

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

February 23, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 8



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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

2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street,
Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
800.788.9041 ext. 2905

Publisher Athabasca University
Students' Union

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low
News Contributor Lonita Fraser

Regular Columnists:

Debbie Jabbour, Karl Low, Katie
Patrick, Hazel Anaka, Bill Pollett,
Janice Behrens, Barbara Godin,
Wanda Waterman St. Louis

Contributors to listings columns:
Zil-E-Huma Lodhi, Lonita Fraser

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EDITORIAL PAGES

AU 2005/06 Tuition and Budget

As promised by Ralph Klein in February's televised Fireside Chat, the tuition of Alberta students will not rise one cent for the 2005/06 school year. This is a simple proposition for students at the other three Alberta universities, but here at AU, things need a little more explaining.

First, as people keep repeating, because it is such an important distinction, this is not a tuition freeze. In a freeze, the universities are not permitted to raise tuition for a set period of time, but in this case, the universities can and will raise tuition according to their proposed budgets for 2005/06. However, the government will subsidize Alberta students for any increase above the 2004/05 rate. While this may appear to be a freeze to Alberta students who take courses next year, it's important to remember that tuition will increase, even if we do not have to pay it. The subsidy program is only slated to last for one year, and at the end of that year the invisible increase will take effect, and most likely another increase will be added for the 2006/07 year. So if AU increases tuition by 7% in both 05/06 and 06/07, this will appear to be a 14% increase for Alberta students in the latter year. In both years, AU will receive their full tuition amount, but in 05/06 it will come from two different sources.

This program, called the Centennial Grant, might seem odd to those outside Alberta, but for those in the province, it's familiar terrain. We already receive rebates on our very high gas and electricity bills. This controversial program has allowed the utility companies to raise their rates beyond what the market will bear, while consumers are protected from devastating increases by government contributions. Alberta is accustomed to this model, so it's no surprise that Klein has used a similar tactic here, though it's not clear why he did not simply increase funding to the universities to offset tuition increases.

The bad news for students outside Alberta is that this program applies only to Alberta students as it is a government rebate specifically for the taxpayers of Alberta using Albertan tax dollars in our Heritage Fund. The good news is that AU has quickly revised their budget plan, which had already included another \$10 reduction of the out-of-province fee, to further decrease that fee by \$18.

Alberta Students: Tuition will increase, invisibly, while the extension fee increase will still be payable. The tuition portion of the increase is covered by the Alberta rebate as it is under the tuition fee policy, but the course materials fee increase is not covered. Therefore Alberta students will pay a very small increase over last year's course fee, but the actual course fee will increase by 6-7% (number not yet confirmed) and this increase will come into effect at the end of 2005.

Canadian Students Outside Alberta: Tuition and fees will increase by the same amount as for Alberta students, while the out of province fee will decrease by \$28 to a proposed \$27. This reduction will almost entirely offset the tuition increase, and this reduction is permanent. Therefore the actual increase for out of province students will be very low - about 1-2% (exact figures to come).

Students Outside Canada: Data not yet available.

Fee changes for all students: the extension fee will also increase, but most other fees, such as exam requests and transcripts, remain the same. All fee changes will take effect on September 1,

2005. The Alberta subsidy will expire by the end of August 31, 2006 and all increases will come in to effect for Albertans as the 2006/07 budget is also released.

How will the subsidy work?

AU has several months to determine exactly how the subsidy will work, but the plan is that Alberta students will not be paying any additional fees up front. The form will state the actual cost of tuition for the 2005/06 school year, and then Alberta students will be able to select a rebate option prior to paying. AU will then bill the government for that portion of tuition. In this way the actual cost of tuition will be made clear to students, but Alberta students will not have to pay the subsidized amount up front.

Is it not clear what the government intends to do about rising tuition over the 2005/06 school year, but we'll keep you posted.

Wanted: Reference Checker and Copy Editor, Part-time

The Voice is seeking an AU student with a little free time each week to perform online reference and link checks and to pre-format articles. The successful applicant will have their own computer and reliable internet access and be experienced with searching the web for text and links, navigating complex websites, and formatting web links for the shortest possible route to a page. Strong writing and referencing skills are also a must. The applicant must also have a copy of a recent version of Microsoft Word and be very comfortable with formatting text in that program to set line spacing, margins, fonts, etc., and must be familiar with Word's reviewing tool.

Work must be completed on Monday of each week in your own home and is expected to take about five hours per week to start. Inquire with voice@ausu.org for more information.

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.

U.S. STUDENTS SEE CHEAPER ALTERNATIVE IN UBC

'Canadian Ivy' branding pays off with increased enrolment

Carrie Robinson
The Ubysey

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- Tuition increases are not expected to stop American students from choosing the University of British Columbia, as enrolment of international students from the United States has been on the rise for the past eight years.

