive program that has been transforming management thinking and practice, challenging the traditional MBA culture that Mintzberg derides - hence the name: Centre for Innovative Management. Management experience is a key admissions criteria for the program, and the training focuses on application in the workplace. AU's MBA students are graduates who demonstrate the ability to think, research and read - those highly-desirable skills that recruitment companies seek.

- Jackson, J. (2004). Has the MBA lost its lustre?: Lowly liberal arts degree is once again the business world's preferred basic training. *Edmonton Journal*, August 31, 2004.
- Henry Mintzberg: <http://www.henrymintzberg.com>
- Athabasca University Centre for Innovative Management: <http://www.mba.athabascau.ca>
- Not all MBA's are Created Equal, Dr. Lindsay Redpath, Executive Director, CIM: Letters to the Editor, *Edmonton Journal*, September 2, 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](mailto:dominiqu@athabascau.ca)) or Dr. Judith Hughes ([judithh@athabascau.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## MR. SUB SCHOLARSHIP

Value: \$500

Application Deadline: September 2004

Notes: Awarded to a student that has completed first year (30 credit hours) and who is majoring in business computing in any undergraduate degree program. Please see Web site for more information.

### Contact Information:

Ms. Judy Dyck

Director, Awards & Financial Aid

515 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9

Phone: (204) 786-9459

Fax: (204) 786-8656

Web Site: <http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwsa/data/MSUB.html>

## Charles S. Noble Junior Football Scholarships

Value: \$1000

Application Deadline: October 1

Notes: Applicants must be Alberta residents and enrolled full-time in an undergraduate, professional or graduate program at a university, college or technical institute in Alberta. Upgrading programs do not qualify. Applicants must be a playing member on an Alberta Junior Football team. In addition, applicants must have maintained a minimum average of 65% in their previous semester. Students entering their first semester of post-secondary study do not have to meet this requirement.

Application: Interested applicants should contact their team coach or manager.

<http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=18>

## Robert C. Carson Memorial Bursary

Value: \$500

Application Deadline: October 1

Sponsored by: Established by Alberta Justice and Alberta Scholarship Programs.

Notes: Applicants must be Alberta residents and full-time students enrolled in the second year of either Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice. The qualifying Alberta institutions are: Lethbridge Community College, Mount Royal College, Grant MacEwan College, the University of Calgary or the University of Alberta. Recipients are nominated by the educational institution they are attending. Preference will be given to non-sponsored aboriginal students; however, all non-sponsored students are eligible.

Application: Application forms are available from the Student Awards Office.

<http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=42>

# Searching for Internships

*Shannon Maguire*

## Canada West Foundation Internships

**Website:** <http://www.cwf.ca/abcalcwf/doc.nsf/doc/Employment>

The Canada West Foundation is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit public policy research institute.

**Position description:** The internships involve conducting public policy research and engaging citizens in the public policy process.

**Paid:** Yes. Hourly wage.

**Time and length:** The internships are 4 months long and take place from January-April, May-August and September-December. The internships are located in Calgary, Alberta.

**Eligibility requirements:** You must be enrolled in a western Canadian Post-secondary institution or be a recent graduate of a western Canadian Post-secondary institution.

**How to Apply:** Contact Robert Roach, Director of Research, at [roach@cwf.ca](mailto:roach@cwf.ca) for more information.

## SCHOTT Internships

**Website:** <http://www.schott.com/english/jobs/students.html>

SCHOTT is a multinational technology-based group. They have strategic business units for advanced optical materials and components, home tech, electronics, pharmaceutical systems and solar.

**Position description:** SCHOTT has internships available in their various business groups.

**Paid:** Not mentioned.

**Time and length:** They prefer internships to be a minimum of 8 weeks but they can be longer.

**Eligibility requirements:** Applicants must be students and they must be able to speak German.

**How to apply:** Send a cover letter stating what area you would like to work in and for how long along with a resume and copies of certificates to:

### SCHOTT AG

Aus-und Weiterbildung, Hattenbergstr. 10, 55122 Mainz, Germany

Dagmar Gotzek - Phone: +49 (0)6131/66-4377 - Fax: +49 (0)6131/66-4030

[dagmar.gotzek@schott.com](mailto:dagmar.gotzek@schott.com)

### SCHOTT AG

Postfach 2480, 55014 Mainz, Germany

Frau Liane Becker - Phone: +49 (0)6131/66-3134 - Fax: +49 (0)6131/66-2068

[liane.becker@schott.com](mailto:liane.becker@schott.com)

## Chevron-Texaco Internships

**Website:** [http://www.chevrontexaco.com/about/careers/career\\_options/finance\\_development/internships.asp](http://www.chevrontexaco.com/about/careers/career_options/finance_development/internships.asp)

**Position description:** Internships available in the oil and gas industry working in Chevron-Texaco's financial center, corporate treasury department, corporate comptroller's department, shipping company and the operating company for domestic refining and marketing. Internships are located in San Francisco, California.

**Paid:** Not mentioned.

**Eligibility requirements:** You must be a student enrolled in a business degree with an emphasis on accounting or finance and have completed intermediate accounting and finance courses. You must also be in your junior year and be going into your senior year the following fall. They also require a 3.5 GPA.

**How to Apply:** Visit the Chevron-Texaco website listed above for a list of events that you can apply at.

# Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

To list events in your area, e-mail [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the word "events" in the subject line.

## 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](mailto:vsmf@islandnet.com)  
Fax: (250) 598-9788  
Website: [www.vsmf.org/vsmf](http://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 Adult .....FREE  
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](mailto:dse@look.ca) or Tressure Joe Tielemans  
[jtielemans@idirect.com](mailto:jtielemans@idirect.com)

For Membership inquiries, please contact Lorreta Tielemans [kalandkids@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:volunteers@epilepsytoronto.org)  
Fax: (416) 964-2492

Website: [www.torontobuskerfest.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.ualberta.ca/~hre04) or email [hre04@ualberta.ca](mailto: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](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](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.**

# classifieds

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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](mailto:aubsa@ausu.org) for more information. It's free to join!

## THE VOICE

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