

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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Volume 13 Issue 6



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

THE VOICE

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EDITORIAL PAGES

This week, a guest editorial... by Peter Tretter

Former Ontario NDP Premier Bob Rae was recently invited by the Ontario government to do a review of post-secondary education in Ontario. Most of the submissions were from student groups, colleges and universities in Ontario. AU submitted comments and suggestions, as did our students' union. [read the report here: <http://www.raereview.on.ca/en/report/default.asp?loc1=report>]

The review is supposed "to develop a plan (due out early 2005) that gets us to a higher-quality, affordable and accountable post-secondary education system."

In its submission to the Rae Commission, the University asserted that there are 6,689 Ontario students taking courses at AU. Further, annual growth rates exceed 15% in Ontario. The University suggested in its submission to the Rae Commission that perhaps the Ontario government help support AU: "... students in Ontario are asked to pay an out of Province fee so as to reflect the fact that the Government of Alberta officers financial support to Athabasca University."

Recently, my sister and I were talking about the true scope of the University. An interesting idea she had was that AU should open a "campus" in Ontario, and that the Ontario government should help pay for AU's "campus." (This is a common request the AUSU has tried to push the envelope with in the past.) I tried to explain to her that it wasn't that simple. However, it got me thinking. AU went through the trouble to make a submission to the Rae Commission, so why can they not get up the gumption to make a presentation to the Ontario government, and other provincial governments, for that matter, so that, as my sister put it, "AU can become a national University." No more out-of-province fees, just pay the same amount that students in Alberta pay (which is too much already.) A "University of Canada," so-to-speak. I might point out here that AU's request is really small potatoes: we have just under 35% of our students in Ontario and all AU is asking for is some support from Ontario government for the little differential fee. Come on, Dominique, make the Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and the other provincial Education Ministers put their money where their mouths [and students] are!

Right now AU is an "Alberta-only" University when it comes to funding, and even the main organization the AUSU is a member of--The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) is Alberta based. The brave people in Canada's soon-to-be debt-free province subsidize those of us in the rest of Canada, and even internationally, through their government contributions. Aside from convincing Mary Ann Chambers, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, of AU's value to the other provinces, our good AU President Dr. Abrioux should consider making a presentation to the Paul Martin government (or whomever is in power after the budget comes out) about national funding directly for AU. Do not stop at the Province of Alberta, just pass go, and collect the millions of dollars. Perhaps present to all the Ministers of Education at once, like their other counterparts, they must have some sort of national summit. Or maybe AU can invite them all out to Athabasca and woo them with the scenery and local beef. (You could get a t-shirt that says: I invited all the Ministers of Education from across Canada, and helped promote Alberta beef.)

Living in Ottawa, I pay way too much to write my exams. There's the exam fee to Algonquin College, fees for parking, and so forth. Here I don't have the option to take a grouped study class. It's interesting, considering that I understand Ottawa has a decent size AU population [ed. close to 1000 in Ottawa in the surrounding area]. Ontario cities such as Ottawa and even Toronto could use a learning centre to go to for academic advice, exam writing, and so forth. It doesn't have to be fancy, just something where you feel like part of the AU family. At the very least, it would be

great if the Ontario government could pay for things like our exams and travel expenses if they aren't going to help fund a learning centre. We all know Dalton McGuinty, the Ontario Premier, can pony up the dough. (Memo the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services: Your Ottawa offices were due for a paint job 10 years ago. You may be experiencing budget cuts, but I bet you can get someone to volunteer to prevent the torture that looking at your horrid walls inflicts.)

Bob Rae and his Commission are going to make a recommendation on the future of post-secondary education in Ontario. His commission will study the many comments they have received, and various other boring reports. In the end, they will think they have come to a solution that will benefit all the residents of Ontario. However, because of this, maybe it's time for AU to not just be a benefit to students of Alberta. Perhaps as my sister suggested, "Canada's Open University" should really become our national university.

CLICK ON THIS Playground

Lonita Fraser

Need a little break from studying, work, or the winter blues? Why not play around the web a little with some of these fun sites.

Ad Verbum - <http://nickm.com/if/adverbum.html> - Play a game of interactive fiction.

Autodisemvoweler - <http://novalis.org/cgi/vowel.cgi> - All those pesky vowels! We know consonants are enough, don't we? Plug in some text and hit the button and the Autodisemvoweler will take out those wasteful vowels!

CeraCera Paper Models - <http://www.ceracera.com/> - Lots of nifty, moving paper models that you can download the instructions for and make yourself.

Interactive Visual Sound Applet - <http://www.seeingwithsound.com/javoice.htm> - Draw something and see what it sounds like.

Twinkler - <http://twinkler.43things.com/twinkler/> - What do you want to do with your life? Make a list of your own and see how many other people share that goal with you.

Word Gizmo - <http://gocreate.com/tools/wordgizmo.htm> - Click the Generate button to view a new word. Keep clicking until you see a new word that suggests a meaning to you. When you generate a word you'd like to see listed in the WordGizmo Dictionary, please submit a definition.

The Image Quiz - <http://blog.outer-court.com/quiz/> - This site raids Google's image search, shows you the images, and in that equally addictive Jeopardy! way makes you guess the question. Sometimes one-word answers, sometimes two words, it'll have you wasting away the morning.

Surrealist Games - http://www.purselipsquarejaw.org/surrealist_games/index.php - Come play a while... with diurnal asparagus and other such manifestations.

Project K++ - <http://www.robertpeake.com/CannedKandinsky/> - Make your own computer-generated abstract art. Neat! You can move stuff around on the pictures after you make them.

Paper Box - <http://media.k10k.net/issues/issue074/design.html> - Use this site to design a paper box that you can then print out and use.

1000 Blank White Cards - <http://www.geocities.com/nconner23/bwcards.html> - This is a card game, with a difference: You create the cards you play with.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Graduate Studies – First Year Completed!

Debbie Jabbour



Many *Voice* readers have asked me to write more about my experiences as a graduate student. Now that I've successfully completed my first year, one of the best phrases I can think of to sum up the experience is - extremely busy!

I thought things were hectic when I was enrolled in full time undergraduate studies, working three jobs, and putting in more than full time hours as a very busy president of the students' union. Little did I know. I had it easy back then! Graduate studies are much more time consuming than I ever expected, and this past year has been the busiest, most stressful one so far. At the same time, it has been the most rewarding.

Why busy? There are several reasons. I think the main one is the Master of Counselling course structure itself. Gone are the undergraduate option of course extensions. In certain circumstances you can request a short assignment extension from the individual course professors, but if these are not granted, marks are deducted for any late submissions. Each course has a set start and end time, and each assignment has a specific deadline. Weekly tasks must be completed by each Tuesday midnight, including a specific number of discussion forum postings. These are not simple postings. We are required to complete the assigned readings, then answer specific questions with referenced responses, including citations in APA format. These "scholarly" postings require reflection and preparation, and not only must we answer the questions, we must read all the contributions of classmates and engage in a dialogue, responding with thoughtful, well-referenced commentaries. Ideally these comments begin before the weekend, then are spaced out over the next few days to participate in an ongoing discussion. Forum postings can easily take at least one hour daily. If postings are late or if we do not meet the minimum number of required posts, marks are lost.

This cycle leaves you feeling endlessly rushed and on edge. Every Wednesday morning I breathe a sigh of relief that I've completed the previous week's work. I spend a few days getting caught up with everything else, but then often find myself already into the weekend before I even start the current week's tasks. During weeks when a course assignment is due, the workload is much higher. My experience thus far has been that each assignment has been comparable to a major undergrad final assignment (the kind worth 40-50 percent of your mark), and I spend from fifteen to thirty hours on each. Given that each course has anywhere from four to six assignments, the hours can really add up. The course coordinators suggest that graduate students can expect to spend 12-15 hours a week, but I have found this to be a low estimate.

Another factor in keeping you busy is the need to interact with other graduate students. Each course attempts to incorporate a minimum level of collaboration with others, in addition to the forum postings. Assignments can be done with partners or in small groups, and managing these at a distance is a challenge. My last course required a significant number of group projects, and several hours a week were spent just communicating with partners on these. One major assignment was done in groups of four. Most of the students in the program are new to distance learning and may have never completed a group assignment at a distance. In my group, we had other challenges. One individual was travelling for work, another was in the process of moving to another province, and one's computer crashed the day before the assignment was due. Trying to coordinate schedules to meet the deadline was a nightmare, compounded by trying to work with varied personalities that were not always compatible. By the time we finished emailing and phoning each other non-stop for several days, we got it done, but it felt like the assignment from hell!

Graduate assignments that require partnerships are much harder and more time consuming, and because marks are dependent on the input of classmates, this adds to the overall stress. Although there are many differences, most of AU's graduate programs follow a similar format, and are equally as structured. I was talking with a grad student in the MBA program, and she commented that group assignments can be

extremely challenging because fellow students are mature individuals well along in their careers. They are often managers who are used to giving directions to others, not working collaboratively in a give-and-take situation. She related her experience working on one group assignment with five leaders and no followers - everyone trying to be in charge! Fortunately they were able to recognize the problem and see the humour in the situation, but it added to the stress and challenge of getting the work done.

I've heard some undergrad students suggest that a greater collaboration and interaction with fellow students in coursework would be desirable. I'm not sure I agree. Undergrad courses are designed differently, and the freedom to work at your own pace should not be undervalued. Although I enjoy working with my classmates and find it intellectually stimulating, it is certainly easier to complete assignments on my own.

