

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

November 3, 2004
Volume 12 Issue 42



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THE VOICE

Nov 3, 2004

Volume 12, Issue 42

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CLASSIFIEDS!



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

Re: FedWatch, October 20, 2004

Dear Editor,

In regard to the article "Alberta Pays for Post-Secondary Office" why is it that they aren't paying for Corel WordPerfect Office, which is owned by Corel, a Canadian company? Why aren't they supporting Canadian IT jobs, and Canadian products instead? I think the Alberta Government needs to reconsider its priorities.

**Peter V. Tretter
Ottawa, Ontario**

Good question Peter. The obvious answer is that Microsoft made the offer, and perhaps Corel did not. Another obvious answer is that Microsoft has a near monopoly on the office software industry, and this is the software package most office workers are familiar with. However, such a monopoly can only exist if people and governments fail to support alternative products. It would be nice to see the government supporting a fine Canadian product, and such support would surely go a long way toward helping that product compete against the American software giant. It would also go a long way toward ensuring that consumers continue to have choice in the marketplace.

Thanks for the comment.

THE VOICE

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

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ALBERTA ELECTION VITAL TO ATHABASCA STUDENTS

*Duncan Wojtaszek, Executive Director
Council of Alberta University Students*

On November 22, Albertans will be going to the polls to elect a provincial government. This might seem like old hat for a province that has faced a federal and a municipal election in the past five months, but a provincial election is especially important for Athabasca students and others attending Alberta's universities and colleges.

And students are not being silent. The Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU), through the Council of Alberta University Students, has teamed up with other student and faculty organizations across the province to make sure Alberta's post-secondary education system is an issue this election. Together our coalition represents over 200,000 students and faculty including every Athabasca University student. Together we are running television and radio ads across the province, reaching every school through their student newspapers and radio stations, holding events on campus, dropping pamphlets on the doorsteps of 1 in 10 Albertan households, and using a website, <http://www.wiseup.ca>, as the centerpiece of the campaign.

The campaign's theme is "It's Time To Wise Up," and it is calling for re-investment in post-secondary education from the provincial government. Alberta's post-secondary education system is perhaps one of the best in the world. Our universities are responsive, high-quality and innovative. You see that everyday in your classes and the breakthroughs made in teaching at Athabasca University. But since 1993 we have seen a massive decline in government investment in our higher education system. With Alberta becoming debt-free and about to start its next century, it is time to re-invest in our students.

I do not have to tell you how much tuition has gone up, with Athabasca having the highest tuition of any institution in the province [ed. Note: this figure is accurate in terms of our total course costs, but our course fees include both tuition and book fees. See below for a table of current university tuition rates in Alberta]. I also do not need to tell you that this tremendous increase in student fees -- 273% since 1993 -- has not resulted in increased quality of education. In fact, if anything we are getting a lower quality of education than students were getting in before the cuts and tuition hikes.

What I do want to tell you though is that it does not have to be this way. The Alberta provincial government has the power to change our universities and colleges for the better. But for that to happen we need you to act.

If you are an Albertan, do not be afraid to speak up -- to your candidates, to the parties and to your friends. It is your job to make sure they know how you feel about post-secondary education. Regardless of where you attend Athabasca from, be sure to visit our website at <http://www.wiseup.ca> for lots of information and other easy ways to get involved.

Most importantly, every Alberta student should get out and vote on November 22. The opportunity to make our universities a priority is right there -- make your voice heard.

Tuition Comparison, Across Alberta - how does AU stack up?

University of Calgary tuition (1 course): \$459 + \$100-150/course for books (estimate)
University of Lethbridge tuition (1 course): \$455.52 + \$100/course for books (estimate)
University of Alberta tuition (1 course): \$453.72 + \$80-100/course for books (estimate)
Athabasca University tuition (1 course): \$408 + \$160 per course for books

The core difference is that at AU, book fees are mandatory, while these costs are optional (books can be borrowed, or bought second hand) at other universities. AU, therefore, has the highest mandatory course fees, but the AU tuition portion is in fact lower than the other universities. The AU book fee actually includes text books, and the AU produced course materials, such as the course manual and study guide, and is therefore an integral part of the course fee.



NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

Kudos to the Cucurbits

The term *Cucurbitaceae* may not sound immediately familiar, but the species within this plant family are some of the most conspicuous at this time of year: the squashes, gourds, melons and, last but not least, the glorious pumpkin--*Cucurbita pepo*. Halloween to many, would be nothing without this emblematic fruit. The Jack O' Lantern, with its varied expressions of joy, anger and silliness, now defines one of our most interesting holidays--the celebration of spirits, ghosts, goblins and horrors of all kinds.

The pumpkin is, for such a very short period of time, on display in all of its charming, rotund loveliness. Country farmers and city grocers alike seem to take special pride in the complex art of pumpkin arrangement. Plastic models of the pumpkin have been crafted into candy containers for the young; orange plastic bags with stylised faces, waiting to be stuffed with newspaper or cotton, have been created as home decorations; pumpkin stickers abound, ready to be displayed in the windows of those signaling the neighbourhood that they are open for Halloween fun. What surer sign of admiration for a plant could there be than this flattering mimicry of its unique charms?

In homage to this symbol of the season, won't you embark with me now on a journey of discovery into the history of *C. pepo* and family? The *Cucurbitaceae* family, with over 800 species, is characterised by soft- (although often prickly-) stemmed, mostly vine-like plants. Highly prolific, just a few seeds of the cultivated varieties planted lovingly in the garden can produce far more fruit (and cover far more territory) than most people are willing to deal with.

But its staggering growth is, in fact, what has made this plant family so important to humans. The indigenous people of North and Central America have been cultivating members of the squash family for hundreds of years. Squashes were so important to the Iroquois of the Great Lakes area, for example, that these plants had their own spiritual significance as one of the 'Three Sisters': along with corn and beans, the squashes were seen as vital beings in Iroquois society.

And no wonder: with 10% protein by weight, prolific growth habits, and great agricultural properties, these plants are wonders of the agrarian world. The squashes, grown by the Iroquois in hills amongst the corn and beans, would shade out unwanted weeds with their big, broad leaves, protect the underlying soil from erosion, and act as a living mulch, helping to maintain crucial soil moisture levels.

Of course, the squashes and pumpkins are useful for far more than just food: masks, dishes, carrying containers, and musical instruments were once made from these versatile fruits. White settlers found their own uses for the cucurbits as well: tea made from pumpkin seeds was used as a remedy for those suffering with worms, and insect repellent for livestock was made by rubbings from the plants' leaves.

How versatile is the lowly cucurbit! Its thick growth can be used to advantage to hide ugly spots in the garden; its flowers produce vast quantities of nectar and pollen for the bees and moths that pollinate them, and can be used as flavouring in soups and stews; its flesh can be made into all sorts of pies and breads; its seeds are some of the best-known providers of key nutrients; and its carved shell is a harbinger to the young to come and get their fill of Halloween tricks and treats.

Orange and yellow, warty and misshapen, the squash family holds a special place in our hearts. Take a moment to raise your glass to the melons, juicy and sweet, the gourds, bumpy and brown, the zucchini, squishy and tasty, and, of course, the pumpkin, shiny and bright, and, at this time of year, sporting an expression that says nothing if not 'I know, aren't I beautiful?'



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.

DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL NOVEMBER 15, 2004

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 November 15, 2004. The winner will be announced by December 7, 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 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 2000 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 if you have any questions.

NEW COURSE INTRODUCTION: *Human Evolution and Diversity (ANTH 278)*

Katie Patrick



Imagine, it is several million years ago. The world does not look like it does now. The plants are different. The animals are different. Most importantly, the *humans* are different! How did we come to be as we are today?

The answer can potentially be found in a nine letter word: Evolution. But what, exactly, does this word mean? How can this concept of changing life forms result in the species diversity and variation we see in our world today? Athabasca University's new course, Human Evolution and Diversity (ANTH 278), will answer these and many

other questions for you. A 3-credit course in the Social Sciences, ANTH 278 starts right at the beginning of human evolution, following it through its many stages to modern times.

ANTH 278 is divided into five parts, each exploring a different concept or historical time associated with our evolutionary history. First, you'll gain background to the "basics" of physical anthropology--in other words, what it means to evolve and how this can be achieved across the centuries. Once you arrive at the second part, you'll be primed and to delve into the history of evolutionary theory. What was Erasmus Darwin's role? How about Charles Darwin? Did the Darwins conceive evolutionary theory, or was it deduced by others long before? What, exactly, was all the fuss about Darwin's Galapagos finches?

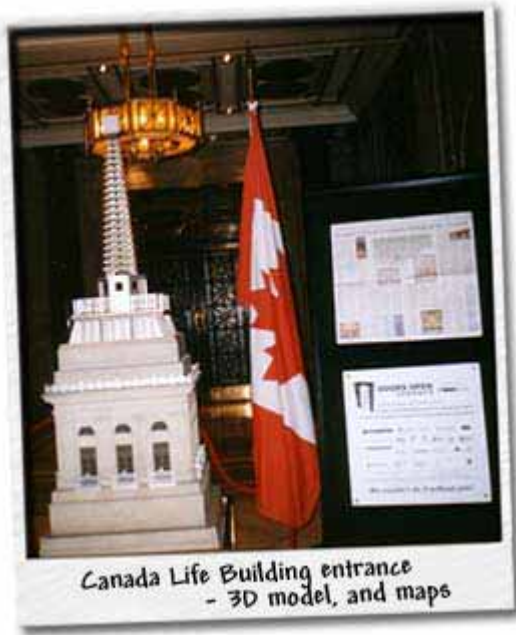
Part three of the course focuses on the behaviour of primates: how they function biologically, socially, and with the surrounding environment. How are they similar in these aspects to modern-day humans? So far, you may have wondered where human ancestors, come in. Wait no longer! The fourth section of ANTH 278 masterfully discusses pre-hominoid beginnings (that's where all the Neanderthal and "Early Man" excitement comes in!). You'll be introduced to the common ancestor theory, and comparative anatomy and physiology, as well as the progress in human evolution over the centuries. Finally, you'll wind up your evolution-based learning adventure by touching on concepts of variation and adaptation.

Your course grade in Human Evolution and Diversity is calculated through 3 lab-style assignments (in my opinion, these hands-on assignments are the most fun!) worth 60%, one telephone quiz (worth 5%), and two exams (midterm and final), totaling 15% and 20% of your mark, respectively.