"Our numbers have gone from 40 to 450 in the last eight years," said Donald Wehrung, head of the UBC International Student Initiative.

This growth is a direct result of the authorization given by the UBC board of governors in January 1996 to "expand the enrolment of international students," he added.

Currently there are 3,900 international students enrolled at the university, according to Wehrung.

Recruitment of U.S. students involves visiting colleges, high schools and fairs promoting UBC as part of a "Canadian Ivy" rubric, which includes the University of Toronto and Queen's University.

The high entrance fees and standards of the American Ivy League universities have made UBC a very attractive alternative for U.S. students.

"I think there are several reasons why; the primary reason is that U.S. students feel that they get good value for money at UBC," said Wehrung.

American students agree that the difference in cost is an important consideration.

"It is more expensive for me to be here than most Canadian students; however, it's still less expensive than if I were to go to an American university, outside of state," said Stephen Friedman-Gerlicz, a first-year student from New Mexico.

Friedman-Gerlicz said it costs him about \$16,000 to attend UBC, including food and housing at Totem Park Residence, whereas it would cost him about \$30,000 to attend an American university.

Financial assistance and awards are available to international students to help with the cost. In the 2004 winter session, 190 U.S. student loan recipients were enrolled at UBC, said Rella Ng from UBC's financial aid office.

"There are no bursaries specifically for U.S. students but there are scholarships for international students," said Ng.

Aside from the financial considerations, U.S. students seem to enjoy being in a relatively familiar setting. Friedman-Gerlicz wanted to go somewhere a little bit different and while visiting UBC last summer, discovered he liked the experience of being an international student while still enjoying some of the familiarities of home.

This is common among students from the U.S., according to Wehrung.

"What a number of students have said that they like about UBC is that it's different than being in the U.S., because there is less emphasis on the sports side of campus and more the student life side . . . but there is still the English language medium, and still basically the same TV signals," said Wehrung.

In the future, Wehrung expects the number of U.S. students to continue to rise because, "they can get all that at a good tuition level and they don't have to go very far for it."

VOICE WRITING CONTEST - FIRST PLACE WINNER NON - FICTION CATEGORY

BOOKS FOR CROOKS

George Hawthorne

I've been attending college all my life. Generally, those who pursue a university education do so either by attending classes or learning through correspondence. I've been living on campus for twenty years. Some of my associates might consider me a professional student. Citizens, however, would more accurately identify me as a career criminal. By the time I was sixteen, I had earned a Master's Degree in Crime through Con College. During the past twenty years, not only have I learned how to hot-wire cars and bypass complex alarm systems, but I've also learned how to break into sophisticated vaults and bust out of secure prisons. I've spent twenty years learning the tricks of the trade, all of which were taught to me by my professors: criminals. Occasionally, I would spend a semester or two within the community-job placements that allowed me to apply theoretical teachings in order to fully develop my skills. Despite my best effort, I never seemed to make a passing grade. I never seemed to master the art of crime. As a result, my co-op placements were always terminated. In the end, I found myself back at Con College sitting in a small 6 x 9 room enduring more lectures. After nearly twenty years of studying crime and trying to learn how to steal the cheese from the trap without getting caught, I decided to take up a new profession. Nearly two years ago, I enrolled in correspondence courses through Athabasca University.

There are many challenges and pressures which many post-secondary students who earn their degree through distance education are confronted with. Faced with employment responsibilities and academic deadlines, some students are overwhelmed with the difficult challenge to manage their time efficiently. Others may struggle to not only afford the rising cost of tuition fees and academic related supplies but also rent and other living expenses. Both time and money seem to be important factors that hinder the post-secondary endeavours of many students. Despite these obstacles, with the aid of both student loans and family support, most students will endure and overcome their academic woes. Prisoners who pursue a university education, however, are not as successful as other struggling students. While prisoners may have an overabundance of time on their hands, funds for post-secondary education are not so plentiful.

Like all university students, prisoners serving time in Atlantic Canada are also required to cover costs associated with a university education. Unlike many university students, however, prisoners are not entitled to receive financial assistance through Canada Student Loans programs or other lending institutions. Prisoners live a penurious existence, and they enjoy only the comforts and opportunities that they themselves purchase from their limited prison salary. In all fifty-three CSC-operated institutions (CSC Payment 5-6), prisoners may earn a maximum bi-weekly salary of \$69.00. Accordingly, it is impossible to shell out thousands of dollars for post-secondary education using this meagre income. Since the vast majority of prisoners hail from poverty stricken backgrounds, they are unable to secure financial assistance from family members. Thus, prisoners are expected to finance educational endeavours themselves.