As difficult and time-consuming as they are, graduate studies are immensely satisfying. The feeling of being able to do research, to feel like you are in a position where what you contribute might make a difference in the world, is extremely exciting and stimulating. When I submitted my literature review assignment it felt like a moment I had been waiting for all my life. I've actually completed one part of what will eventually become my master's "thesis" and the sense of accomplishment was incomparable. The work I will finally submit at the end of my course will become part of the worldwide body of scholarly literature, and this is one of the most important aspects of grad studies as far as I'm concerned.

The material we are studying is also extremely interesting, and we are expected to approach our learning with a depth of critical thinking that is far beyond that required at the undergraduate level. As an undergrad student, I often felt that I was expected to parrot what I had gleaned through the readings, and I was not really encouraged to go far beyond the course material. As a grad student, the reverse is true. Finding an answer to questions posed in the lesson can require a comprehensive search through a wide variety of materials beyond the course texts, and we are expected to put our own ideas and experiences into responses. Although this is time consuming, it's also very satisfying. We are free to take a topic of interest (as long as it is related to the course) and explore it. For example, last summer I took a negative work experience and turned it into an ethics analysis assignment - an exercise that provided some emotional healing (and a pretty good mark too!). There is a level of freedom that we did not have as undergrads, and it is liberating. The down side is that we are presented with so much interesting material and we have so little time. I often find myself wishing I had much more time to spend researching a particular topic, and I leave each course behind regretting that I've not been able to completely explore every aspect of it.

I know there are many undergrad students approaching graduation who are curious about what it is all about, and wondering if they would be able to meet the challenges of graduate studies. Academic expectations, of course, are high. As an open university, AU admits students on the basis of a variety of criteria, but if you do not have an adequate educational or professional background, you will not survive grad studies. That said, if you have done well in undergrad studies, you will do well as a graduate student.

If you are considering it, I'd strongly encourage you to do the best you can to prepare yourself in advance. Consider it a full-time job, one that will need your complete attention and focus over the next two or three years. Don't underestimate how much time and energy it will need, because you will just set yourself up for failure. Do everything you can to arrange your affairs so that you can place your studies as a priority, and if at all possible, try to ensure you have a long-range financial plan in place to pay for your schooling. At the same time, if it is what you want, then don't hesitate. If you are motivated and ready to make some sacrifices, things will fall into place.

The time commitment needed for grad studies, however, has taken its toll on me. I've had to drop many activities that I can no longer accommodate, and writing every week for the Voice is one of them. I love writing for the Voice and do not want to stop, but it's very difficult to find time and focus to maintain my writing involvement, and I've had to drop my column down to twice monthly. Of course, there are other situations I have no control over, and as noted some weeks ago, the reality of my financial situation means I must work long hours to fund my studies. Even with dropping many of my activities, I still have way too much on my plate, and my health has suffered - including a frightening wake-up call just before Christmas. So far, however, the benefits far outweigh the negatives and in spite of the difficulties, I'm loving every minute. It is one of the most satisfying and rewarding things I have ever done.

THE BELIEVER (2001)

Lonita Fraser

Film follows a devoted Jew who rejects his faith to join hate group



Set in New York City, this story--directed by Henry Bean--revolves around the moral, spiritual, and identity confusion of Daniel (Ryan Gosling), a Jewish youth who struggles with conflicts between his public beliefs and cultural heritage. Daniel, at least on the public front, rejects his Jewish heritage and joins a Neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic skinhead group where he voices some volatile beliefs against Jews and embarks on plans of rather serious physical violence against them. Examining themes of self-loathing, family, loyalty, religion, and politics, the film echoes a true story from the 60s where a man arrested at a KKK rally was revealed to be a Jew in a New York Times article. He subsequently committed suicide, as he'd told the reporter he would if his secret was revealed.

of the physical characteristics of the film, without being compelled by the story unfolding in front of me and what it is telling me. This film raises so many questions and makes so many jarring points, that one could write a novel on what is kindled by it. How to compact one's thoughts on something so intense and impactful? What direction could one go and not feel as if something is being left out? I'm not even going to try. What I am going to do, is try to answer what is probably the biggest question raised by this film: how and why did it come to pass that a Jew could so violently reject his own culture?

Daniel is a walking paradox. He both loves and hates his heritage and himself. These contradictions, this intense loathing, leads to the perverse result of a Neo-Nazi who is also a Jew. Now a young man, Daniel engages in actions against the culture of his roots that are violent, vile, and perhaps utterly confusing to someone who wonders how a Jew could not merely reject their heritage, but actively take part in acts of violence against that heritage by joining a group so negatively set against the Jews. Via flashbacks to the Yeshivah (a school where young Jewish males are taught, and discuss, Talmud and other Jewish texts - one could, to an extent, compare it to a Bible college or Sunday school), Daniel's budding rejection of his culture begins to come to light.

As Daniel begins to think and question critically, he expresses opinions, refutations, and questions that are diametrically opposed to the usual teachings of his faith. In the Yeshivah he challenges the scholar leading the class and his views are rejected to such a degree that the man asks that Daniel be removed. Daniel sees that that there is no place for him there, no place in his religion for someone who questions his faith, and since Jewish culture and religion are so closely tied together, that separation is much more than just a rejection of religious rules or dogma. His culture, as a whole, is rejecting him as an individual. To be so severely punished at such a tender, life turning-point, might be enough to drive anyone into the state of opposition in which Daniel later finds himself.

It is necessary for anyone to have a safe place from which to examine oneself, and Daniel now finds himself without one as his home life appears less than stable or supportive. He feels no ties to his family, feels rejected by his faith, and it appears the only groups which do accept him and whatever he espouses are those who are rigidly opposed to the culture from which Daniel comes. Feeling rejected by his culture, he begins to reject his culture.

That rejection, however, is not wholesale. If not able to love his faith and culture openly, he shows respect for them privately. He continues to show respect for Torah scrolls, even as his skinhead companions rip them and spit on them; when he goes with them to assassinate a Jewish businessman, he wears the tallith (the cloth with the Star of David on it that some Jewish males wear under their clothing), and he rebukes his girlfriend for being nude in front of the Torah scroll he has in his bedroom.

There is a portion of the film where Daniel and his companions are required to submit to sensitivity training. They must listen to survivors of WWII death camps tell their stories. One gentleman describes how he and his family were found hiding in some hay by German soldiers. The man's child was crying, so as any father would, he clung to it while the soldier tried to take the child away. The soldier skewered the child through the chest on a pike, lifted it into the air, and waved it around such that the child's blood fell on the father's face. Daniel's identity confusion is later highlighted via several dreams where he sees himself in various roles in the scenario of this man's story; at first as the soldier killing the child, and last as the man who tells the story, watching his child killed in front of him.

Daniel starts out as an inflictor of harm, but as the movie--and these dreams--continue, he is, at the last, a Jew. He sacrifices himself to save his fellows, and by doing so he succeeds in doing what he'd planned to do throughout the film--kill a Jew. Despite the remaining confusion after his death, he dies as a Jew. Beginning with rejection, he ends with realisation and acceptance.

2004 Tuition and Education Amounts Certificate

Update from Athabasca University Financial Services...

Athabasca University Financial Services is pleased to announce that the official 2004 Tuition and Education Tax Credit Certificate (T2202A) forms will be available on-line by the end of February to all eligible students.

The forms will not be mailed out and instead are on-line in printable format for all students to access. Please visit AU's web site at

www.athabascau.ca

for further details on obtaining your tuition and education tax credit information for your 2004 tax return.



It's one of those Saturday afternoons when I just don't have the ambitious drive it takes to flip through the really exhausting number of television channels out there to find something good to watch. So I'm spending my time watching a DVD special feature instead - a profoundly interesting interview with the caterer from *Lord of the Rings* (I had no idea that it would be so difficult to find good roast beef in New Zealand). Anyway, that's when I hear the delivery van pull up outside.

Standing on tiptoe and peering through a gap in my living room vertical blinds, I can't help but notice that the Appliance World delivery van had backed into my neighbour's driveway. Alright, I say to myself, the conflict has escalated.

It all began three years ago. Up to that time, it had been conceded by all of the neighbours on my block that my small-production barbecue, the liquid-cooled Thermostrike *Hydrotech*, was the gold standard for backyard grilling on our block. As soon as the insufferably smug Idris Idris Jones moved in two doors down, though, he began bragging about his *Ferlinghetti Spitfire 6000*; - at that time, of course, the state of the art in barbecue technology.

Naturally, I declined his gloating invitations for weekend get-togethers. I had perused all the specifications, and was well aware of the Ferlinghetti's admittedly impressive attributes. Night after night, though, I sat seething in my lightless bedroom, watching my sycophantic so-called friends and neighbours ooohing and aaahing over his carbon alloy grill, his computer-calibrated rotisserie spit, capable of turning an entire suckling pig or side of beef.

My own garden parties, which used to be the talk of the neighbourhood, had dwindled down to a few b-list attendees, like the deranged guy with the savage pit bull who lives three doors over and Fred from 2935, who would be okay if it weren't for his habit of making off with the silverware. And stereo equipment.