Assistant anthropology professor Sheila Greaves specializes in physical anthropology--in other words, the subject matter of ANTH 278! Dr. Greaves is sympathetic to the needs of AU students, having finished her PhD on ethnicity and Canadian aboriginal cultures via distance education. In addition to teaching ANTH 278, she also currently tutors several other anthropology courses, including the Archaeology of Ancient Peoples (ANTH 277), the Inuit Way (ANTH 307), Ancient Civilizations of the Americas (ANTH 318), First Nations of Canada (ANTH 362), History of Anthropological Thought (ANTH 434), Alberta Archaeology: Prehistoric Lifeways (ANTH 376), Urban Anthropology (ANTH 394), and Archaeology: Principles in Practice (ANTH 476). Dr Greaves is also currently active in anthropology-based literature, and has written several publications. If you're interested in more information on Dr Greaves, you can visit her webpage at: www.athabascau.ca/anthropology/staff/sheila.php

Discover theories about your ancestors' early beginnings! Wonder about evolution no longer! Enroll in Human Evolution and Diversity (ANTH 278) today.

For more information, visit the course syllabus at: www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/anth/anth278.htm



VOLUNTEER VENTURE

Opening Toronto's Doors

Antonia Cruz

"Where the doors open for a weekend each year, during the spring season, brightening up the town with plenty of joy and cheer," [1] I recalled, as I thought of continuing my spring travels in Toronto. This year, however, instead of traveling around with my backpack, I decided that I would trade it in for something different, and chose instead to help other travelers in the city...

My venture began a few weeks before the day of the "Doors Open Toronto"[2] event in May. On the overcast Saturday morning, I arrived at New City Hall. Inside of the building, there was a large group of people, eagerly wanting to help out on event day. As everyone picked up their volunteer information packages about our assigned locations, we waited to gather in the city council chamber for the presentation, which began shortly afterward with a short

video highlighting the city of Toronto and ended with guest speakers highlighting the importance of helping out on the fifth anniversary of such an event. *"Wow, I never knew the need to help out on an event such as this!"* I thought.

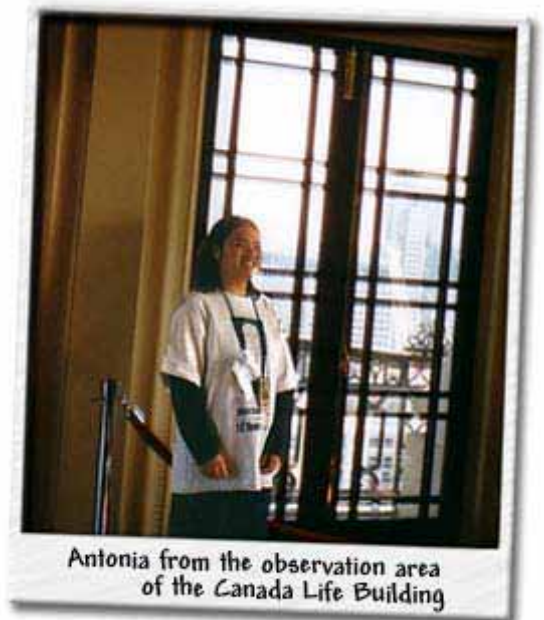
Before I knew it, time had passed and it was the day of "Doors Open Toronto". So, on a sunny spring Saturday in May, I was set to begin. Dressed in my blue and white volunteer shirt with my volunteer name tag hanging around my neck, I boarded the subway to my assigned location. On the way, I quickly re-read the information sheet about the location I was assigned to: "At 17 stories and 280 feet, it was the tallest building on University Avenue at the time", I read from the list of facts, trying to remember as much as I could about the building.

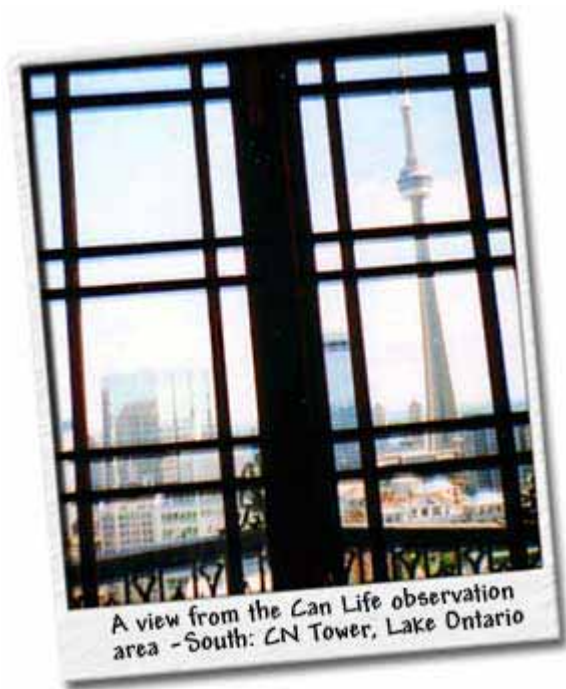
Arriving early at the location, I decided to have a look around my assigned location. From the outside, I looked up to see the lighted weather beacon forecasting the clear weather of the day. Inside, I noticed the beautiful Roman columns and high ceilings that flanked the entranceway.

Seeing a short lineup for the elevator ride, I decided to take the elevator to the enclosed observation area on the top floor. Looking out the floor to ceiling windows seventeen stories above the city, I could see the CN Tower, with Lake Ontario in the background from one side, and the giant buildings towering over the downtown core of the city from another. On the ceiling of the observation area was a giant chandelier high above. Slowly, the sun began to shine through the clouds and a slight breeze blew through the open windows, creating the perfect viewing conditions for the day.

Heading back downstairs, I went to the area where there was a movie presentation about the building. People sat in the room with their eyes glued to the screen. Through a series of short clips, the movie depicted life during the early days of life in Toronto and told about the history of the building's construction. In the same room, there were display areas where people could walk around and look at the artifacts taken from the original offices.

When it was time for my shift at the Canada Life Building in the afternoon, I stood in front of the giant mahogany doors behind the iron gates.





"Hello. Welcome. Straight ahead to the elevators; turn to the right for the movie presentation about the building," I said politely to the crowds approaching the door. I stood in the doorway holding the door open for the visitors, from babies in carriages to seniors in walkers, from people who were familiar with Toronto, to foreign travellers. People of all ages, cultures and backgrounds came through the doors. It seemed as though everyone wanted to participate in the Doors Open experience!

"Can such an insignificant gesture as opening the door and greeting people make a difference in the city?" I wondered.

Just when I thought I was about to give up, more crowds continued to trickle through the doors, asking questions such as "When was this building built?", "Where can I find more information about Doors Open?", "What are some of the other Doors Open Toronto buildings located around here?", "What can I do when I go inside the building?", "Why is it called the Canada Life Assurance Company Building and not the Canada

Life Insurance Company Building?", "What do the different coloured lights on the weather indicator mean?", etc., the visitors were eager to learn!

Suddenly, a limousine pulled up at the front door, and a huge crowd of people emerged. One by one, women in fancy dresses climbed out of the car, followed by men in tuxedos. A photographer climbed out last, draped with photography equipment, and proceeded to set up in front of the building. Posing for the camera, the bride, groom and the rest of the wedding party stood in front of the Canada Life building, using it as a scenic background for their wedding photos. Some of the passers-by asked what was going on, as there was quite a commotion out front. I told them about the Doors Open event and proceeded to guide the crowds past the wedding party and into the building. Despite the commotion in front of the building, the crowds were even more eager to tour the Canada Life building.

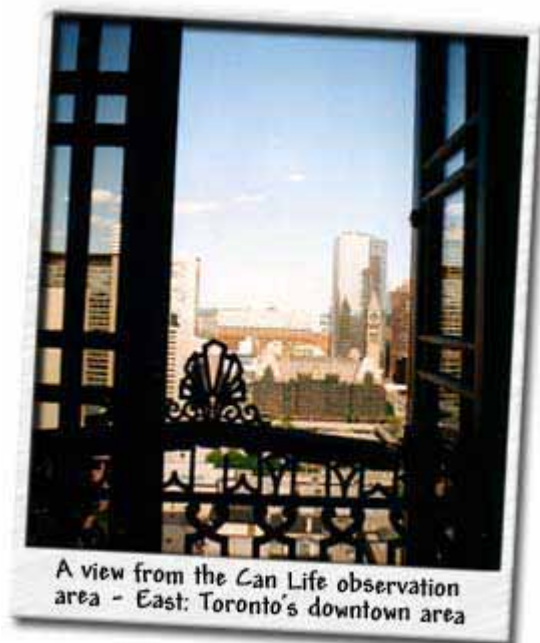
Before I knew it, the day was over as quickly as it began. Sadly, it was time to turn away people who wanted to enter the building. As the last group of people left, I was left in awe as to the impressive turnout of the amount of people who visited the Canada Life building today. "2000 people came to the building today," I heard one of the other volunteers mention.

With the crowds gone, I took one last final elevator ride to the top of the building and had a "private tour" with the group of volunteers who were also working on the building that day. "Click." With my camera I captured the memories of the day in this majestic landmark.

As I look back on that sunny day in May, I look at the photographs laid out on my desk and see magnificent scenes of Toronto. I close my eyes and imagine closing the giant mahogany doors on the travels of the day, hoping to re-open them again another year, with a "hello" at the door...

1 Cruz, Antonia. "Poetry Palette: Toronto Travels." The Voice Magazine. 5 May 2004.

2 Doors Open Toronto. May 2004 - <http://www.doorsopen.org>





There is a scene in the great 1949 Orson Welles film *The Third Man* in which the characters played by Welles and Joseph Cotton are suspended in the enclosed cage of what was then the world's largest ferris wheel. The period setting is the fairgrounds in the Russian-occupied sector of post WW II Vienna -- a city of bombed-out buildings, political intrigue, and rampant crime and corruption. Welles's character is a notorious black-marketeer named Harry Lime, whose sale of contaminated or counterfeit penicillin has resulted in enormous profits for himself and the painful deaths of numerous sick and injured hospital patients, including infants. He is contemplating shooting or pushing from the cage Holly Martins (Cotton's character), a childhood friend of the racketeer's who is outraged by Lime's actions and has threatened to turn him over to the authorities. With smiling contempt, Lime defends his callous actions by pointing to the

crowds of fairgoers far below. He refers to them as "dots", and ask Martins if he offered him twenty thousand pounds for each each dot, whether he would really care if some of them stopped moving, or whether he would "calculate how many dots you could afford to spend, free of income tax."

It's a scene that has always gotten under my skin, because I think that it contains a fundamental and chilling truth about human nature. Although we don't like to admit it, there's a little bit of Harry Lime in most of us -- it's just that we're generally not honest enough or self-aware enough to actually admit it. Except for the very best and committed amongst us, we more or less share his sociopathic ability to turn a blind eye to the consequences of our lifestyle choices. No matter how kind or compassionate we may be on an individual basis, we tend to objectify and dehumanize others and conveniently ignore their suffering, as long as it suits the purposes of our endless pursuit of "the good life".

Most of us, for instance, would be appalled to actually see children as young as eight or nine years old removed from their families and deprived of education, working from morning to night on sweat shop assembly lines for wages barely enough to keep them alive. Yet at the same time, we don't think twice about visiting Wal Mart or the dollar store down the street to buy the fruits of their labours and keep this cynical exploitation going. We all know, or should know, where those "Made in China" trinkets and googaws come from, and who is really paying the price for them, but we ignore this because we all love a good bargain or a "special offer". We all want those half-price "designer towels" and cheap espresso machines. Likewise, most of us agree that protecting our environment and preserving the integrity of our food sources is vitally important. Yet we continue to buy genetically engineered foods, pesticide-laden produce and useless products that ultimately wind up in landfills.