Prisoners not only struggle to scrape together funds enough to cover course and tuition fees but also payment for supplementary resources and stationery supplies. Even though the institutional authorities provide academic-related items to students enrolled in a General Education Diploma (GED) program, the corrections system will not provide the same to prisoners enrolled at a university level of study. For example, prisoners are required to cover costs of supplementary resources such as a dictionary or a thesaurus. Similarly, basic stationery such as printer paper, pens, and pencils are items for which prisoners are forced to pay. Even postage for correspondence to the university or assignments to a tutor further taxes limited resources available to prisoners. Payment for any one of these items quickly exhausts the skimpy institutional allowance prisoners receive bi-weekly.

For years, many people have had a false impression about conditions inside of CSC-operated institutions. In recent times, a common term used to describe Canadian penitentiaries has been "club fed." This term connotes a resort-like environment in which prisoners reside. In the same vein, there is another common misperception regarding educational opportunities available to prisoners while serving a sentence within a federal institution. Influenced by media and even CSC propaganda, many citizens are of the opinion that their tax-dollars are being used to finance vocational trades and university degrees for convicted criminals. Although I wish that were true, it is nothing more than a myth. Nevertheless, the CSC is a master at deception. It paints the best possible scenario to create an illusion that "[t]he Correctional Service of Canada is determined to succeed in its goal of educating inmates so that they may compete lawfully in the community" (CSC Atlantic 1). In reality, very little is being achieved behind the walls of most Canadian penitentiaries. Even though some offenders would like to pursue a higher education, prison authorities refuse to provide opportunities and financial support.

Nevertheless, the CSC ingeniously communicates the illusion to society that offenders have available to them a wide range of both trade oriented and post-secondary opportunities. Posted on its website (CSC Atlantic 1), the CSC suggests that "25% of all inmate students" and "fewer than 10%" of offenders within the Atlantic region are actively participating in vocational trades training or university studies, respectively. Despite such claims, vocational trades have not existed at institutions within Atlantic Canada since the mid-80's. Furthermore, during the previous decade, I have not met another inmate who was enrolled at a post-secondary institution in any of the institutions at which I had been housed in the Maritimes, including several other institutions across Canada. Today, the only CSC funded educational opportunity available to prisoners in the Atlantic region is a GED.

The CSC openly admits that "[o]ffenders generally pay for their own post-secondary studies, unless it can be demonstrated that the education addresses a very specific need" (Atlantic 3). However, this implies that under certain conditions the CSC will finance post-secondary education. These conditions are outlined in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Commissioner's Directive 720:

15. Offenders may be required to pay a part or the full cost of their participation in a post-secondary education program.

16. In reference to paragraph 15, the institution may pay a part or the full cost if the following criteria are respected:

- a. the offender meets all criteria for post-secondary education as established by the applicable Ministry of Education or any other educational organization recognized by the Ministry;
- b. the past educational record of the offender regarding completion of programs is considered satisfactory by the institution;
- c. the course is considered as a priority in his or her correctional plan;
- d. the course is from a recognized and accredited provincial education organization; and,
- e. the payment of the participation of the offender is within institutional budgetary limits (3).

To duck financial responsibility, authorities within the Atlantic region refuse to incorporate post-secondary education as a priority in an offender's correctional plan. In fact, even though I had met all of the prerequisites outlined above, I had been unsuccessful for nearly a decade to have post-secondary education listed as a priority in my correctional plan. After I was transferred to a maximum-security facility in Quebec, prison authorities immediately incorporated post-secondary education as a priority. In addition, they agreed, in writing, to fund half of all post-secondary expenses. As a result, I invested nearly eight thousand dollars toward my educational endeavour. As per the agreement, CSC were supposed to match this amount. While I was housed in Quebec, prison authorities contributed \$596.00 toward fulfillment of their commitment. However, that proved to be the only contribution I would receive from the CSC. Shortly thereafter, my security classification was reduced to a medium-security status, and I was transferred to New Brunswick. Despite the earlier written agreement, CSC reneged on its earlier pledge. Prison officials at Dorchester Penitentiary argued that since they hadn't authored the original agreement, they were not going to honour it. In addition, they further cited budgetary limitations as another justification to abandon this contract.

During the course of the past few months, I have had numerous discussions with various CSC officials at Dorchester Penitentiary regarding financial support for post-secondary education. As a result of my inquiries, I have discovered that insufficient funds is not the issue but rather an arbitrary decision of upper-level managers who do not support financing prisoners' university education. Collectively, institutional budgets have a surplus of hundreds of thousands of dollars at the end of the fiscal year. These funds must be spent or the various departments whose budget was not exhausted may be reduced by this amount from the upcoming year's budget. Instead of using these funds for educational opportunities, prison administrators go on a yearly shopping spree and spend tens of thousands of dollars on unnecessary items. Despite both an earlier commitment to fund 50% of my educational expenses and a budget surplus of thousands of dollars annually, Dorchester Penitentiary officials continue to shirk their prior pledge.