Naturally, I had to respond. After some high-level negotiations at the bank, I was able to go shopping. That's when I saw it advertised in the back pages of *Hi-Tech Gourmet*. Technology developed by M.I.T. in collaboration with General Dynamics. Fuelled by a volatile mix of hydrogen and magnesium. Twin cooling towers. Forty thousand BTU's. Computer-facilitated preprogramming for any type of meat from lamb and chicken to wombat and flying squirrel. Comes complete with a bag of wood chips hand carved by skilled artisans from some of the finest and rarest old growth timber on Earth. The approximate size of an Airstream trailer. Hydroformed steel grill able withstand temperatures approaching the surface of the sun. Six month warranty. All for little more than the price of a couple of decent BMW's. *The Fujitsu Salamander*. I had to have it.

My old friends gathered about me once more. Idris Idris Jones became the neighbourhood laughing stock. A few of us gathered together and lit a burning bag of cow manure on his front step. I installed track lighting in the backyard, and threw enormous parties. It was glorious.

Then I see it. The enormous box coming out of the delivery van with New York State license plates. Six men with winches and dollies maneuvering it through Jones's front door. And three full months before the official start of barbecue season. Alright, Jones. I don't know what you're bringing to the picnic table, but this time the oven mitts are *off*.

HARRIS DISCUSSES GREEN IDEAS FOR ENVIRONMENT

Participation in the next televised election debate would boost support, party leader says

Melanie Meloche-Holubowski

The Link (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP) -- It's time Canadians had an alternative to the traditional political parties, says Jim Harris, leader of the Green Party of Canada.

Harris said his party is ready for another election if the Liberal government is defeated in the next few months. He spoke in a lecture Jan. 26 as part of the Université de Montréal's Environment Week. Harris discussed greener practices for Canadian industries and how their implementation is essential to the environment and the Canadian economy. "People are deeply disillusioned by the old-line parties. They are looking for solutions. They want a party that's hope-based, that's getting constructive solutions and creating a positive vision of the future," said Harris.

Harris said the Green party has different priorities than the current government. "We're not investing in education, we're not investing enough in health care, and yet we're subsidizing oil and gas industries \$40 billion in tax credits to literally cause global climate change." Harris said the Liberal party's record on environmental issues, such as the Kyoto accord, has been dismal. "Well, in fact, the Liberal government is one of the major causes of global warming because we're getting a lot of hot air out of them," said Harris with a laugh. "I hear ad nauseam how the Liberals support the Kyoto program. That's great, but they've done nothing, nothing!"

He pointed out the 1990 Kyoto accord called for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by six per cent. Harris said emission levels have risen by 20 per cent since then. The Green party would fare better on environmental issues, said Harris, by educating people about conservation, engaging in a tax shift and creating "green collar jobs." "The biggest source of energy is actually conservation," said Harris. He insisted without drastically changing Canadian lifestyles, energy use could be reduced by 75 to 90 per cent.

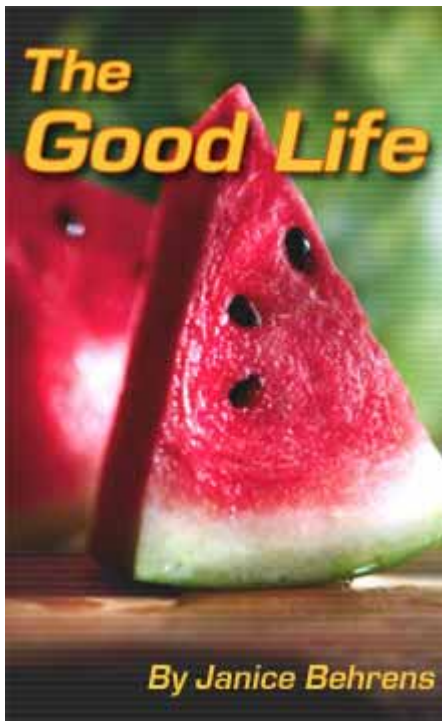
For instance, Harris said, consumers are more likely to buy incandescent lights than a low-energy fluorescent compact bulb because of the cost. He said people are unaware of the fact that fluorescent compact bulbs have 10 times the lifespan of a regular bulb and they use 25 per cent less energy. "So when you install this one, it is far cheaper in the long term," he said.

The Green party would table larger initiatives, like a tax shift, according to him. Harris said taxes would be lowered by \$3.5 billion for the lowest tax bracket and money would be reinvested for Canadians in health, education and the environment. A 10-cent at-the-pump tax would be added to gasoline prices. "We don't call it a gas tax; we call it an asthma tax, we call it a pollution tax, we call it a smog-day tax," said Harris.

The combination of the tax shift and the gas tax would not affect the average Canadian, driving an average distance. Harris maintained the savings incurred by the tax shift would offset the increase cost of gas. "But if you cycle to work, it's a major benefit; if you walk to work, it's a benefit; if you take mass transit, it's a major benefit. But if you drive a Hummer, don't vote for the Green party," said Harris.

The Greens also hope Canada will change its first-past-the-post voting system to proportional representation. By doing so, the Green party would be more likely to win a seat in Parliament. "Under their model (of proportional representation), we would have nine MPs right now in Ottawa. In fact, we could be part of a coalition government," said Harris. In the last election, 4.3 per cent of Canadians voted for the Green party. However, this was not enough to win the party a seat. Still, Harris is hopeful for the next election. He said recent polls have 7.5 per cent of the population willing to vote for the Greens. "We have incredible traction," he said.

Harris insisted the Green party must participate in the next televised leaders' debate. The party was shut out of the debate in the last election. Participation could double the Greens' support, he said. "Canadians are really hungry for what we have to offer. We're going to continue building this party and we're changing Canadian politics forever," Harris said.



Without a Car

When our family decided a couple of years ago to go without a car, we made the decision for a number of reasons, including finances and physical and psychological health. Between maintenance, loan payments, gas and parking, driving in Vancouver can be an expensive proposition. Also, the numerous incidents of road rage and just generally discourteous driving that are continually encountered can cause some emotional wear and tear by the end of the day.

I won't say that it was a no-brainer decision, though. Unlike my husband, I happen to really love driving. Growing up in southern Alberta farm country, I have been driving tractors, snowmobiles, dirt bikes and unlicensed pick up trucks since the time I was about ten years old. I got my first drivers license the day that I was old enough, and bought my first vehicle as soon as I had a job that paid enough for me to afford the few hundred dollars that the rusted out old Honda cost. To this day, my idea of a perfect vacation has

nothing to do with sitting on a beach sipping margaritas and burning in the sun. It involves sitting behind the wheel, with good music playing on the tape deck, and with miles and miles of highway in front of me leading toward good friends and relatives I miss and cities I haven't seen yet. In the fifteen years we've been together, Bill and I have traded driving shifts right across Canada, and explored nearly every corner of the United States. I think this is something we will continue to do, courtesy of rental cars.

As for the in-city stuff, like being involved with school field trips and heading to the local mountains for a day of outdoor activity on the weekends or a short camping trip, we have the Cooperative Auto Network. It's a car sharing service that allows us to book vehicles whenever we need them for a cost of about one hundred dollars per month, as compared to approximately four hundred dollars per month to lease or own a vehicle. So far, it's something that's worked out tremendously well.

One of the biggest things that gave us pause before turning in our car keys was the fact that our daughter attends grade two at a French Immersion school that is nearly a one hour walk away from where we live. There is an elementary school that's only two blocks away, but Jessie told us, with no trace of uncertainty, that she was not willing to switch. We really didn't want to start taking the bus every day, either, which is pretty costly, and not a pleasant way of getting around. So, we would have to ride or walk. And guess what? It's turned out to be one of the very best things about our new lifestyle. One hour there and back--that's two hours a day for at least one of us to spend real quality time with our child, telling stories, discussing the events of the day, or just feeling the wind in our faces as we're riding our bikes. Believe it or not, like the trouper she is, our daughter would actually rather walk or ride than drive or take the bus. Maybe it's because she'll actually be able to tell her own kids someday that she walked five kilometres each way to and from school. I don't think it's up hill both ways, though...



Holy Crap

You've probably already heard that Alberta's Premier Klein has announced that the Alberta Government will be covering the cost of any tuition increases Alberta universities need to make this year. In addition, the government will be re-working the Alberta tuition policy to make sure that education is affordable for all students. Personally, I did not see this coming while Premier Klein was still in office.

I certainly had some hope when I heard that Dave Hancock took the Advanced Education ministry, but this is more than I expected. Not that it's all roses, of course.

Some organizations are declaring this to be a tuition freeze, which might be true if you happen to be a traditional university serving a traditional student body. But for Athabasca University students there are some subtle, but very important, differences.

The first is that though the government is paying any tuition increase the university makes, tuition is still increasing. When you remember that certain fees, such as those for extensions, are based on the amount of tuition, then even an invisible increase has an effect.

The second is that Premier Klein has promised to pay for the increase this year, but not any future year. Meaning that unless the tuition regulation they bring in makes significant changes, students for 2006/2007 may find a rather large surprise looming as the tuition amount jumps from what it was in 2004/2005 by two years worth of increases at once.

The third big difference is that Premier Klein doesn't make clear whether this applies to every student's tuition, or just those in Alberta. If the latter, then students outside of Alberta will still be facing the full force of any AU tuition increase. Considering that the majority of AU students are from outside of Alberta, this is definitely significant. We can only hope that the new tuition policy helps to moderate costs for out of province students in the future.