It's tempting, of course, to put the blame on others. We tell ourselves that it's not our fault, that we're just trying to get by and that we don't get paid enough to purchase ethically produced products. With our busy lives, we just don't have the time to sit down and research our consumer purchases. It's not us, it's the marketers and advertising agencies, the shadowy multinational corporations.

But the truth is that we do have a choice. The power to change the world resides in our purses and our wallets. For every cheap trinket or flashy gizmo that we buy, we have the choice of finding an ethically produced alternative or simply walking away from them. Every day there are more and more socially conscious businesses setting up shop. There are fair trade / shade grown coffees, GMO-free foods, handcrafted cheeses, locally-produced clothes made by employees who at least get paid what passes for minimum wage in this country (although this is still inadequate). There is a staggering amount of information in every bookstore and on the internet to help us to make more informed buying choices. All it takes is the willpower and resolution to make a few simple changes in our lives -- to accept the fact that if we don't want to support child slavery and foot the bill for the slow contamination and destruction of our planet, we must learn to take responsible for our actions. We must be willing to look harder, pay a little bit more, or simply walk away from things that we don't really need. It's all up to us.



THIS WEEK IN GLOBAL WOMEN'S NEWS
16-22 October 2004
Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Margaret Hassan

Margaret Hassan, kidnapped on her way to work where she runs Care International's Iraq operation, was a strong opponent of UN sanctions on Iraq. Tony Blair, who supported the sanctions which Margaret Hassan condemned, remarked that Britain will do all that it can to secure her release.

Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer said on Thursday that Australia would not offer a ransom or withdraw its 300-troop contingent in Iraq to secure her freedom but offered that the Australian Government might appeal for Hassan's release. "There are, if you like, three authorities who will have a direct interest in getting her released other than us--the British Government, because she's a dual Iraqi-British national, obviously the...interim Government in Iraq, and Care Australia who we're helping as best we can," he said. <http://www.dawn.com/2004/10/21/int7.htm>; <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/10/21/1098316790546.html>

The Caravan for Justice

The Caravan for Justice for the Women of Ciudad Juarez, a project to raise awareness regarding the murder of women in this region, kicked off at the University of Washington, October 18. The Mexican government, noted for underreporting atrocities, has recently stated that over 4000 young women have recently gone missing from Juarez. The police are allegedly complicit in the killings. See www.mexicosolidaritynetwork.org for updates as the caravan moves south.

Women's Forum Against Fundamentalism in Iran: Atrocities

In Iran Fatemeh Haghighat-Pajouh has reportedly been sentenced to death for the murder of her husband, who, she claims, tried to rape her then 15-year-old daughter from a previous marriage. Fatemah's execution was expected to take place this week.

The fundamentalist regime of Iran is planning to stone a 13-year-old girl, Jila, in the city of Marivan in coming days. Jila was raped and impregnated by her brother and Iran's clerical judge has sentenced her to death by stoning. According to the Iranian regime's penal code, stoning is the punishment for those who commit adultery.

From: Women's Forum Against Fundamentalism in Iran press@wfafi.org
WFAFI, P.O.Box 15205, Boston, MA 02215, Tel: (617) 590-1665

Update on the Case of Jila Izadi in Iran

Due to the immediate international response, Jila Izadi's stoning has been postponed. WFAFI calls upon all the women's activists and advocates, NGO's and human rights organizations to urge the UN General Assembly, in

its current session, to issue a resolution condemning Iran's human rights violations and particularly its criminal behaviour toward women.

Please write to:

Secretary Powell

Ambassador John C. Danforth - usa@un.int

Secretary General Kofi Annan - ecu@un.org

European Parliaments - civis@europarl.eu.int

WFAFI - P.O.Box 15205, Boston, MA 02215, Tel: (617) 590-1665, CONTACT: press@wfafi.org

Killing by Any Other Name...

Last Friday In Lahore, India, the non-government organisation Aurat Foundation held a conference on honour killing. Participants felt that the bill presented to the National Assembly by ruling party Pakistan Muslim League was weak and flawed. One glaring omission was that the bill had not demanded a mandatory punishment for honour crimes. Participants hoped that an effective bill would be presented to the Assembly and incorporated in the Constitution.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page==story_16-10-2004_pg7_27

Women Speaking Out

Last Saturday a "Women in Black" group in Lawrence, Kansas crashed a tailgate party before a football game.

From a participant: "Wearing black garb and carrying our 'Bush lies, 1000's Die' and '1157 US dead, 15,000+ Iraqi Dead' signs, we slowly and silently walked through the crowd...Screaming angry people yelled obscenities at us and called us traitors. Out of thousands of people, only three offered encouragement. One women walked beside me and said, 'you're so brave, thanks for doing this.' ...An African-American man took his hat off as we walked past, and said, 'thank you ladies for doing this.' Then another man screamed obscenities at us. The kind black man held him back and said something like, 'I'm a Veteran. You don't know about war, man. These people are trying to help us.' He continued to talk the guy down as we walked on. He was my hero."

womeninblack mailing list - womeninblack@listas.nodo50.org

<http://www.nodo50.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/womeninblack>

What, if Anything, is Wrong with Pink?

October is breast cancer month, and thus the month to air the controversy over the raising of money for breast cancer research and education. The conflict revolves around allegations that some companies are using the pink campaign (colouring products or packaging pink to tell consumers that a portion of sales of that item will go to breast cancer research and education) to enhance their image ("Corporate Pinkwashing") while only donating a small fraction of the profits to cancer research. Another issue is that the very companies who openly sponsor this research are themselves possible culprits in the proliferation of breast cancer!

A mammogram only detects existing breast cancer. Recent studies have strongly evidenced the possibility of a direct link between breast cancer and the environment. Several studies have shown that routine mammography screening does not benefit women under 50, and some researchers argue that it may actually increase the risk of developing breast cancer. GE and Du Pont aggressively market mammography screening toward younger women. The concept of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) was dreamt up in 1985, by Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), a multi-billion dollar producer of plastics, pesticides, and paper products. ICI was later purchased by Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, a British based multinational corporation and manufacturer of pharmaceuticals, as well as herbicides and fungicides known to be carcinogenic. In 1997, Zeneca merged with the Swedish pharmaceutical company, Astra, forming the AstraZeneca partnership, the chief financial sponsor for NBCAM and key player in both the chemical and cancer industries. NBCAM and the cancer industry have chosen not to make breast cancer prevention a priority. Judging from their profits, prevention doesn't pay nearly as well as the search for a cure.

General Electric, which sells more than US \$100 million per year in mammography machines, has the highest number of EPA Superfund sites in the US, and is responsible for dumping an estimated one million tons of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) oil into the Hudson River. Du Pont, which markets much of the film used in mammography machines, is allegedly the most polluting company in the US. The cancer-treatment drug Tamoxifen may cause uterine cancer, liver cancer and gastrointestinal cancer.

From Lara Jill Rosenblith, *Your Guide to Environmental Issues* -

<http://environment.about.com/cs/health/a/envirobreast.htm>

More information at:

kevin@breastcancerfund.org

rfarmer@bcaction.org

<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm?aid=2036>

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation - <http://www.komen.org/>

Sisterly Sayings

"Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes"

Maggie Kuhn

<http://incurable-hippie.blogspot.com>

Sisters Bringing Home the Prize

Austrian writer Elfriede Jelenik, winner of the 2004 Nobel Prize for Literature, writes about the structures of gender and capitalism with a critical eye. She writes in German and her works have been translated into 18 languages.

Her novels available in English are: *The Piano Teacher* (Trans: Joachim Neugroschel: 1988), *Wonderful, Wonderful Times* (Trans: Michael Hulse:1990), *Women as Lovers* (Trans: Martin Chalmers:1994) and *Lust* (Trans: Michael Hulse:1992). All are published by Serpent's Tail, London).



It's dusk at Grandview Park, the heart of Vancouver's bohemian Commercial Drive neighbourhood, and the mummers are beginning to gather. Beside the usual vampires, mummies, wizards and catsuits, there are towering stilt-legged ravens, bicycle-riding dinosaurs, a bizarre snowy white creature with the wings of angel and the head of a wasp, and a huge assortment of grotesque, beautiful and just plain silly creations with fur, horns, and enormous paper mache masks.

Throughout the park, wraith-like figures dance around bonfires. There are witches gathered about smoking cauldrons. A Cirque du Soleil-style clown plays a wheezy-sounding concertina and leads a group of dancers as they snake through the crowd of several thousand celebrants preparing for the Parade of Lost Souls.

A neighbourhood-driven event, the annual parade is an intertwining of several different cultural traditions, including the Mexican Day of the Dead, All Saint's Day, pagan celebrations, and North American Hallowe'en festivities that feels both ancient and futuristic. In honour of the event the homes and gardens up and down the parade route have been transformed into a sort of alternate reality. Apartment balconies draped with white sheets become shadow-puppet stages. A man sits high in the branches of an elm tree singing strangely haunting songs about pumpkins and destiny.

There are numerous shrines dedicated to the memories of the deceased. One house is decorated with illuminated screens on which are amazing pen-and-ink drawings of lungs, brains, spinal columns and other body parts that look like illustrations from a renaissance scientist's notebook - a reminder perhaps of the fragility and beauty of the human body. Old black and white photographs of long dead people in antique dresses and headgear (the homeowner's descendants?) are displayed on a table and projected onto a wall.

For one night every year these streets in the heart of the city become a place of strange mutations, where men and women may be transformed into beasts and spirits, houses into shrines, life into death. It's a land that is a little-acknowledged but essential part of our world, a place of magic and dark enchantment that lies in the shadowy recesses of all those comforting fairy stories we grew up with, and just beyond the map of our conscious perception of reality. It's a world far more fantastical than our day-to-day vision of the cosmos, and yet essentially far more true to the wild and messy nature of existence.

This irrational place is a territory through which children, who are more open to the possibilities of life, tend to navigate with far more intuitional ease than most adults. Perhaps it's something that most of us are taught to outgrow. Located outside the realm of rational understanding, it is the region of consciousness that poets, visionaries and shamans travel to in search of some of the wilder varieties of beauty and truth. There is, in fact, something both childlike and shamanic about that part of us that is driven to participate in events of this kind - moved to celebrate the darkness and wonder that is all about us, to honour those who have passed before us, and to reflect upon the value of the gift we've been given. Hopefully it's a part of us that can never be completely lost.



Dear Barb;

I have just graduated from university and will be starting a new job next week. I want to save for a house, but I'm not sure where to begin. During my university years I did some budgeting, but it really wasn't very effective. My question is how can I learn to budget wisely? Are there any tricks to successful financial planning?