At least it's a step in the right direction.

Rae Gets the Idea but Misses the Point.

Bob Rae has completed his Post-Secondary Review and submitted his final report--132 pages of support for Post-Secondary education (or 65 pages if you're reading it online) calling for sweeping changes in student financing, post-secondary funding, university autonomy and collaboration, and even in shaping the way people think about post-secondary education as an investment not just privately, but publicly as well.

The report almost reads like a summation of my columns over the past years, saying things such as "there is good evidence that education improves incomes and health; People who go to college and

university are less likely to need social services or spend time in jail; Higher education is a critical underpinning to a better society; Spending on higher education, whether by the government, the student or the parent, is a good investment;" (pg 6) and "Tuition should not increase at all until the system of student financial aid is repaired. Access and affordability are critical elements in the tuition approach that will follow the end of the freeze" (pg 16).

However, beyond what I've already said, there are also some good ideas like a suggestion to implement a new system where low income students receive primarily grants and not loans, (pg 14) thus encouraging them to at least attempt school without having to worry about an unpayable debt load afterward. He also recommends a "First Generation Strategy" that is designed to market the benefits of post-secondary education to students right from the first grade, but with a particular target of those students whose parents haven't had a post-secondary education (pg 42).

As for Distance Education, page 11 of the report (the online version, I should make clear that all my citations are for the html version of the report) starts with

"Distance education is key to the success of many students in Ontario who do not have access to a traditional campus. Online courses are effective learning methods for some students. One of the fastest growing campuses in Ontario is based in Northern Alberta. Its services are provided exclusively online. Athabasca University has signed dozens of "articulation agreements" with Ontario institutions..."

So he gets it. Here's somebody in government who finally gets it, and he's in a position to suggest real changes. Unfortunately, while Rae recognizes that distance education is a solution for some of the post-secondary access problems for Ontarians, he fails to use that knowledge in his recommendations.

This is where he misses the point. Not one recommendation involves increasing Ontario's involvement with Athabasca University beyond increased usage of individual agreements. Agreements he's already noted Athabasca has "dozens of." Not one recommendation involves providing Ontario students with extra support for non-traditional education, even though these may be the only means available to them in their circumstances. Not one recommendation really involves anything about increasing the use of distance education to address the access problem.

How can you get it, and then ignore it? Perhaps he's hoping that his other reforms will catch distance education as a side-effect. That with an increased focus on the quality of education and developing access for northern students, distance education's benefits will become clear. But government's have not capitalized on these benefits so far, so my confidence isn't at an all time high.

In the meantime, students outside of Alberta continue to get the short end. Alberta won't support them because they're not in Alberta, and their own locales won't support them because AU isn't in their home province. It's a horrible catch-22, and I think that until we see some federal involvement in post-secondary education, it will remain one.

AUSU THIS MONTH



Nominate Student Leaders for Alberta Award

The Laurence Decore award for Student Leadership is given annually to a full-time Alberta student who has provided outstanding and dedicated student service or leadership to fellow students at AU or in their community. The nominee must display commitment to one or more of the following areas: student government, student societies, clubs or organizations, or non-profit community service. AU students are encouraged to submit nominations for this award and can do so by sending an email to ausu@ausu.org stating that they are nominating an AU student for this year's Laurence Decore award and providing a few details as to why that person should be recognized for their service. The nominee information will be forwarded to the AU awards department for a final decision, and the award will be distributed by the Alberta Government. March 1, 2005, is the deadline for nominations.

Special General Meeting of AUSU

All AUSU members are invited to attend a Special General Meeting of AUSU on February 28, 2005 at 7:00 PM MST. AUSU members include all currently registered AU undergrads, plus undergrads who have been registered in a course ending in the last six months (extended end dates count). The purpose of the SGM is to vote on a single issue -- the appointment of a new auditor for the AUSU financial records. All members may vote on this issue, and may ask questions of council in a brief question period, covering any topic of interest to members, at the close of the meeting. The motion to be voted on for the meeting is as follows: Be it resolved that AUSU hire the firm of Cass & Fraser as the accountants to perform annual audits and provide advice on proper accounting procedures for the organization. For information on attending the meeting via free teleconference, contact ausu@ausu.org.

AUSU Donates \$350 to Aid Victims of the Tsunami

The AUSU student council would like to send their condolences and best wishes to all victims and the families of victims of the recent Asian Tsunami Disaster, and specifically to any of our students residing in the area who may have suffered loss. To contribute to the massive relief effort underway to help the victims of the Tsunami, AUSU has donated \$350 to the Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund on behalf of the students of AU. There will also be links on the AUSU web page to organizations that are accepting donations from any individual who would like to make a private donation.

AUSU currently has members in 75 countries around the world, representing every continent except Antarctica. Currently, just over 500 reside outside North America.

AUSU Website Usage and Satisfaction Survey Now Online

AUSU is in the process of evaluating the current AUSU website. As a result of this evaluation, students may expect to see major changes to our current site in the near future. The AUSU Website Usage and Satisfaction Survey, accessible at <http://www.ausu.org/websurvey2004/>, is your chance to be a part of our website development process. By filling out the brief form you can tell us whether you love our current website the way it is or if you can't stand it and think it needs a major overhaul. Don't miss out on the chance to make your opinion count.

Let AUSU Advocate on Your Behalf

If you think that you have been treated unfairly by AU, you can ask AUSU to advocate on your behalf. At the very least, AUSU may be able to help you understand your options or direct you to someone who can. AUSU is often able to advocate directly for you through lobbying or by taking other creative measures. If you have a concern, a question or even a suggestion, we want you to send it to us at ausu@ausu.org. To learn more about how AUSU will advocate on your behalf and to read about past advocacy initiatives visit the following links: <http://www.ausu.org/advocacy/index.php>; <http://www.ausu.org/services/advocacy.php>.



THE TRUTH ABOUT GENIUS

As a whole, humanity is a pretty dysfunctional organism, far more than just a tweak or two away from a completely healthy state of consciousness. Why do I say this? Well, for one thing, in classic dysfunctional mode, we seem to have a very shaky understanding of our own true nature. For instance, we tend to have a very overly-glorified image of ourselves. Whenever we speak about what makes human beings special, we tend to talk about all of our wonderful achievements in art and science. We toss out names such as Copernicus, Michelangelo, Galileo, Mozart, Renoir and Einstein as garden variety examples of what we're all about. Well, it's just not true. Those people are about as indicative of the human race as a two-headed, three-winged albino canary is representative of the bird kingdom. They are extreme statistical abnormalities--freaks of nature, if you will--that make up maybe (I don't know) one millionth of one per cent of humanity. For every human being who has invented a pendulum or revolutionized mathematics, there are untold billions of poor benighted souls who have spent the majority of their lives tripping over the

cat, making up limericks about some guy from Nantucket, and cupping their hands in front of their face to see how bad their breath smells. And you can't tell me that Aristotle, Saint Joan and Martin Luther King didn't spend their fair share of hours doing stuff like *that*, either.

Yet we are so quick to think of ourselves as vastly superior to the plant and animal kingdoms. Yeah, right. Superior to life forms capable of routinely completing miraculous tasks such as constructing immensely complex hives, improvising intricate and beautiful musical melodies, lighting themselves up on summer nights, and eating sunlight. Puhleeze.

I think, in the long run, it may be a far better survival strategy for us to have a little less arrogant certainty that we are able to solve all of the world's problems. Let's face it, we're the ones who created the problems in the first place. I also think we should have a whole lot more respect for the genius of the universe that surrounds and includes us (if we let it), whether we call that genius God or Goddess, Jesus or Allah or Coyote.

If there is any flicker of hope for us and for all of the things that our arrogance is capable of destroying, this hope is not to be found in what we think makes us so special and transcendent. It's not about creating better strains of wheat or fish. Not about what separates us from everything else alive. Rather, it's about what connects us to everything else alive. If we have any gift at all, it's nothing more than a spark of that enormous genius that lies behind all of creation, and whatever we do, we should do it with that in mind.



Dear Barb;

This may not sound like a typical question for an advice column, but I really need help. I am in my first year of university and I have never lived on my own. I grew up in a European family, and understandably my mother did everything for me. I hardly even know how to cook macaroni and cheese. I wonder if you could suggest some quick and easy recipes that I would be able to prepare with my limited cooking experience. Also, I'm on a tight budget so cost is important. Thanks so much.

Catherine in Nova Scotia

Hi Catherine, your question is great and I'm sure there are many first year students who share your situation.

Learning to live as a student on a budget is a big adjustment; however it is also important that you try to eat a balanced diet consisting of a variety of food. Consulting Canada's Food Guide will help in choosing from the four food groups - grain products; vegetables and fruit; milk products; meat and alternatives. You can access Canada's Food Guide online at <http://www.nms.on.ca/Elementary/canada.htm> as well as through

Publications Health & Welfare Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9.

Following are a few of the easy, yet cost efficient recipes I obtained at the following websites:

<http://www.campus.access.com>

<http://www.cheapcooking.com>

<http://www.faqs.org/docs/consumer/recipes>.

Also, an excellent book, "*Heart Smart Cooking on a Shoestring*" by Julie Watson, is published in cooperation with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. It contains 60 easy recipes, as well as many tips for cutting your grocery bills. It is an older book, but still available for under \$10.00. Here are a few recipes to get you started:

Breakfast Granola

2 cups whole-wheat flour
6 cups rolled oats
1 cup coconut
1 cup wheat germ
½ cup water
1 cup oil
1 cup honest or corn syrup
1 tsp vanilla
1 tbsp salt (optional)

Instructions

Preheat oven to 250 degrees

1. Combine flour, oats, coconut and wheat germ in a large bowl and mix.
2. Blend water, oil, honey or corn syrup, vanilla and salt in a separate bowl and mix.
3. Add wet to dry ingredients and mix well.
4. Spread out on two greased cookie sheets and bake 55 minutes. Store in covered container.

Options: use 1 cup of brown sugar instead of honey or corn syrup and heat with water, oil and sugar until not granular.

Ground Beef Layered Casserole

3 potatoes, peeled and sliced
3 carrots, peeled and sliced
½ cup uncooked rice
1 onion, sliced
1 lb. ground beef or turkey
1 quart canned tomatoes
Salt and pepper to taste
1 tbsp brown sugar

Instructions

Layer the ingredients as listed, ending with salt and pepper. If desired sprinkle with brown sugar.

Bake at 300 degrees for 3 hours

Tuna Delight

2 slices whole grain toast

1 cup vegetables, such as cooked broccoli florets, mixed vegetables or canned asparagus drained 1 can (4 oz/113 g) water packed tuna, drained, or an equal amount of leftover cooked white fish or salmon

Light Cheese Sauce for Tuna Delight

2 tbsp (25 ml) grated part-skim milk

mozzarella cheese

2 tbsp (25 ml) low-fat mayonnaise

¼ cup (50 ml) skim milk

Instructions for Cheese Sauce

In small saucepan, combine cheese, mayonnaise and skim milk; heat for a few seconds over medium heat, stirring constantly until smooth.

Place toast and vegetables on 2 small heatproof plates; top with tuna, then hot cheese sauce. Broil until cheese begins to brown, if desired.

Good Luck with these recipes Catherine, I hope I was able to help. Also check out this week's column "*Women You Should Know*."

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.

Women you should know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Julia Child

1912-2004

Julia Child was born in Pasadena California on August 15, 1912. Upon graduating from college in 1934, Julia's cooking skills were limited to boiling water.

This would all change, as during her life Julia excelled in the culinary arts. She hosted several long running cooking series on PBS, including "Cooking With Master Chefs" and "Baking With Julia." She also completed a series of six teaching videocassettes entitled "The Way to Cook." Julia wrote many books, some of which have been on the bestsellers lists, including "Julia's Kitchen Wisdom; Essential Techniques and Recipes from a Lifetime of Cooking."

Julia received honorary degrees from several universities; as well she was awarded the Ordre de Merite Agricole from the French Government in 1967 and 1976. Moreover, she received two Emmys, one in 1995 and one in 1997. Julia was the recipient of the prestigious "Peabody Award" from Public Television in 1999. Since her death at age 91, Julia's kitchen has been preserved and is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

Read more about her at:

<http://starchefs.com/JChild/html/biography.shtml>

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



RALPH KLEIN'S FIRESIDE CHAT TO ALBERTANS PROMISES PSE CHANGES

Debbie Jabbour

After days of eager anticipation, the Alberta government's education plan was revealed this evening during Premier Ralph Klein's annual "fireside chat." The government had promised an announcement of "some important news for the postsecondary sector, which is so vital to young people's futures."

The program aired on CFRN television, following the Tuesday evening newscast. Most of it was comprised of an overview of Alberta's past and present accomplishments, including voices of "ordinary" Albertans, with a focus on the upcoming centennial in 2005. Klein began the discussion from an empty schoolroom at MacKay Avenue school, Alberta's historic first school, and ended it at Centennial School in Calgary surrounded by a classroom of students and computers. Symbolic, no doubt, of the announcement made at the culmination of the program.

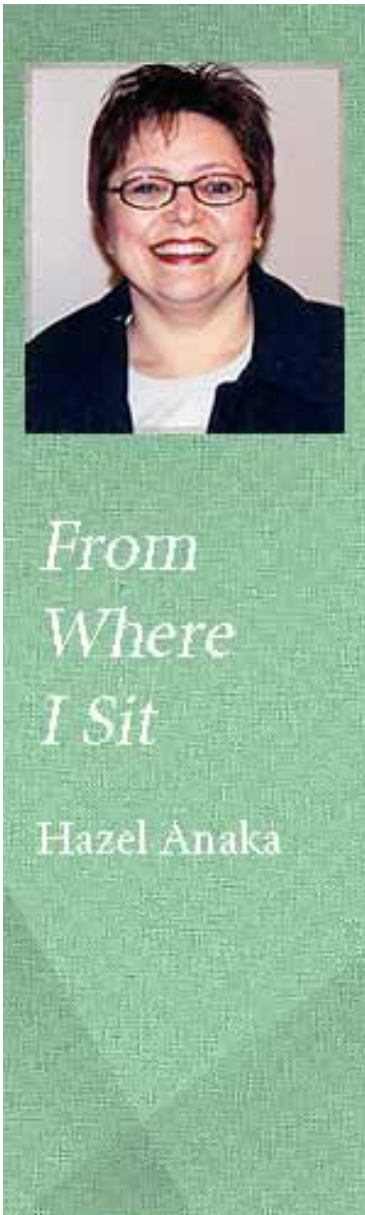
Klein made a promise to the children of Alberta that the next 100 years will be even better than the first, adding that there is no better legacy than giving each child the opportunity to develop the skills they need to be successful in life. He said that students are leaving Alberta because there are no university spaces and insufficient apprenticeship opportunities, and this needs to change. He then announced that immediate action will be taken to create more spaces at our universities, colleges and technical schools. Over the next 3 years, the current 140,000 spots will be increased by 15,000, in 6 years by another 30,000, and by 2020, some 60,000 new post-secondary education spaces will be added--the equivalent of two major university campuses.

Ralph then went on to address what is a major concern--affordability. He stated that several universities in Alberta have already announced tuition hikes for the upcoming year, and then said he had a message for these universities. "If you must increase tuition, don't send the bill to students, send it to us." With that, he promised that the government will pay the tuition increases for the next year at all Alberta universities, so that when students start classes in September they will "not pay a dollar more" than they have been paying in 2004.

Acknowledging that this was a solution for one year only, he announced a second commitment--that by 2006 Alberta will have defined a new tuition policy for the 20th century that will be the most innovative and entrepreneurial in the country. More will be revealed regarding this plan when the Alberta legislature begins its spring session, beginning with the introduction of Bill 1.

Government of Alberta News Release, January 28, 2005. <http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200501/17540A2A93C56-CF5B-4162-88D20A2FDD8CA72F.html>

Alberta's Celebration of the Century, Telecast CFRN 6:30 P.M. MST, February 8, 2005
<http://www.gov.ab.ca/home/index.cfm?Page=970>



Sex Appeal, Re-Defined

I've always been partial to dark-haired men with moustaches. I even married one. A coincidence? I think not.

Now, don't get me wrong, there are some very attractive men out there who don't fit that narrow, even shallow stereotype. Right now for instance I happen to think Mike Holmes is the sexiest guy on TV. Understand, he's no Tom Selleck, but he is hot.

Oh, sure he fills out his Carhartts very nicely. And he does have those big, bulgy biceps and pecs out there for all the world to see when he's working bare-chested. He does wear his short, blonde hair spiked. I don't even mind the tattoos or thick gold chain around his neck.

He's got attitude and ethics. He's got skill and professionalism. He's got emotion and passion. He's a man with a mission to make it right. Most importantly, he's got a tool belt and he's not afraid to use it.

Gentlemen, do not underestimate the sex appeal of a man with tools and talent who willingly turns them to all those 'honey-do' fix-it and renovation jobs around the house. The way to some women's hearts is through an eager, capable willingness to do these things for them.

Mike Holmes is the star of HGTV's "Holmes on Homes" TV show. Mike is a knight in shiny armor. He uses his considerable skill, an army of trusted trades-people and contractors, and down-home moral advice from his father, to right construction wrongs. He shakes his head in disbelief at some of the shoddy, dangerous and downright criminal work being passed off as professional construction and/or renovation work in the Toronto area. He swears at the gall of these creeps. He's blunt about the naiveté of some of the victims. He educates viewers about the pitfalls of renos. And bonus, he doesn't whine like Jim on "Real Renos."

Mike uses the skills he learned from his father, 20 years in the contracting business and a clear understanding of the requirements of the building code to correct dangerous, demoralizing, expensive bungles.

Any woman who's waited forever for a husband or a contractor to do some simple project will appreciate Mike's take-charge attitude and attention to detail. He believes in doing it right the first time. And he gets it done. No challenge is too big, no detail too small. He expresses the indignation and anger at crappy work, dangerous shortcuts, and unethical tradesmen that anger all of us. He sees people losing life savings and their faith in their fellow man.

In an age where too often we don't get what we pay for, where shysters take advantage of the unsuspecting, where heroes are in short supply, Mike is a breath of fresh air. I love his righteous indignation, his macho good looks and the fact that he leaves things better than he found them. That's pretty sexy, from where I sit.