Ben in B.C.

Excellent question, Ben. You obviously realize how important budgeting is to reaching your goals. Home ownership is a dream most people share and are able to achieve through careful planning. There are some basic steps I can suggest to get you started, but that is the easy part. The hard part is going to be up to you. For a financial plan to work, you'll need a lot of discipline and willingness to sacrifice.

The first step in budgeting wisely is to track all your expenses for one month. This will give you an idea of where your money is going. Once you know how much money is coming in and how much is going out, you can organize your expenses into categories; for example housing/rent, food, utilities, automobile, insurance, loans, credit cards, clothing, personal, and misc/other. Subtract these totals from your income. The difference is what you have available for saving. Many experts say we should have three months income put aside for emergencies. I believe for most people this is difficult to achieve, but it is definitely worth striving toward.

The next step is to decide what type of home you are interested in purchasing and the price range you will be able to afford. After that, determine how much you need for your down payment. Many financial institutions are offering 100% financing, but this will increase your monthly payments and leave you with no equity in your home. If possible aim for 5% or 10% of your purchase price as your down payment. Let's say you want to purchase a condo for \$100,000, with 5% down. You will need to save \$5,000. Calculate how much you can save monthly in order to purchase this home within a defined time. If you want to be in your own home within a year, you will have to save approximately \$400 a month. You must also consider other costs involved in purchasing a home, such as lawyer's fees, land transfer tax and moving expenses.

Nonetheless, there are ways to reduce your monthly expenses and become a homeowner sooner. If you have a school loan or other debts, a consolidation loan would be beneficial as it provides a better interest rate than you would be paying on credit cards. Combining your debts will leave you with only one monthly payment. As a result, you will have more disposable income to save toward your down payment. However, you have to be careful with consolidating debts, as you do not want to run your credit cards up again. A good guideline is, if you cannot afford to pay cash, then perhaps you really cannot afford the item.

Ultimately, Ben, you will be ahead of the game, if you learn early in your adult life to live within your means, not beyond. Thanks so much for asking such a valuable question.

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



BAD TIDINGS

When I was six years old the thing with the open sores and the razor sharp teeth lived in the shadows at the back of my closet. At night, unable to sleep but too afraid to open my eyes, I would lie in bed and listening to it rustling about, waiting for an opportunity when my guard was down to attack. One night, I knew, it would eat the very flesh from my bones.

When I was ten years old my father went away on a business trip. I had a terrible dream that his plane fell burning from the sky. There were bits of burning wreckage scattered across a distant field, a place where nobody would ever find them. I woke screaming and inconsolable. I insisted on phoning his hotel room, and listened to ring after ring. When he came home two days later he brought me a bone-handled penknife with a picture of Niagara Falls.

When I was twenty-one I began to get migraine headaches and dizziness. I read medical texts and decided that I had a tumour of the brain. I lived recklessly. I bargained with God. I made promises. I went for tests. Months later the symptoms passed and I was still alive.

A few hours before my daughter was born, my wife's blood pressure shot up. There were dangers, possible complications. I put on a reassuring mask. The long hours of the night seemed filled with omens. We'd been so lucky for so long. Terrible things happen every day. In the morning my daughter's beautiful head rested against my wife's shoulder. We wrapped our child in blankets and drove her home.

Ten days before the November second U.S. election I read a prediction that George W. Bush would win another term in office. In the pit of my stomach I knew right then that this would come true. A vision of the world of the near future passed before me. I could see fighter planes flying over sleeping villages. I could imagine the burning houses and crumbling buildings. I could imagine the beggar-filled streets, the wasted landscapes, the riots, the rolling tanks, the oil drenched beaches, the fixed bayonets, the grinning skulls, the barbed-wire fences, the radiation victims, the hungry children, militias with gas masks, the rich feeding on the flesh of the poor, tomorrow's screaming headlines, the static on the radio.

I hope my streak continues.





Elections, Elections Everywhere

The US Election is over and once again George W. Bush has received the presidency. While this seems to be the wrong choice to most of the rest of the world, it's the one that Americans have made and, unlike in the 2000 elections, they have done so quite clearly. Not only did they award the Presidency to the Republicans, but also control of their Senate and Congress. While probably better for Canada, as President Bush partially campaigned on being less protectionist than John Kerry would be, it means another four years of nervousness for the rest of the world.

Americans poured out in a great show of their Christian faith. In fact, if you look at the exit polls you'll see that the "Most Important Quality" of President Bush, according to those who voted for him, is his religious faith. However, their showing of faith has led me to question my own.

You see, I had faith that the "moral majority" was really just a vocal minority. I believed that people had become more tolerant and that, while there were still some hardliners who were unable to accept that any other form of spirituality was valid, these were very much in the minority. This election proved me wrong.

I believed that, for the most part, we'd come to understand that marriage is an expression of love between two people, and much like the old taboo against inter-racial marriages, the taboo against homosexual marriage was also crumbling. However, in the 11 states that proposed amendments defining marriage as strictly man/woman, the proposals were passed, 11 times.

I had faith that even among those who don't agree with my beliefs on these two issues, the American people would see the lies they had been told, the massively ballooning deficit, and the slow but steady trickle of dead American soldiers, and remember that they are in a country where government and religion are supposed to be separate. But the American people apparently had other ideas.

This election took my faith away. Perhaps all this time I've been foolishly optimistic in blaming America's rogue-like actions strictly on the American government when perhaps I should look toward the American populace instead.

What it all boils down to is that, perhaps, people in general aren't as good as I'd thought them to be. That's a hard pill to swallow.

It also kills my hope that there will be any change in the upcoming Alberta provincial election. Once again, Premier Klein is running, and so far his worst opposition is himself. Yet if the election in the United States is any demonstration, even that doesn't mean much when it comes time to vote. After all, if people are voting on intangibles, then there's little chance of reaching them with rational discussion.

A Good Idea Spreads

The Alberta government has picked up on a good idea from Manitoba. In 2005-2006, 10 bursaries that cover 100% of medical school tuition will be available. These bursaries will go to medical students in exchange for a five year commitment to practice in rural Alberta.

Now that the Alberta Government has begun realizing how bursaries can be a win-win situation, it's my hope that they start applying this solution at a more general level. They should look for high need areas and apply these kinds of conditional bursaries wherever they can. It not only means a better educated and skilled populace for Alberta, it also helps us where we need it most.

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



RESEARCH INITIATIVE LEAVES AU OUT *Jabbour*

Debbie

A recent news report announced that Alberta's "three major universities" are working quietly on a plan to "co-ordinate and expand their energy research activities under a single umbrella" (Lamphier, 2004). This work is going on so "quietly" that Alberta's fourth major university has apparently been excluded.

A three-way accord has been signed by the presidents of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge, in which the universities agree to work together to pursue "ground-breaking research in the areas of oilsands extraction, clean-coal technology, hydrogen production, bio energy, and land-water management." The proposal is entitled the "Pan Alberta-Canada Energy & Environment Research Initiative (PACEER)" and is supervised by the Alberta Ministry of Innovation and Science through the Alberta Energy Research Institute. Funding in the vicinity of more than \$60 million annually is being sought from government and industry partners, and each university is to focus on a different research area, with the goal of positioning Alberta as a research leader in "hydrocarbons, clean-coal technology, hydrogen and alternative energy".

With the potential for some 1000 researchers to be involved in the work, some discussion is already occurring over which university will have the right to host PACEER. U of A's David Lynch insists that areas of research will be shared to maximize each university's individual strengths, and there will be no competition, with the project "truly being handled in a virtual mode, with no single administrative centre."

One cannot help but wonder why Athabasca University, a leader in virtual communication & distance education research, has been excluded from this important research venture. Although AU is not known as a research university, there are many relevant research projects being conducted at AU and we hold two Canada Research Chairs - Martin Connors for Space Science and Terry Anderson for Education. AU has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to environmental issues, and has recently opened up the BA in Environmental Studies. An MBA with Energy Concentration will soon be available. Even if AU does not have the same level of expertise and background in energy research, certainly Alberta's "other" three major campus-based universities could take advantage of AU's expertise in virtual communication to support and facilitate this collaborative research project.

Lamphier, G. (2004). Alberta universities work to unite research efforts. In the Edmonton Journal, October 14, 2004. <http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/news/business/story.html?id=80bbce09-130a-47e8-8c79-4fe23488f4ad>

Athabasca University Research Centre: <http://www.athabascau.ca/research/>

Canada Research Chairholder Database: http://www.chairs.gc.ca/web/chairholders/index_e.asp

AU's Executive MBA with Energy Concentration:

<http://www.mba.athabascau.ca/Titan/aucimwebsite.nsf/AllDoc/56B3C13BA8BE430587256E3E0067384A?OpenDocument>

Primetime Update

Week of October 31, 2004

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

WHAT'S NEW ON PRIMETIME?

THE APPRENTICE 2 Thursday, Sept. 9th, 2004

Last week teams got the reshuffle and then were forced to clean up dog poop. Mosaic lost the task and Apex got to spend time with mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg. Stacy was told that she bitched too much instead of stepping up and making changes, and was fired.

This week, Andy immediately feels the brunt of having no experience, as Trump's selected business people are surprised and angry to see him return from the boardroom.

THE TASK: Via live video conferencing, Trump called the candidates from his private jet. The teams learn that they'll be working at Deutsch Advertising, where they'll create an ad campaign. The teams head over to the agency and meet with Donny Deutsch, the owner of the company, who tells them that their task is specifically to develop a recruitment campaign for the New York City Police Department.

MOSAIC: Andy, who is finally provided the opportunity to be project manager, encounters conflict with Maria. She was concerned about attracting their young, target audience. She told Andy that they needed to infuse more sex appeal into the campaign. But Andy stood his ground and stayed true to his initial vision.

APEX: Near the end of the day, Elizabeth, who is also chosen at random to be Project Manager; is not happy with the concept that she had agreed to at the beginning of the day. Kevin offered to help come up with a new concept that could be used with all of the footage they had. The two worked into the night and came up with a new idea. Afterwards, Elizabeth said she wouldn't change her mind again, even though she knew that the others on the team might not be happy with the change. As expected, Raj felt that the ads didn't have enough strength and Elizabeth backed off the idea.

When Elizabeth went back to the original idea, thus implying Kevin's wasted effort, he tells the camera that his project manager sucks. Jennifer M. went so far as to suggest a coup. She said that the team should fire Elizabeth as Project Manager. However, the group didn't follow through on the threat. As Apex finished up their campaign, conflict ran high. Kevin said that Elizabeth was trying to put band aids on the military campaign. Kevin said that if you're going to do the military campaign then you should just do the best one you can. Raj completely disagreed with what Elizabeth was doing with the text she was adding to the still images for their posters. He felt it had nothing to do with the themes they were trying to get across.

THE SCORES: Determined by the company owner, Donny, Mosaic won by a landslide. Trump congratulated Mosaic and told them that since they had done something for the City of New York, the city would return the favor; as their reward, Mosaic were driven to Times Square where they got to see their ad played in public on the jumbo screen.