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

Zink - Magazine INTERN - Job Location: New York, NY, United States

Job Description: Zink magazine is looking for interns in many facets of the industry. Fashion, advertising, editorial, and event interns to assist the with phones, appointments, and other magazine related tasks. Zink is a very busy place and we need people who are self starters, good on the phone, have some knowledge about how the industry works. If you are interested in the fashion position we need someone who has worked and who at least knows the procedure for calling in items for shoots, wants to write and has some knowledge about fashion designers and magazines. Please send all resumes to intern@zinkmag.com, ok to mention ED, not ok to call. Please state in email which area of the business you are interested in. This is an UNPAID Internship but a great way to get your foot in the door in such a competitive industry.

Job Requirements: excellent self starter; great on the phones and with people; knowledge of magazine industry a plus; expertise in fashion a plus; flexible schedule

How To Apply: Please send all inquiries and resumes to intern@zinkmag.com. PLEASE NO PHONE CALLS. Also, state which area of the publishing industry you are interested in the email.

Contact Information: Denise Dandeneau, Zink, 304 Park Ave So., 12th Floor, USA, NY, United States 10010
Phone: 646 792 2333 Email: intern@zinkmag.com WWW: <http://www.zinkmag.com>

Placements Impact Canada Ltd.- International Trade and Export Consultants. - Location: Toronto, ON

Job Description: We are presently looking for many motivated candidates for our North-American Corporate clients in Export area (Entry-Level and Paid Internships Positions available in 2004-2005): International Business and Export Consultants. Attractive salaries and packages (including life insurance, paid vacation, etc.). We will provide the work placement/work permit (Visa) with our Corporate clients.

Job Requirements: You will be joining a dynamic team of seasoned sales professionals working with top multinational corporations. You will be calling on North American prospects who need to know about international markets. You may, however, have some opportunities to travel to meet face-to-face with your prospects and clients in the course of your work. Multilingual and strong multi-cultural management style are important. Strong process orientation to sales and sales management is critical. Export customer service and/or shipping experience helpful. Commercial courses and courses in export shipping and documentation helpful. Interacting as required with International Sales management team to insure their needs are met. Exposure to international credit and collections. Ability to manage multiple priorities and consistently deliver results. Must have good Word and Excel skills.

How To Apply: If you are interested by a position in International Trade or Export area, please, send us a resume thru email, mail or fax.

Contact Information: Mr Peter hamond, MBA, Associate and HR Manager, Placements Impact Canada Ltd., 1250 University Street (B.1073), Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B3K5
Phone: (514) 4092017 FAX: (450) 6567116 Email: Placement_ca@look.ca

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

UNIVERSITY WRITING SCHOLARSHIP (UWS)

Amount: n/s

Deadline: January 31, 2005

Administrator: Elder & Leemaur Publishers

Notes: The UWS Program will provide Canadian university students with the opportunity to have their literature works published, while at the same time entering them into scholarships that will help mitigate their university costs. There are a number of scholarships available for university students. Half of the available awards will go towards entrance scholarships, while the remainder will be given to current undergraduate students. Field of study will have no bearing on scholarship allocation. Recipients of the scholarships will be determined based on quality of work submitted. Students must submit an essay no longer than 500 words on ONE of the following topics to be eligible for the scholarships:

WINTER SEMESTER (January-April):

Award Amount: up to \$10,000 available

Deadline: February 15, 2005

Topic #1: Do you think today's athletes are overpaid?

Topic #2: Do you think NAFTA has had a negative or positive impact on our country?

SUMMER SEMESTER (May-August):

Award Amount: up to \$10,000 available

Deadline: June 15, 2005

Topic #1: Do you think the privatization of the Health Care System is or will have a negative impact on the service you receive?

Topic #2: Do you think the media has an influence on the decisions you make?

<http://www.elpublishers.com/content/uwsotherscholarships.php>.

DANIEL B. GOLDBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$10,000

Deadline: n/s

1)The Daniel B. Goldberg Scholarship of \$10,000 is available for award to a graduate student who is enrolled in full-time master's study preparing for a career in state and local government finance. This scholarship is funded by the Girard Miller Foundation. The winner of the scholarship is invited, as out guest, to attend the Government Finance Officers Association's annual conference, where the award is presented. Completed applications and other correspondence about the scholarship programs can be sent to:

Scholarship Committee, Government Finance Officers Association
203 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60601-1210, (312/977-9700)

Eligibility:

Currently a full-time student in a graduate program that prepares students for careers in state and local government finance and expecting to be enrolled in the spring semester of the year for which the scholarship is awarded (including graduates of that spring semester).

Baccalaureate degree or its equivalent.

Citizen or permanent resident of the United States or Canada.

Recommendation from student's academic advisor or dean of the graduate program.

Student has not been a past winner of a scholarship administered by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada are not eligible to apply.

Web site: <http://www.gfoa.org/services/scholarships.shtml>



Provided by Lonita Fraser

ROMANCE SLAM JAM 2005
Dallas, Texas USA

March 10 - 13 2005

Contact: Cindi Louis - 972.623.2537; Emma Rodgers - 800.272.5027 - P.O. box 530326, Grand Prairie, TX, 75053
romanceslamjam2005@yahoo.com - <http://www.romanceslamjam.com/>

The four-day conference unites readers and writers of Black romance for an exciting fun-filled extended weekend of literary activities, entertainment, and awards presentations. Over 300 authors, readers, and industry professionals are expected to attend. Theme: Rolling Out the Red Carpet for the Readers

Key activities include:

- Literary activities - writer's workshops, editor and agent presentations, book signings, and aspiring writer's contest
- Keynote luncheon featuring best-selling author Jacquelin Thomas
- EMMA awards banquet acknowledging the top books in ten tempting categories.
- Readers participation and tributes in all major functions
- Fun activities like shopping and sightseeing in Dallas, a trip to Black Images Book Bazaar, tastes of Dallas, welcome reception, Sunday morning worship, skits, games, and prizes.

The per person registration fee is: Until Jan 15, 2005 - \$ 165.00 per person; Jan 15 - Mar 13, 2005 - \$200.00 per person. Bookclubs or writing groups submitting five or more registrations at one time will receive \$15 off the per person registration fee. (Price - \$150.00 per person) All five registrations and payment must be sent together.

THE EYES ABOVE: SPACE & NEAR-SPACE TELESCOPE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
Toronto, Ontario

Feb 17 2005

http://cadwww.hia.nrc.ca/cadcbn/get_meetings?meeting_no=1605 - Mubdi Rahman - mubdi.rahman@utoronto.ca

DREAMCATCHING 2005

Feb 23 - 26 Feb 2005

Professional Development Math and Science Workshops for Teachers of Aboriginal Students
Montreal, Quebec

<http://www.dream-catching.com> - Contact: Dawn Wiseman - dawn@encs.concordia.ca

DreamCatching is a series of hands-on, professional development math and science workshops, that focus on the integration of western and indigenous perspectives on the teaching and learning of these subjects. Organized by Native Access to Engineering Programme, Concordia University

Lavender Languages: Linguistics Conference
Washington, DC, United States

11 February 2005

<http://www.american.edu/lavenderlanguages> - Contact: Bill Leap - E-mail: wlm@american.edu

Tenth Annual Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy
Tucson, Arizona, United States

18 February 2005

<http://phil.web.arizona.edu/events/ancientphilo.htm> - Contact: Professor Mark McPherran - mcpheran@maine.edu

APSA Conference on Teaching and Learning in Political Science
Washington, DC, United States

19 February 2005

<http://www.apsanet.org/tlc> - E-mail: mwoodruff@apsanet.org

The John Donne Society Conference
Baton Rouge, LA, United States

23 to 27 February 2005

<http://www.chss.montclair.edu/donne/> - Contact name: Prof. Eugene R. Cunnar - E-mail: ecunnar@nmsu.edu

Thirty-third Annual Twentieth Century Literature and Culture Conference
Louisville, Kentucky, United States

24 February 2005

<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/cml/xxconf/> - Contact name: Danielle Day - E-mail: dlday@louisville.edu

**72nd Meeting of the Society of Military History
Charleston, South Carolina, United States**

24 February 2005

http://citadel.edu/history_dept/News%20and%20Announcements/News%20home.htm - E-mail: sinisik@citadel.edu

**Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT)
24 February 2005**

Charlotte, North Carolina, United States

<http://www.valdosta.edu/scolt> - Contact name: Lynne McClendon - E-mail: lynnemcc@mindspring.com

**14th Annual British Commonwealth & Postcolonial Studies Conference
& the 3rd Annual USACLALS Conference
Savannah, Georgia, United States**

25 February 2005

<http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/britishsubmitonline.html> - E-mail: schille@georgiasouthern.edu or dchampion@georgiasouthern.edu

**Healing Through History:
A Multi-disciplinary Conference Celebrating Oral Tradition
Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States**

25 February 2005

<http://www.healingstory.org/events/overview.html> - Contact name: Diane Rooks - E-mail: diane@storyjourney.com

**FaciliCon 2005
New Orleans, LA, United States**

28 Feb - 3 Mar 2005

<http://www.wbresearch.com/facilicon/index.html> - Contact: Customer Service - E-mail: bchung@wbresearch.com
FaciliCon 2005 is the premier industry event for facilities management in higher education, connecting executives in facilities and capital construction from colleges and universities across North America - public and private, big and small. Organized by: Worldwide Business Research