BOARDROOM: After Apex entered the boardroom, everyone gave an honest rendition of Elizabeth's failure as a project manager. Donald asked Elizabeth whom she would bring back into the boardroom to face the firing, and Elizabeth said she'd bring Raj and Chris. But Trump thought for a moment and then stunned everyone by saying, "Honestly Elizabeth, I don't think it's necessary. You're fired."

Mosaic

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

Kelly (37) - Software Executive

Maria (31) - Marketing Executive

Sandy (28) - Bridal Salon Owner

Wes (28) - Private Wealth Manager

Apex Corp.

Chris (30) - Stockbroker

Ivana (28) - Venture Capitalist

Jennifer M (30) - Attorney

Kevin (29) - Law Student

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

You're Fired!

Rob (32) - Corporate Branding Salesman
Bradford (33) - Attorney
Stacie J (35) - Restaurateur
Jennifer C (31) - Real Estate Agent
Pamela (32) - Investment Firm Partner
John (24) - Marketing Director
Stacy R (26) - Attorney
Elizabeth (31) - Consulting Firm Owner

SURVIVOR: VANUATU - Thursdays - 9pm on CBS

Last week Yassur got rid of Lisa, based on a rumor Ami started about deception and mistrust, instead of keeping the women's alliance strong and getting rid of Rory, who refused to do any work as he knew he'd figured on going home. This week, we see Rory beg for his life and when that doesn't work, he makes threats.

REWARD CHALLENGE: One tribe member at a time must hurry to open coconuts, and then race with the juice through a wood crawl, seesaws, wood hurdles and a grid box to deposit the juice into the receiving jar. Once the jar is filled, the last member must carefully carry it to the finish line. The first tribe to deliver their full jar wins the Reward: some time at Vanuatu Home Café, enjoying coffee, juices, treats and some love from back home. The winning tribe is also allowed to bring a coffee maker and some coffee back to camp. After filling Yasur's jar, Leann almost trips to single-handedly lost the Challenge; however, she finds her feet and brings the full jar across the finish line to secure Yasur's reward.

IMMUNITY CHALLENGE: each tribe is equipped with a pouch of marbles and a slingshot. In turn, each tribe member must take a shot at a ceramic tile grid. The first tribe to break all twenty tiles wins Immunity. As the competition began, Lopevi gained a small lead. After Yasur overtook the lead with the sharp shooting of Rory, John missed his tile, squandering an opportunity for Lopevi to narrow the conflict. With only one tile left for victory and desperately needing Immunity to stay on the island, Rory aimed his slingshot and announced, "This one's for my baby boy." Rory launched the marble and watched it crash through that final tile, securing himself at least three more days on the island of Vanuatu.

TRIBAL COUNCIL: John, whom the men consider lazy, lobbies Chris and Twila to get rid of Chad, however admits to the camera that it is himself who's most likely to depart. In the end, John figured out where he stood; he suffers a five-to-one vote that expels him from his tribe.

THE TEAMS

LOPEVI

Chad	35	Teacher (Artificial leg)
Chris	33	Highway Construction
Julie	23	Youth Mentor
Lea	40	Drill Sergeant
Twila	41	Highway Repair

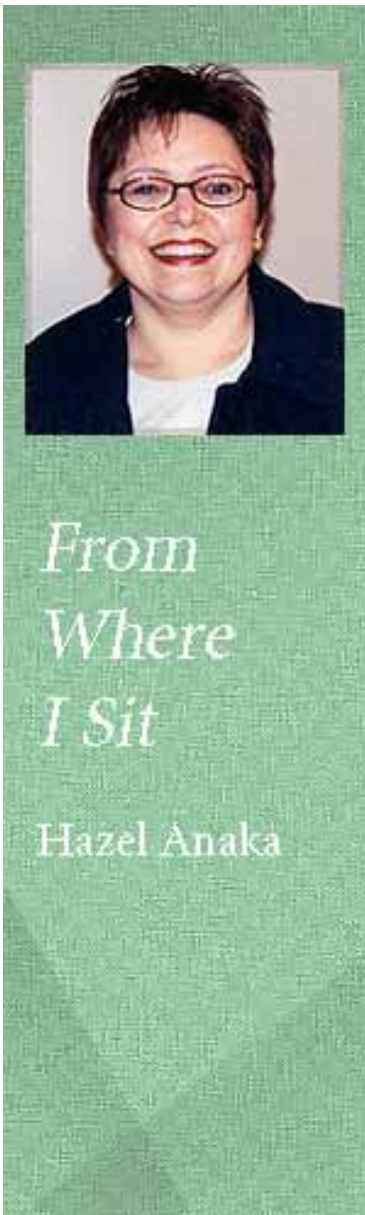
YASUR

Ami	31	Barista/Model
Eliza	21	Pre-Law Student
Leann	35	Research Assistant
Rory	35	Housing Case Manager
Scout	59	Rancher/Entrepreneur (artificial knee)

VOTED OUT

1. Brook	27	Project Manager
2. Dolly	25	Sheep Farmer
3. John P	31	Sales Manager
4. Mia	30	Finance Manager
5. Brady	33	FBI Agent/Ex Military
6. Travis	33	Loss Prevention (Bubba)
7. Lisa	44	Real Estate Agent
8. John K	22	Model/Mechanical Bull Operator

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



ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM FARMING

For over 20 years I've studied at the School of the Land at a campus near Andrew. The program name was Farming 101. The tuition was high. The courses were self-paced and tough. Electives like marketing, business, bookkeeping, computer literacy, risk management, succession planning and more rounded out the offerings.

Entrance requirements are rigid, which may explain the vacancies in the program.

Mature students are welcome. Semesters tend to be repeated in this year round school with no breaks for backpacking through Europe. Extra curricular activities tend to involve more volunteering than partying. Instructors come in all shapes and sizes. Often they're disguised as hard work, bad timing, dumb luck, or grace of God. Course materials cost a fortune. Scholarships are few and far between. An auctioneer is usually guest speaker at graduation.

Through it all, I've encountered mentors and masters, class clowns and deadbeats, dunces and geniuses. I've been awed by success, nearly leveled by defeat.

But through it all, all I really to know I learned from farming. (Apologies to Robert Fulghum). "All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned while farming. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the corral and the field."

So, here's what I've learned, as simply as I can say it.

STEWARDSHIP: Take care of what God's given you. It may be land or opportunity or health.

RESPECT: Good fences make good neighbors. Don't trespass. Share the road. Don't push machinery or people to their breaking point.

TIME MANAGEMENT: To succeed you've got to work harder for yourself than any other boss.

LAW OF COMPENSATION: You really do reap what you sow. You may get away with half-hearted effort--once or twice--but in the long term, it catches up.

VIGILANCE: The weeds will take your crop if you allow it. The coyotes will grab a calf if they can. The market will eat you alive if you stop paying attention.

SAFETY: Stay away from moving parts and keep the shields in place. Don't over-do it.

REALITY: The work is never done*.

WORK ETHIC: See above*. Triflers won't succeed because farming is hard, never-ending work requiring both brain and brawn.

RENEWAL: Take regular breaks to rest and rejuvenate because the work is never done. Don't wait til that magical "retirement" comes. It may be too late.

PATIENCE: You can't rush nature--ripening the crop or shortening the gestation period.

RESILIENCE: This year may be the ultimate test of our resolve, commitment, or contingency plan.

BALANCE: Seek each day to play a little, pray a little, just "be" a little.

GRATITUDE: Count your blessings. Smell the newly tilled soil, fresh mown hay, wild flowers.

WONDER: The only way to explain northern lights, the birth process, germination.

All I really need to know I learned from farming, from where I sit.

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Armageddon Film Review

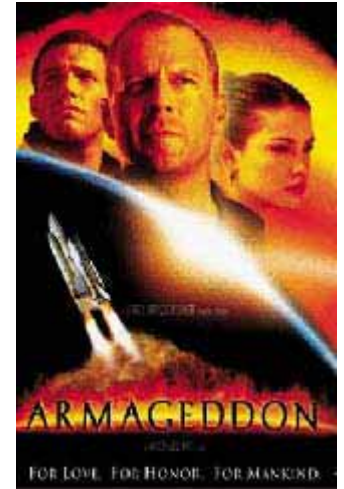
By Laura Seymour

Focus on Bruce Willis

I realized the other day that the majority of films in my collection star Bruce Willis, so I decided that I should do a Bruce Willis month. I therefore start with my personal favorite, *Armageddon*.

Bruce stars as Harry Stamper, a loose cannon who knows how to get things done on his oceanic oil rig. He's the guy the world gets when they have problems and need them settled. Problem is, he's a bit unconventional!

Also aboard is his daughter's boyfriend/fiancé, A.J. Frost, played by Ben Affleck. This film is one of those rare projects with an incredibly well developed supporting cast. The script is rife with incredible monologues and hilarious sight gags. There are moments I want to preserve forever and others that have burnt into my brain and refuse to leave. Perhaps that's why *Armageddon* won the 1996 Best Adapted Screenplay and 1997 Best Original Screenplay Academy Awards.



Grace (Liv Tyler), Bruce's daughter, who steadfastly refuses to call him daddy, is the backbone of the business end of the company. She works well covered in oil from a new gusher and speaks Japanese fluently. Steve Buscemi really floors me as Rockhound. He has some amazingly funny lines and scenes. The killer lines are so funny I all but collapse as he deadpans them. He rotates from being a complete goof to being the genius on the mission. Hulking Michael Clark Duncan is "Bear", the hilariously sweet big guy that doesn't fit in with Duncan's usual huge tough guy repertoire -- probably why he took the job. I'd want to play a sobbing guy who bumps and grinds my hips in a medical exam too! Rounding out the team is Owen Wilson as geologist Oscar. He isn't the most prominent character in the group but he is very interesting addition.

The plot is fun. We've got that meteor heading for Earth thing going on. Of course it has to be enormous. The world will be destroyed if we don't stop it, and the only way to do that is to detonate a nuclear bomb from a channel within the rock. Of course, the meteor is virtually solid iron in the place they mistakenly land. EEEK! When they have to drill through it they find that the drill bit they start with hasn't even made ten feet. They need to make it to 800 feet. The government, unfortunately, doesn't believe in them and has decided to send along a group of bad guys who will blow them up if the depth isn't reached in time. That becomes exactly what they plan to do until of course Harry steps in and begins to work out the problem with the head of the team.

In the meantime, poor Rockhound has been tied up with duct tape -- to a wall! He insists his insane antics of riding a nuclear bomb and clowning around are fine and that he's able to detonate the bomb when he needs to. Wisely, no one believes him!

Straws are drawn and A.J. wins, or is that loses, the task of staying behind to blow up the malfunctioning missile. Harry decides to ensure his daughter's squeeze makes it to the site safely and accompanies him. He, of course, breaks A.J.'s oxygen supply and sends him back to the ship with the instructions to "take care of my little girl". A.J. is left to return and marry Grace. This is a problem because Harry promised Grace he'd return to the Earth. She is teary-eyed as he calls from the rock to apologize. Troubles ensue when he has to detonate the bomb by himself manually and has no time to get clear. The ship has to take off without him.

This film rocks (oops! Pardon the pun!) and is on the top of my list of giggle-'till-I'm -rying films! Hope you enjoy it too.

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).

AUSU THIS MONTH



AUSU Scholarships

AUSU is pleased to announce new scholarships and awards for Fall 2004! These include Academic Achievement Scholarships, Financial Assistance Bursaries, Student Service Awards, Convocation Awards and Emergency Funding. The October 1st 2004 deadline is being extended to December 1st 2004 to give students time to learn about the revised program.

For detailed information and application forms please visit the AUSU website at: <http://www.ausu.org/services/scholarships.php>

Student Discounts

AUSU will be the newest distributor of the Student Price Card in the very near future. The Student Price Card gives students discounts at numerous stores like *A&W*, *Esprit*, *Foot Locker*, *Sterling Shoes* and many more across Canada. All profits made from the sale of the cards will also go back into the students' union so we can continue to bring you more student programs and services. AUSU will also be implementing a new payment system to allow students to purchase the cards using Visa, MasterCard or American Express. In the meantime students in the Edmonton area can get a Cruise the Core Card courtesy the Edmonton City Centre Customer Service or the Downtown Business Association which will give them student discounts at participating Edmonton businesses. The cards can be obtained through the Edmonton AUSU office. For more information on the Cruise the Core Card visit <http://www.edmontondowntown.com/live/display.php?id=corecrew>. Keep watching the AUSU website for the Student Price Card to go on sale.

Information About AUSU Committees will be Online Soon

AUSU has numerous committees comprised of councillors and students that carry out many of the projects and ongoing work of the students' union. In order to let students know more about the operation of the students' union and to inform them of opportunities to get involved with AUSU, council has decided to place a list of AUSU committees and their descriptions online for all to see. Keep watching the AUSU website for more details.

AUSU Discussion Forum

If you want to talk to other students, then come visit the AUSU discussion forum accessible through the AUSU website. The discussion forum is a place where you can meet other students and discuss your education, interests, news, recent events, etc. Whether you are looking for conversation, information or fun, the discussion forum is the perfect place to find it all 24 hours a day.

Attend AUSU Council Meetings From Your Home at No Charge

Did you know that any student may attend AUSU council meetings for free? Now that you know, make sure to attend the next meeting on October 25, 2004. The meetings are held via teleconference so you all you need is a telephone. Here's how you can attend a student council meeting:

- 1) Find out when the next meeting is being held. The meeting times are always listed on the AUSU website front page calendar and under the upcoming events section on the right-hand side of the page.
- 2) Send an e-mail to ausu@ausu.org or phone 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413 to let us know that you would like to attend the meeting.

Attending AUSU council meetings is a good way to get to know your council, become involved in council activities and to keep yourself up to date on what your council is doing for you.

DUTY TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Brenda Moore, Coordinator, AU Access to Students with Disabilities

The accommodation of students with disabilities has become a priority topic of discussion and planning within post-secondary education, nationally and internationally, in recent years. As legislation guides [educators to include] the accommodation requirements of students with disabilities as part of general policy and operations to ensure the opportunity for all students to participate fully; post-secondary institutions, educators, and students are developing a growing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The achievement of an inclusive, accommodating system will demand the awareness and participation of all constituents including administration, faculty, staff, and students.

It is within this context that Access to Students with Disabilities (ASD) is pleased to forward this newsletter article from the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission to announce a new Interpretive Bulletin entitled 'Duty to Accommodate Students with Disabilities in Post-secondary Education'.

NEW PUBLICATION HELPS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES GET FULL ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission

A new publication from the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission helps students and educators understand how students with disabilities can be included in all aspects of the post-secondary educational environment. *Duty to accommodate students with disabilities at post-secondary educational institutions* is now available on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca> in the "Publications and Resources" section. Print copies can also be ordered from the Commission.

The leading method for ensuring that persons with disabilities have equal access to post-secondary education is through a process called accommodation. Human rights law requires post-secondary educational institutions to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities up to the point of undue hardship, to allow them to participate fully in all aspects of student life, including course and lab work, extracurricular activities, and social life.

The Commission's new educational resource provides practical advice to both students and educators about how they can arrange effective accommodations. It also outlines the responsibilities of both the student and the educator in the accommodation process.

The publication reflects the Commission's position on the legal duty to accommodate, based on current human rights legislation and case law. It was developed in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders, including students with disabilities; community organizations that serve persons with disabilities; and individuals who work at post-secondary educational institutions throughout Alberta. Stakeholders shared their experiences and their questions related to accommodation.

For more information about the duty to accommodate or to order copies of the publication, call the Commission's confidential inquiry line at (780) 427-7661 in Edmonton or (403) 297-6571 in Calgary. You can call toll-free from other Alberta locations by first dialing 310-0000. For toll-free TTY service for persons with hearing disabilities, dial 1-800-232-7215.

The Commission is an independent commission of the Government of Alberta with a mandate to foster equality and reduce discrimination. It provides public information and education programs, and helps Albertans resolve human rights complaints.

The results of Alberta's *It's Your Future* survey are in, showing that education ranks just below health care as an issue of importance to Albertans. The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), of which AUSU and AU students are members, reports that as of October 20, Education was ranked as a very high priority by 75% of the 250,000 responses reviewed so far.

"Students are happy to see that Albertans have told their government how important post-secondary education is for a debt-free Alberta," said CAUS Vice-Chair and University of Lethbridge student Jason Rumer. "Education is a top priority of Albertans; let's see if all the political parties reflect that in the upcoming election."

This wish may become a reality, as recent reports from the liberal government show that the party intends to commit 35% of all budget surpluses to universities and colleges, according to an October 26th CAUS report, but there is a small catch.

"Liberal leader Kevin Taft committed 35% of all budget surpluses to a post-secondary education endowment fund, *if* a Liberal government is elected on November 22. Last year, the Government of Alberta surplus was \$4 billion." [CAUS]

Nevertheless, CAUS Chair Alex Abboud notes that "It's clear that post-secondary education is in the forefront of Albertans minds, and now the Liberals are making it a prime election issue... the challenge now is for the other parties to follow suit and present their ideas on how to make Alberta's universities the best in the world."

AUSU will be watching the parties closely and listing the website addresses of each party on the AUSU home page, so that students can review the platforms and determine which party will be committing the most to improving access to education in this province.

CAUS is also continuing to work to ensure that education funding is a priority issue for all of Alberta's political leaders. "CAUS presented the idea on creating a post-secondary endowment to the three major political parties during the summer. 'We got great feedback from those presentations, and it's great to see a party incorporating students' ideas in their election platforms,'" said Abboud. [CAUS Oct 26]

The importance of these initiatives is highlighted by a recent Statistics Canada report "showing [that] tuition has gone up by over 270% since 1993 in Alberta's universities and an Alberta Learning report showing only half of Albertans believe a post-secondary education is within the means of most." [CAUS Oct 20]

For more information on these initiatives, watch the AUSU front page and see Wise Up website, sponsored by CAUS, ACIFA, ACTISEC, AGC, and CAFA at: <http://www.wiseup.ca/> The group will also be producing television ads to air across Alberta on Global, CTV and A-Channel. You can also view the television ads here: <http://www.wiseup.ca/television.html>



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

United Nations Headquarters Secretariat Internship Programme

Location: New York City, NY USA

Objectives: Graduate and post-graduate students may be assigned to various UN offices where their educational experience can be enhanced through practical work assignments; to expose interns to the work of the UN; to provide UN offices with the assistance of highly qualified students specialised in various fields.

Dates: Two-month basis three times a year: Spring: Mid-January to mid-March; Summer: Early June to early August; Fall: Early September to end-October

Application deadline: For the Summer 2005 Internship, 21 January 2005.

Expectations: normally offered full-time (five days a week, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.); carry out tasks under the supervision of a staff member (supervisor)

Qualifications and Eligibility: must be enrolled in a degree program in a graduate school (second university degree or higher) at the time of application and during the internship; undergraduates are not eligible. See the website for full eligibility criteria, application information, internship conditions and agreement, post-internship employment opportunities, and more.

<http://www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/examin/internsh/intern.htm>

CIEE Internship USA

Dates: may work in the US for up to 18 months - internship can start at any time of year

Objectives: CIEE's Internship USA program is designed for international students and recent graduates who want to go to the USA to acquire professional work experience associated with their major field of study. Participants on this training program have the opportunity to develop professional skills and learn US business practices while being immersed in American life and culture.

Qualifications and Eligibility: You can now only apply to the program while being a university undergraduate or postgraduate student. You can begin your training in the U.S. while still a student or within 6 months of completing your studies. CIEE is authorized by the US State Department to act as a legal sponsor for qualified participants selected for Internship USA:

- At least 18 years of age.
- Either currently a full-time student at a university or other recognized institution of post-secondary education OR
- Confirmed on a full-time internship in a field relating to their studies/qualification.
- Able to support themselves with a minimum of \$750 per month from salary, personal savings or a guarantor (parent, bank, etc) for the duration of their stay in the US.

In addition, all participants must receive a pre-departure orientation, arranged by the local partner office.

As a US State Department designated legal sponsor for the Internship USA, CIEE will provide:

- A comprehensive and regularly updated web site www.council exchanges.org providing information on jobs and living in the US.
- 24 hour emergency support from CIEE New York.
- Comprehensive health and accident insurance in accordance with US Government requirements.
- The DS-2019 certificate of eligibility to undertake training in the US required for the J-1 visa.
- A participant handbook.
- CIEE online i-cafe for participants to keep in touch with other interns.

<http://www.ciee-trainee.net/>

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

ALBERTA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AWARDS - UKRAINE

Award Amount: \$5000

Deadline: November 15

Administrator: Alberta Scholarship Programs

Notes: For Alberta students. The applicant must be a post-secondary student or an apprenticeship student taking a practicum, internship, co-op, apprenticeship program, or a student conducting research (one-term). Selection based on demonstrated past accomplishments and potential for improving relations between Ukraine and Alberta. See website for more details.

Contact Information:

Alberta Scholarship Program
9940 - 106 Street, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 28000, Station Main
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4R4

Phone: (780) 427-8640

Fax: (780) 422-4516

Web Site: <http://www.alberta-learning.ab.ca/scholarships>

E-mail: heritage@gov.ab.ca

Application Address: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/forms.asp>

DAVID A. KRONICK TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP

Award Amount: \$2000

Deadline: December 1

Administrator: Medical Library Association

Notes: \$2,000 (US) fellowship to cover the expenses involved in traveling to three or more medical libraries in the United States or Canada, for the purpose of studying a specific aspect of health information management. Please see the Web site for application and more information.