**46th Annual International Studies Association Convention
Honolulu, Hawaii, United States**

1 March 2005

<http://www.isanet.org/hawaii/> - E-mail: isaproq@cgu.edu

**Social and Political Philosophy: Christians and Communities
Seattle, Washington, United States**

3 March 2005

<http://david.snu.edu/~brint.fs/wpsjnl/news.htm> - Contact name: Brint Montgomery - E-mail: brint@snu.edu - Organized by: Wesleyan Philosophical Society

**Women's Stories, Women's Lives: Making Sense of Experience
Bronxville, New York, United States**

4 March 2005

http://www.slc.edu/womens_history/ - E-mail: tjames@slc.edu

**(RE)Examining Race & Gender Conference
Seattle, Washington, United States**

4 - 5 March 2005

<http://www.seattleu.edu/wisner> - Contact name: Julie Stein - E-mail: jstein@seattleu.edu - Organized by: Seattle University

**Sun Conference
El Paso, Texas, United States**

4 - 5 March 2005

<http://cetal.utep.edu/sun/2005/> - Contact name: Jenny A. Fraire-Varela - jfraire@utep.edu - Focus is on practical, applied strategies, tools, and techniques. All university faculty, instructional staff, instructional developers are invited to share their innovative teaching practices. Sponsored by: University of Texas at El Paso

**The Art of Gender in Everyday Life II: A Multidisciplinary Conference
Pocatello, Idaho, United States**

4 to 5 March 2005

<http://www.isu.edu/andersoncenter> - Contact name: Rebecca Morrow - gndrctr@isu.edu - Explore the various ways in which gender is crafted, celebrated, endured, deciphered, expressed or, in short, the art of how it is lived on a daily basis. Organized by: Anderson Gender Resource Center and Women's Studies Program at Idaho State University

**PerEL Workshop on Pervasive eLearning
Kauai Island, Hawaii, United States**

8 to 12 March 2005

<http://wwwra.informatik.uni-rostock.de/perel2005> - PerEL Organization Team - perel05@informatik.uni-rostock.de
Held in conjunction with the IEEE Int. Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications (PerCom 05). It wants to bring together researchers and developers from different technical and educational disciplines.

**4th Annual Race and Place Conference: Borderlands and Boundaries
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States**

10 March 2005

<http://www.ua.edu/academic/colleges/raceandplace/> - E-mail: gdorr@bama.ua.edu

**Second International Conference on Positive Behavior Support
Tampa, FL, United States**

10 to 12 March 2005

<http://www.apbs.org> - Contact name: Tim Knoster - E-mail: tknoster@bloomu.edu - Positive Behavior Support involves the assessment and engineering of environments so that people with problem behaviors can increase social, personal and professional quality in their lives.

**International Dark-Sky Association 16th Annual Meeting
Tucson, Arizona, United States**

10 March 2005

Website: <http://www.darksky.org/index.html> - Contact name: Bob Gent - E-mail: RLGent1@aol.com

**Children's Literature
Rochester, New York, United States**

19 March 2005

Contact name: Laurie Ousley - E-mail: lousley@monroecc.edu - We welcome abstracts on any aspect of children's literature, contemporary, classic, obscure or popular. Papers might focus on illustration, drama, poetry, the picture book, the historical novel, fantasy, science fiction, realism, fairy tale. Organized by: Monroe Community College

**Conference on Southern Literature
Chattanooga, Tennessee, United States**

31 Mar - 2 April 2005

<http://www.artsedcouncil.org/csl/cslit.html> - Contact: Susan Robinson - info@artsedcouncil.org - Nearly 40 writers convene for panel discussions, readings, lectures, book signings, and more. 2005 theme is The South: A Community of Outsiders. Keynote by Reynolds Price. Registration starts in January. Organized by: Arts & Education Council

**American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada, United States**

31 March 2005

<http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/2005annualmtg.htm> - E-mail: asecs@wfu.edu

**Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL)
New York, New York, United States**

31 March 2005

<http://www.dickinson.edu/nectfl> - E-mail: nectfl@dickinson.edu

**EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS
Philosophy of "e-ducation 2005"**

Feb 19 - Feb 22 2005

<http://www.e-ducation2005.com/index.asp>

As more and more countries become information-based societies, the terms 'globalization' and 'information and communication technology' are no longer buzzwords, but instead, daily realities changing the way people live, work, and learn. However, in a world where technological divide and imbalance in resource distribution are still apparent, many countries have a long way to go before transforming into knowledge-based economies. What is the role of education in general—and e-learning in particular—in helping countries to maximize their potential? Recognizing the challenges this disparity presents, the theme of the This challenge is the theme of the "e-ducation Without Borders" conference, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, February 2005: e-learning through the Eyes of the World: Responsible Development and Desired Role

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.

MEPHISTOS

March 5-6, 2005

Providence, Rhode Island USA

<http://www.brown.edu/Students/Mephistos/> - 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.

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **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.

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 RELEASE, DISARMING



Barnes&Noble.com

"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."

"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*

Thurs Feb 3 @ Grassroots Cafe in Peterborough, ON
395 Aylmer Street N / 8pm / \$10

For more info: 705-876-6530 ~DUO show~

Fri Feb 4 @ The Mod Club in Toronto, ON
722 College St. Wat Crawford / 9pm / \$10 adv. \$12 at door
Double Bill Performance w/ Madviolet

For more info or advance tix: (416) 588-4MOD
w/ TORONTO'S Madviolet

Sat., February 5th @ Co-operators Hall @ RiverRun Centre
in Guelph, ON

35 Woolwich Street / 8pm / \$10

<http://www.riverrun.guelph.on.ca>

w/ Kate Schutt

Thurs Feb 10 to Feb 13 @ Frostbite Music Festival
In Whitehorse, YK

Two main stage performances, plus workshops

Festival information: <http://www.frostbitefest.ca>

Fri., February 18th @ Nectar's in Burlington, VT
188 Main St / 7pm / \$5

For more info: 802-865-4563 ~DUO show~

Sat Feb 19 @ Rathskellier in Ewing, NJ
Brower Student Center, College of New Jersey
9:00pm / Free for students ~DUO show~

Thurs Feb 24 - 27 @ Folk Alliance Conference in Montreal,
QC

1255, rue Jeanne-Mance

Multiple Showcases still being organized!

Currently:

Fri: 10:30pm-12:00am - Fleming Showcase (15 min)

Fri: 12:00am-12:30am - MPRESSRECORDS Showcase

Sat: 10:40pm-11:00pm - OUTMUSIC Showcase

Sat: 11:30pm-12:00am - SOS Annex (Ronda Barton Room)

Sat: 1:00am-1:30am - Peppermint/Green Note Showcase

~DUO shows~

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

CALGARY WINTERFEST 11-21 FEBRUARY 2005 CALGARY, ALBERTA

All day - Cost: Free

Calgary Winter Festival Foundation

Number +1 403 543 5480

Fax +1 403 543 5490

info@calgarywinterfest.com

#100, 634 6th Ave SW

Calgary, Alberta, T2P 0S4

The highlight of the annual Calgary Winterfest must be
the Human Curling Championships, where Calgary's finest
line up to jump onto giant rubber tubes and slide, slide,
slide away...

The first weekend sees music, magic and mayhem in the
carnival at the Devonian Gardens and the Winterfest
wackiness keeps the kids entertained during the week
with ice sculpting, strongman competitions and the
Wacky Wing Eating Competition.

Live music and street performers fill the streets for the
duration of the festival as around 200,000 people
celebrate the midwinter and the imminent arrival of
spring.

manitoba

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR 11-20 FEBRUARY 2005 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

All day - Cost: Free

Contact - 1 204 237 7692

info@festivalvoyageur.mb.ca

768 Tache Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2H 2C4

The Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg is Western Canada's largest winter festival. Reflecting the country's unique French-Canadian heritage, the ten-day celebration recalls the fur trade era of the 18th-century Red River colony.

Various venues across the town play host to a variety of concerts and performances. There are three heated tents in addition to the main stage in Voyageur Park, the main focus of the celebrations.

Snow and ice sculptures are de rigeur for winter festivals and this one features an International Snow Sculpting Symposium. Dog sledding also features highly and competitive races with between three and ten dogs are quite a sight.

ontario

ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW

5-6 FEBRUARY 2005 - TORONTO, ONTARIO
10.30AM-5PM

Cost \$10 - under 13s free

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

6, Garamond Ct, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Z5

+1 416 441 2345

Contact - +1 905 625 3475 - show@soos.ca

The Southern Ontario Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Show in Toronto's Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is an exotic gardener's paradise. Displays feature thousands of flowering orchid plants arranged in beautiful natural exhibits.

Apart from wandering the Garden Centre to browse the rare flowers on show, visitors can also buy orchids, attend talks on how to care for and cultivate these wonderful flowers and play the judge along with the Orchid Society, who award prizes for the most well-cultured plant.

WINTERCITY FESTIVA

28 JANUARY - 10 FEBRUARY 2005
TORONTO, ONTARIO

Cost: Free

Contact - Access Toronto - +1 416 338 0338

Toronto's WinterCity Festival provides two weeks of fun throughout the city - from puppeteers and storytellers to dance performances and spectacular ice skating shows.

The annual event is a celebration of Toronto's unique diversity of spirit, offering a flurry of top free

entertainment and a showcase of the city's vibrant arts scene. Winterlicious features delicious culinary experiences including special dinners and tastings. Forget the weather and join the party in the world's coolest winter city!