Contact Information:

Lisa C. Fried
Coordinator, Credentialing, Professional Recognition and Careers
65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1900
Chicago, Illinois 60601-7298

Web Site: <http://www.mlanet.org/>

E-mail: mlapd2@mlahq.org

Application Address: <http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/index.html>

Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

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

alberta

INDIE SONGSTRESS EMBER SWIFT TOUR DATES IN SUPPORT OF HER RECENT RELEASE, DISARMING



"Swift's opinions go down easily, thanks to her sensuous voice and intuitive jazz phrasing; some may find her disarming, some refreshing, but either way, this music has power."

Barnes&Noble.com

"Swift is a musician and activist who is true to both herself and others. She uses her 'hyphenated-style' of music to motivate people not only physically, but also mentally- hopefully allowing them to see the world in a new light."

Gazette, Halifax, NS, Canada

Nov. 6 - Rockford, IL - Mendelssohn Club
Nov. 8 - Grand Rapids, MI - One Trick Pony
Nov. 13 - New Paltz, NY - The Wave
Nov. 18 - St. Louis, MO - Off Broadway
Nov. 19 - Chicago, IL - Schuba's
Nov. 20 - Bloomington, IL - Wesleyan University Sun
Nov. 21 - Cedar Rapids, IA - SPS, Legion Arts
Nov. 26 - Fredericton, NB - U of New Brunswick Cellar Pub

For more information, interview requests, and photos please contact Kelly Coffey or Emily Lichter at public emily, 413.527.4900 or kelly@publicemily.com or emily@publicemily.com

JUST CHRISTMAS 2004!

A Global Craft Fair Trade Marketplace Nov. 26-27
@ The Prince of Wales Armouries, 10440 - 108A Avenue
Infoline: 474-6058 / 995-6819
E-mail: leocamposa@aol.com

Friday	Nov.	26	6:00	p.m.	-	9:30	p.m.
Saturday	Nov.	27	9:30	a.m.	-	5:00	p.m.

Wheelchair Accessible / Admission is by donation (thank you)

About Just Christmas: From 'justice at Christmas' this progressive - annual fair trade event is an alternative global marketplace for quality crafts and other goods. Marketplace participants are not-for-profit organizations whose mandate is to foster global awareness and to support international development projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Join us!

Exhibitors: CEBES - Change for Children - Guatemala Solidarity Committee - Latin Craft - LINGAP - Romero House - Sombrilla - 10.000 Villages - UNICEF - KAIROS - Amnesty International - Changing Together - P.E.T. Project - Ghana Friendship Association - Filipino Canadian Women's Association - CSS Host Program - Peruvian Rett Syndrome Association - WUSC - Guatemalan Canadian Society - Canada Tibet Committee - Doctors Without Borders - Habitat for Humanity - Rainbow of Hope for Children - SAEF - Engineers Without Borders - Spirit of Our Land ...

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2004 10/14/2004 to 10/19/2004 Old Strathcona

The Edmonton International Film Festival is a unique event on the Canadian film festival circuit. EIFF is truly a celebration of films, and the people who make them - a place where filmmakers share their stories with appreciative audiences and like-minded creators.

For six intense days the historic Old Strathcona district in Edmonton presents life at 24 frames per second - from engaging conversations, to screenings and parties - EIFF is a festival that celebrates the spirit of independent cinema. At the heart of the festival are the films, feature length and shorts representing every genre that un-spool day and night. In addition to the screenings, the festival focuses on topical issues related to making films through its morning seminars, and each night cineastes are serenaded to sleep with a spectacular northern skyline.

british columbia

101 PUMPKIN EVENT
30 October 2004
10am-4pm
Vancouver, BC

The idyllic Maplewood Farm, on the banks of the Seymour River in Vancouver, hosts a fun outdoor family celebration each year - the 101 Pumpkin Event.

This Halloween event sees the farmers of the area get into the scary spirit of the day. The first 101 families to arrive with children in costume receive a free pumpkin and there is a pumpkin carving competition - to enter your own, get there before 11.45am. Other attractions include pony rides.

Maplewood Farm
405, Seymour River Place
Vancouver, British Columbia
V7H 1S6
Tel +1 604 929 5610
Fax +1 604 929 9341

Vancouver International Writers' Festival
Vancouver, BC
19-24 October 2004

More than 80 authors, poets and playwrights from around the globe convene on Granville Island every year for the Vancouver International Writers' Festival.

The six-day event features an eclectic mix of happenings including readings, lectures, the famous Literary Cabaret and a poetry bash. The organisers have focused on turning the sedentary activities of reading and writing into performance art, so the festival brings the pages of everyone's favourite books alive.

Granville Island

Directions

Take the Skytrain to Science World Station, then catch a False Creek Ferry to Granville Island. Ferries also leave from the Aquatic Centre on Pacific Blvd downtown, Maritime Museum in Kitsilano's Vanier Park and Stamp's Landing, near the south end of the Cambie Street Bridge.

Information:
Number 604 681 6330
Fax 604 681 8400
viwf@writersfest.bc.ca
202-1398 Cartwright St
Vancouver, BC V6H 4B7

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL
Vancouver, BC
19-23 October 2004

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

Two daily outdoor stages feature the best street performances by artists from around the globe. Evening shows (performed in an intimate cabaret-style theatre) offer huge comic diversity - stand-up, musical, theatrical,

improv and sketch comedy. The Opening and Closing Galas feature the Best of the West and Beyond. Expect international comics of a high calibre, as well as the best of home-grown Canadian talent.

Location: Granville Island

Directions: Take the Skytrain to Science World Station, then catch a False Creek Ferry to Granville Island. Ferries also leave from the Aquatic Centre on Pacific Blvd downtown, Maritime Museum in Kitsilano's Vanier Park and Stamp's Landing, near the south end of the Cambie Street Bridge.

Information: 604 683 0883
will@destinationfunny.com

VANCOUVER HEALTH SHOW
Vancouver, BC
16-17 October 2004

Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 11am-6pm
C\$9 per day (including all seminars); seniors C\$8

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
200-999 Canada Place
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 3C1
Tel +1 604 689 8232 - Fax +1 604 647 7232

The annual health show at Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre offers scores of exhibits displaying tempting health products, as well as workshops and seminars covering all aspects of a healthy lifestyle.

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

RESFEST Touring Digital Film Festival: Toronto
22-24 October 2004
Toronto, Ontario

Royal Cinema, 608, College St
Toronto, ON M6G1C1
+1 416 516 4845

Directions: Situated four-and-a-half blocks west of Bathurst, between Clinton and Grace.

Information:

212 320 3750 - resfest2004@resfest.com

The Toronto leg of the touring RESFEST festival is held at the Royal Cinema.

The festival's main programme covers digital shorts (1-12 minutes), "Longform" (12-30 minutes) and feature-length material; all of these take in work of all genres. There are also showcases for interactive media, music videos and film title sequences. The festival also features a retrospective of the works of Jonathan Glazer (Sexy Beast) and a programme of works by the acclaimed UK animation collective Shynola.

OUTDOOR SCULPTURE TOURS - WEDNESDAYS

Toronto, Ontario

Until Oct 31, 2004

The AGYU offers free guided tours of York's outdoor sculpture collection every Wednesday at 12pm, from June to October. Please meet in front of Vari Hall.

Highlights of the tour include sculpture by influential artists from the 1960s such as Alexander Calder, Anthony Caro, and Mark Di Suvero, as well as more recent acquisitions by celebrated contemporary artists including Jocelyne Allouche, Enzo Cucchi, Susan Schelle and Liz Magor.

For more information or to register your individual or group tour at a different time, please call Allyson Adley at 416-736-5169 or e-mail aadley@yorku.ca

quebec

FCMM: MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF NEW CINEMA AND NEW MEDIA

Montreal, Quebec

14-24 October 2004

Ex Centris Cinema and New Media Complex

3536, Saint-Laurent Blvd,

Montreal, Quebec H2X 2V1

Tel +1 514 847 3536

Email info@ex-centris.com

The FCMM is a festival of cinema and new media with a distinctly avant-garde focus, held each year in the Ex-Centris complex in Montreal. Taking in film and video, installations, websites, CD-Roms, performances and more, it places a high value on originality and new forms of expression.

As a showcase for new digital work, the festival tries to uphold the idea of auteur cinema within the multi-disciplinary field of work that falls under its remit. It also

tries to offer the chance of distribution to the filmmakers who take part.

The festival has four main sections. The Feature Length Film and Video section screens work in any genre - fiction, documentary, animation or experimental, from an international selection of filmmakers. The Short and Medium Length Film and Video section screens a similar selection of films not exceeding 60 minutes, which are grouped by programme. The New Media section takes in a broad range of work including performances, installations, CD-Roms, websites and more. It is particularly interested in projects exploring new forms of narrative. Finally, the Digital Cinema section takes in work of any genre which uses digital manipulation or media in its exploration of the new aesthetic.

This is heady stuff and well worth checking out. All work is screened in the original language with English or French subtitles.

Information:

514 847 9272

514 847 1242 (hotline)

info@fcmm.com

nova scotia

Soiree Acadienne / Acadian Music

Pubnico, Nova Scotia

Soirée Acadienne / Acadian Music. Musée Acadien, West Pubnico. Music by local artists with songs 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>

international

LAKE EDEN ARTS FESTIVAL

October 15 - October 17, 2004

Black Mtn, North Carolina, USA

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

Telephone: 828/686-8742

Email: info@theLEAF.com

Music, dancing, poetry, workshops, healing arts, camping, hiking, swimming, kids stuff, crafts, workshops, drum circles - the Lake Eden Arts Festival is all this and more! At LEAF, experience an array of music rooted in cultures and traditions: African, Latin, Celtic, blues, zydeco, bluegrass, French, Appalachian, Russian and others that keep you swingin'. The music you hear can also be experienced in a workshop or by getting to know the performers. LEAF always has great surprises, traditions you can count on, and it is sure to be a magical weekend here amidst the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Admission & Parking:

Full Weekend tickets with camping or lodging \$70-\$100.
Day Tickets \$20-40. Little kids Free. Special Youth prices
(must be with parent).

CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

October 21 - October 31, 2004

Chicago, Illinois, USA

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

Telephone: 773-281-9075

Email: KidsFest@Facets.org

Welcome to the one film festival where kids are the critics and the menu of films covers all categories and styles. Fun is the order of the day at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival!

This is the largest competitive festival of children's films in the United States, with more than 250 films from 40 countries. Hailed as the Cannes for Kids, the festival presents the very best in non-violent multicultural films for children ages 3 to 13. In its 19th year, the kids' voice really does count! At every screening, kids cast their votes for the Best of the Fest Award and a special children's jury made up of 70 kids screens and awards prizes to the best of the best!

Admission & Parking: \$6 for children and adults and a ProPass for media professionals also available.

BIKETOBERFEST

October 21 - October 24, 2004

Daytona Beach, Florida, USA

Admission & Parking: Most events are free. For racing events call the Daytona International Speedway at 386-255-2453

<http://www.biketoberfest.org>

Telephone: toll free 866-296-8970

Email: jkersey@daytonabeachcvb.org

Annually, motorcycle enthusiasts and visitors alike from around the world come to the Daytona Beach area to enjoy the fun, friendship and festivities of this autumn motorcycle festival. Held each October, Biketoberfest® features a variety of activities such as:

* Motorcycle Racing at Daytona International Speedway

* World Famous Main Street & Beach Street rally events and entertainment

* Shopping and food area-wide from unique collector and event items, to turkey legs and fresh seafood

* Charity rides and fundraisers with celebrity participants

* Bike shows of all types for novices or experts alike

* Concerts, swap meets, expo, demo rides and a wide variety of spectator events for all ages

You do not have to be a biker to enjoy Biketoberfest®. Many people attend just to observe the fun, colorful, eclectic collection of bikes and people. The Daytona Beach area is also home to some of the biggest names in motorcycling including the Daytona International Speedway, Carl's Speed Shop, Corbin Saddles and Arlen Ness that are great locations to visit anytime. Add to that some of the most famous saloons in the world like Boothill, Iron Horse, Broken Spoke, Froggy's, Dirty Harry's, Pub 44, Cabbage Patch and more.

FANTASY ARCHITECTURE: 1500AD-2036AD

1 October - 21 November 2004 (not Mon)

Tue-Sat 10am-5pm - Sun 12pm-5pm

Walsall, West Midlands, England

New Art Gallery

Gallery Square

Walsall, West Midlands

WS2 8LG England

Tel +44 (0) 1922 654 400

Fax +44 (0) 1922 654 401

Email info@artatwalsall.org.uk

Imagined buildings, structures and schemes, from Renaissance set designs to 21st-century masterplans, are the focus of this touring exhibition visiting the New Art Gallery in Walsall.

Featuring the work of visionary figures as diverse as Inigo Jones, Joseph Paxton, Robert Adam, Sir John Soane, Sir Edwin Lutyens, Archigram and Foreign Office Architects, the exhibition includes a wealth of historical and contemporary drawings. In addition, there are paintings, models, collage, film and computer renderings of designs for buildings that might have, or could still, radically change the face of our cities forever.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with the Hayward Gallery, London, the Arts Council of England and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

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



CALL FOR PAPERS - Urban and Rural Flows and Counterflows

February 10-12, 2005

**Splendid Isolation: Urban and Rural Flows and Counterflows in Electronic Music and Related Media
Berlin, Germany**

Held in conjunction with club transmediale.05

"The relationship between communication technologies and the city has been a long and complicated one, where the density of communicative activity has often been taken as defining characteristic of urban life. By contrast, rural areas have been idealized and marked by the relative absence of these technologies, a perception which tends to obscure the social and spatial consequences of communication technologies in rural areas. Out of this dichotomous set of associations has emerged a constellation of forces, ideas, images and experiences which have defined both the city and rural zones in unique and singular ways.

The history of art and music bears many traces of this productive tension, in which being immersed in city life and rural hermitage act as polar opposites. Popular music has been identified with contrapuntal movements that fluctuate between the celebration and derogation of both the rural and the urban. Within this interplay, various technologies, in particular electronic communication, have provided the principle forms of mediation between urban and rural areas, bridging and binding people and places in multiple ways and creating new hybrid territories situated within a shared mediasphere. In this context, the challenges of cultural production in and between rural and urban regions continue to be inflected by the specific demands of electronic/digital production, distribution and consumption.

This conference intends to address topics relating to the many debates and discourses produced by the intersection of cultural production, electronic arts/media, and social relations in urban and rural settings. We encourage artists, practitioners, journalists, writers and academics to participate in what promises to be provocative conference. In keeping with the overall themes of transmediale and club transmediale [BASICS], which investigate the aesthetic and ethical foundations of a hyper-potential culture, papers should address, but need not be restricted to, the following frameworks:

- * (Exo/Endo)Polis: electronic music, urban/ruraldynamics, and cultural politics
- * Refashioning Networks: circuits, nodes, communities, scenes and subcultures and extended milieu
- * Mediations: the rural/urban digital nexus, imagining/ representing nature in the city/the city in nature; electronic music and the experience of nature
- * Counterflows: fluctuating movements between urban and rural music subcultures
- * The Best of Both worlds: bridging the urban/rural divide
- * Splendid Isolation: productivity between seclusion, media networking and boredom; sound cultures beyond the major metropolises
- * Perforating the Mainstream: marketing the margin
- * Opposing Urbanity: f(r)actions of rural subcultures in the metropolis
- * The City and Its Other: critiques from the centre and periphery, speaking from and to rural and urban perspectives"

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and are due by November 15, 2004. Panel proposals are also welcome. Please submit them to: conference@transmediale.de

SEMINAR - THE 2004 OPAS VISIONARY SEMINAR

Monday November 08

Victoria, BC - 8:00 a.m. to 11 :00 a.m.

Join a national audience via a live satellite broadcast, and simultaneous Webcast, and participate in the 8th Annual Visionary Seminar presented by The Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills (OPAS) and universities across Canada. This year's Visionary is Pamela Wallin, Canada's Consul General in New York, and respected broadcaster/journalist.

Location: Building: University Centre, Farquhar Auditorium

Pricing: Free and open to the public.

Organizer: Community Relations, and Continuing Studies - 721-8480

<http://www.auditorium.uvic.ca>

ONTARIO PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE AT LAURIER
Annual Meeting - Waterloo, Ontario
Laurier University - 08:30:00 - 17:00:00

November 6

Location: Senate & Board Chamber - Cost: \$5-\$10

Registration will take place on the day of the conference, and is \$10, or \$5 for students. A dinner will be provided for participants. Dr. Hurka's talk will be in the Senate & Board Chamber (adjacent to the Paul Martin Centre); all other talks will be in the Bricker Academic Building (both are accessible). Presentation times and precise locations T.B.A.

We are looking for commentators. Please contact us if you are interested. For information contact Byron Williston at bwillist@wlu.ca or 519-884-0710

CANADIAN STUDENT EXPERIENCE: PATTERNS, PROSPECTS & POLITICS
Toronto, Ontario - Novotel North York Hotel, 3 Park Home Ave (Yonge/Sheppard)
8:30am-5pm - <http://www.edu.yorku.ca/cse>

Nov 12, 2004

This conference will explore issues of student culture, identities and stresses, and aspects of teaching and learning. The conference is designed for faculty members, graduate students, university administrators, and policy makers interested in new research on the postsecondary educational student experience. See the CSE conference Web site for information on the presenters, fees and registration.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Winnipeg, Manitoba - 7:30 PM
McNally Robinson Booksellers - Grant Park Mall

November 17, 2004

McNally Robinson Booksellers and the Institute for the Humanities are co-sponsors of the Food for Thought series of public presentations. This series is open to general public and sessions are held in the Prairie Ink Cafe of McNally Robinson Booksellers, Grant Park Mall, 1020 Grant Avenue.

On Wednesday, November 17th, at 7:30 pm, Dr Len Kuffert (History) will give a talk entitled "'At least as good as most ghost stories': the Perils of Investigating the Paranormal in 1930's Britain". Seating for the talk will start at 7:00 pm in the Prairie Ink Cafe, and the talk itself will begin at 7:30 pm sharp. Everyone is welcome to attend!

For more information, contact:
Natalie Johnson - Assistant to the Director - Institute for the Humanities
umih@cc.umanitoba.ca
Phone: (204) 474-9599 - Fax: (204) 474-7596

MEPHISTOS
Providence, Rhode Island USA
<http://www.brown.edu/Students/Mephistos/>

March 5-6, 2005

Mephistos is an international graduate student conference in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, Technology and Medicine. The purpose of the conference is to stimulate open discussion among graduate students. The graduate community at Brown University, in association with the Committee on Science & Technology Studies, is proud to host the twenty-third annual edition of the event.

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

4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEER SUPPORT CONFERENCE

Jan 14th-16th/2005

Details to follow...

Provided by Lonita Fraser

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **The Provincial Literacy Conference - Nov. 4-6 - Calgary.**
For anyone with an interest in promoting a culture celebrating literacy. Humourist Susan Sneath and A-Channel's Dave Kelly will be the keynote speakers. At the Coast Plaza Hotel. Literacy problems cost Canadian employers an estimated \$4 billion every year and the country \$10 billion annually. (403) 410-6990, www.literacy-alberta.ca/events.htm.
- **Educating for Human Rights & Global Citizenship Conference - Nov. 11-13 - Edmonton**
Join local, national and international academics, researchers, pre-service and in-service teachers and community educators to explore issues and possibilities for human rights education and global citizenship. Topics include women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, human rights advocacy and education. Conference organizers are currently calling for proposals for paper sessions, working groups and multi-media and poster sessions. Organized by the Departments of Educational Policy Studies and Secondary Education. For information www.ualberta.ca/~hre04 or email hre04@ualberta.ca.
- **iCORE (Informatics Circle of Research Excellence) Summit - Aug. 2005 -Banff.**
The second annual iCORE Banff Informatics Summit will bring together leading information and communications technology (ICT) researchers for three days. The field of informatics encompasses computer science, electrical and computer engineering, physics and mathematics. (403) 210-5335. <http://www.icore.ca/>.
- **Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership Symposium - Oct. or Nov. 2005, Calgary.**
The Chumir Foundation promotes an active, involved citizenry and principled leadership. (403) 244-6666. <http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/>.
- **InfraEDUCA 2004 - June 25-27 - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi -** The exhibition will be synergetic platform showcasing recent developments in Basic & Primary Education, Higher Education, Coaching Institutes, Specialized Courses, Vocational Training & Career Prospects, Distance Learning Systems, International Universities and Programs, E-Learning Tools and Educational Kits, Computer Education, Government Schemes and Programs etc. Details: <http://www.friendzexhibitions.com/infraeduca2004/index.htm>.
- **PISTA '04 - July 21-25 - Orlando, Florida -** Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are transforming our societies, therefore papers about research results, solutions and problems of the applications of ICT in Politics and Society are highly encouraged. Details: <http://www.confinf.org/Pista04/website/default.asp>
- **EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 - July 28 - 30 - Dhaka, Bangladesh.** EDUTEX Bangladesh 2004 is the platform for you to promote your Institutions and services and to recruit students in Bangladesh. Details: <http://www.expam.com/bangladesh/>

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

classifieds

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

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

Are you interested in sharing the AU student experience? Want to get together with other AU students for a coffee, to share stories of being a student, or just for fun? Then one of our coffee groups may be just the thing! Scattered wherever AU students are living and studying, groups of students are getting together to do just that. Check out the Coffee Groups page on the AUSU website to see if there's a group already meeting in your area. If there isn't, why not consider starting one up yourself? Enjoy a fuller student experience and join a coffee group today!

THE VOICE

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