WINTERLUDE

4-20 FEBRUARY 2005
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

Fri-Sun all day - Cost: Most events are free
+1 613 239 5000

Amongst the myriad activities, the event boasts the world's largest skating rink in the form of the Rideau Canal. At seven kilometres long, it is a central focus of the event. Shows, snow sculpture and skating abound.

All sorts of weird and wonderful events take place under the banner of the festival, including the Hospital Bed Race, the parading of the Ice Hogs (the mascots of the festival) and extreme trampolining. The frozen canal is the venue for many of the shows that are performed both on and off skates.

It is very much a family event, with much of the entertainment being aimed at a younger audience. A trip to Snowflake Kingdom is a must, where mammoth mountains of snow have been transformed into a fairytale fantasy land, including around 30 giant snow slides carved with images depicting well-known fairy tale characters.

For the kid in you though, you can try your hand at such Canadian traditions as sledge hockey, ice climbing, curling and dog-sledding. Public ice block carving is also encouraged, but if sculpting is not your strong point, you can see how the professionals do it in an intriguing look at a continent far removed from this wintry landscape.

quebec

QUÉBEC WINTER CARNIVAL

28 JANUARY - 13 FEBRUARY 2005
QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC

Contact - Number +1 866 422 7628 (hotline)

Second Number +1 418 626 3716

Promoting itself as the largest snow festival in the world, the Québec Winter Carnival makes the most of the harsh climatic conditions in this part of the world. Intended primarily as a way to brighten up the bleak days of midwinter, the event has been a highlight on the local calendar for years.

If you do decide to take part, pack your warmest clothes: temperatures here average minus 10 degrees Celsius.

FÊTE DES NEIGES
22 JANUARY - 6 FEBRUARY
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Cost - Free
some activities are charged for

Parc Jean-Drapeau
1, Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve
Montreal, Quebec, H3C 1A9
apubliques@parcjeandrapeau.com

Contact - 1 514 872 6120 - webmaster@fetedesneiges.com

The famous joie de vivre of Montreal is never expressed better than during Canada's premier Winter Festival, the Fête des Neiges. Held in the Parc Jean-Drapeau, it runs over three consecutive weekends, with selected events during the intervening weeks. If you want to get a feel for Montreal in winter and the warm openness of the local people, there's no better time to visit.

A snow castle dominates the centre of the fairytale realm of Boule de Neige, the kingdom of la Fête. The size of a football pitch, its labyrinthine ways are populated by various medieval characters and are open to exploration. The fun includes a competition for the world record for speed in ice sculpting, dogsledding circuits for children and professionally-certified ice climbers, who teach the public how to scale a 12-metre-high ice tower - a useful skill in these parts.

ARTAPALOOZA
25 JANUARY - 8 FEBRUARY 2005
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Saidye Bronfman Centre for the Arts
5170, Côte Ste Catherine Rd
Montreal, Quebec, H3W 1M7
Tel +1 514 739 2301 - Fax +1 514 739 9340
theatre@saidyebrofman.org

Info & Tickets - 1 514 739 7944 - marc@thesaidye.org

Montreal's Saidye Bronfman Centre hosts Artapalooza! - an annual arts festival aimed especially at young people. Theatre, dance, music and mime troupes from around the world perform in English and French.

Varied presentations are aimed at young children and teenagers and most performances are followed by workshop activities. The festival also takes actors into schools to discuss their work.

CANADIAN SKI MARATHON
12-13 FEBRUARY 2005
LACHUTE, QUEBEC

Cost - \$22 - \$215, based on age and when you register

Canadian Ski Marathon
Number +1 819 770 6556
Second Number +1 877 770 6556 (toll-free)
ski@csm-mcs.com
CSM Office, 81 Jean-Proulx, Suite 200
Gatineau, QC, J8Z 1W2

The Canadian Ski Marathon at Lachute in Quebec is one of the world's largest cross-country ski events.

The event organisers provide useful backup in the form of snacks, check points, a shuttle bus and ski wax services. Chartered coaches transport skiers from Toronto, Montreal and Gatineau, so it's not even necessary to drive. You can't beat a great cross-country event for testing endurance and skill, or as a personal challenge.

BBCM RED PARTY WEEKEND
13-15 FEBRUARY 2005
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

10pm-8am - Cost: \$55

Parisian Laundry
3550, Saint-Antoine St West (at corner of Bel Air St)
Montreal, Quebec

Valentine's Day celebrations are sensibly given the whole weekend on the Montreal gay scene, the highlight being the Red Party, which takes place at the Parisian Laundry.

The weekend features a host of parties and social events. At the Red Party DJ Norm Robert, a big name on the local scene, and the excellent DJ Paulo, a star of the American circuit who regularly has top billing at prestigious events like the Alegria Party at New York's Sound Factory, spin the tunes. Dress code is red, unsurprisingly, with a touch of leather.

CARNAVAL-SOUVENIR
10-20 FEBRUARY 2005
CHICOUTIMI, QUEBEC

All day - Cost: Free

+1 418 543 4438
info@carnavalsouvenir.qc.ca
49, rue Lafontaine, C.P. 567
Chicoutimi, G7H 5C8

Over 100,000 people pay homage to the past as the citizens and guests of Chicoutimi dress up in period costumes and eat, drink and dance in the style of 100 years ago. It's a time to remember both your local and national identity, whether you're from Chicoutimi or not.

Visitors receive a real taste of Saguenayan hospitality and entertainment. The focus of the festival is place

Carnaval, where laser shows open the festivities and snow castles and other monuments dot the landscape. The party continues for 11 days with all sorts of events both inside and out, including special theatre shows and an operetta, featuring 60 comedians and over 30 musicians. Outdoor types can wrap up warm and jump on horse or dog-drawn sleds for a tour through the picturesque landscape.

international

SMALL WORLD EXPO **THURSDAY, FEB 24, 2005 - SATURDAY, FEB 26, 2005** **8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

Las Vegas Convention Center, 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

"Nanotechnology has the potential to profoundly change our economy and to improve our standard of living, in a manner not unlike the impact made by advances over the past two decades by information technology." - National Nanotechnology Initiative

Small World Expo - The Bridge Between Concept and Commercialization: showcases the leading companies and developers in tiny technology allows companies and attendees to develop partnerships, license technology and evaluate acquisitions educates the individuals on the practical applications of nanotechnology, microsystems and MEMS.

Why this is a "must attend" event:

As an executive, we help you maximize your time at the show by pre-scheduling appointments with companies you'll want to partner with, license technology from or even acquire. Unlike other events, the show floor will be divided into pavilions so that you can save time finding companies of interest. On the conference side, unlike other events, the content will be delivered in an easily understandable fashion.

How you will benefit by attending personally:

Much confusion still exists about what this technology is truly capable of and how much it will cost to implement into your products and manufacturing. It's time to simplify, demystify, and clarify how these technologies can help your company become more efficient and more profitable. By attending, you'll return with the contacts, knowledge, and confidence you need to make intelligent buying decisions.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LINUX EXPO **SATURDAY, FEB 12, 2005 - SUNDAY, FEB 13, 2005** **9:00 AM - 9:00 PM**

Los Angeles Convention Center
1201 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California 90015

We are proud to announce the third annual Southern California Linux Expo. SCALE 3X will be two days of talks, tutorials and seminars on Linux and open-source software! We will also have a full exhibit hall running both days. It's set for February 12th and 13th, 2005 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

For more information on attending, exhibiting, sponsoring or speaking at SCALE 3x please see our website at <http://www.socallinuxexpo.org> for up to the minute information.

PENIS MUSEUM **NOW THROUGH APRIL 30TH, 2005** **REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND**

Institute of Phallology
Laugavegur 24, Reykjavík, Iceland
May-Aug: Tue-Sat 2pm-5pm
Sep-Apr: Tue & Sat 2pm-5pm
Tel +354 561 6663 / 566 8668 Fax +354 552 6466
phallus@ismennet.is

A brave group of scientific entrepreneurs has set up the world's first Penis Museum (officially known as the Institute of Phallology) in Reykjavik - it's not for the squeamish.

The museum, as well as showcasing the rich diversity of nature's endowments, also has a gallery of phallological art and a section of "practical utensils" relating to the theme of the museum, whatever that means.

MR POTTER'S MUSEUM OF CURIOSITY - DAILY **BOLVENTOR, CORNWALL, ENGLAND**

Jul-Aug 10am-7pm
Nov-Mar 11am-4pm
Sep-Oct & Apr-Jun 10am-5pm
Cost £2.50 concessions £2 family ticket £6.95
For more information: +44 1566 86838
jamaicainn@eclipse.co.uk

Mr Potter's "Famous" Museum of Curiosities in Cornwall is an experience of unadulterated madness, resembling more the result of a psychotic on the rampage at a car boot sale than a collection of relics of the past.

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

classifieds

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

Adventure! Teach English Worldwide. Get TESOL Certified in 5-days. Study In-class, Online or by Correspondence. Travel & Earn \$\$\$\$. Job Guarantee. Find out more at globaltesol.com or 1-888-270-2941



AU SCIENCE STUDENTS' SOCIETY (AUS3) ONLINE! The AU Science Students' Society is online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/ausss/index.php>. If you are an AU science student or a student with an interest in science, this club is for you! Contact aus3@ausu.org for more information. It's free to join!

THE VOICE

2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4 -- Ph: 800.788.9041 ext. 2905 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

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