As a society, we expect a correctional facility to actually "correct." To some Canadians, "correct" does not mean housing an offender in resort-like environments in which an inmate's educational needs are catered to. In other words, some members of society are not enthusiastic about having their tax-dollars spent on post-secondary education for a convict. However, price of an education pales in comparison to cost of incarceration. Annually (CSC Facts 15), incarcerating a male or a female costs Canadians tax-payers on average \$66,381.00 and \$110,473.00, respectively. Thus, if the source of society's complaint is truly monetary, educating offenders would be cheaper in the long run.

While many citizens may have a bitter taste in their mouths about financing education for offenders, the alternative is an even bitter pill to swallow. If prisoners are not afforded a realistic opportunity to change the course of their lives and secure gainful employment upon their "graduation" from "Con College," they will continue to wreak havoc in society. When you think about it, void of emotionally charged views, there are not many other career options available to aging, uneducated convicts. Accordingly, many cons will resort to the only thing they have ever known. I can assure you that criminals will not accept a life sentence of minimum wage employment over the proceeds of crime.

It takes a special kind of criminal to be able to hang up his guns and turn his back on yesterday's lawless lifestyle. By the time many criminals decide to take up a new profession and explore brighter horizons, they are wading so deep in the cesspool of crime that crawling out of the darkened bowels of the penal system toward the light is hopelessly blinding. Many have been lurking in darkness so long that they are unable to see beyond their cement tomb. Thought of a better life outside of prison walls is simply an enchantment that many are only able to admire through a chain-link fence and fantasize about what could have been. What could have been if they hadn't played around with drugs, if they hadn't committed that initial transgression, or if they hadn't quit school. In the end, many offenders will fall victim to the perils of this lifestyle. Some will escape these walls by lethal doses of heroin. Others will embrace the dark unknown of the hereafter swinging from the end of a makeshift noose. And a few will be murdered by their peers. Many, however, will never be liberated from this criminal lifestyle after entering through the revolving doors of a penitentiary.

Few offenders possess the academic background and intestinal fortitude required to both pursue and succeed at a university level of study. Those who do are stymied by financial hardships and bureaucratic hypocrisy, both of which impede an offender's attempts to become a productive member of society. Unfortunately, books for crooks are not a priority for Corrections Canada.

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VOICE WRITING CONTEST - FIRST PLACE WINNER FICTION CATEGORY

FABLES FROM THE PLEASURE DOME

Bill Pollett

When Camyar Tejani, Venture Capitalist, embarks on a journey of self-discovery by moving in with the Nineteen Year-Old Ballet Dancer, his wife Joan begins redecorating the house on Chestnut Crescent. She hires a small army of plumbers, electricians, carpenters, tinsmiths and stonemasons. She installs radiant tile in the bathroom and track lighting in the kitchen and French windows overlooking the flowerbeds that back onto the ravine. On weekends, Joan bundles her daughter into the back of the Land Rover and drives out to the Richmond showrooms. She holds up paint sample cards to one year old Mariel -The Abandoned Infant - asking her whether she prefers Desert Rose or Tuscany Clay, Virgin Swan or Elephant Graveyard: semi-gloss paints in what the cans guarantee are Life Resistant Finishes.

Along with redecorating the home, Joan does some hasty revising of the family drama, transforming it from Epic Romance into Historical Tragedie. Camyar, who had variously played, gamely but woodenly, such leading roles as Mysterious Eastern Lover and Successful and Devoted Husband, now finds himself recast as Sinister Foreign Infidel. Gesturing to the balconies, Joan the Tragical Heroine walks about in velvet and furs, carries around a silver case filled with sleeping pills, coughs blood into a silken handkerchief. She auditions family and friends in a variety of supporting roles. Over the years, Mariel finds herself playing - to critical success - the parts of Spy, Waif, Saboteur.

At age eleven, Mariel is diagnosed and labelled with chronic depression, and eventually settles down nicely into her typecasting as Troubled Teenage Daughter. For a while, this new development adds much needed piquancy to the family drama. But the narrative is too drawn out, begins to grow stale and predictable. The critics grow restless and find new darlings. Attendance begins to fall off. The curtains become frayed and grubby, the velvet gowns moth-eaten and dingy. Eventually the production grounds to a halt, and all that is left of the once lauded script is one shabby little joke, oft-repeated by Joan, that Mariel's father "had learned to run in the same week that she had learned to walk."

In grade ten, on the day that she comes home after school and finds that Joan has overdosed on anti-depressants, Mariel spends the morning learning about the vanishing point and dissecting a frog on a wax tray. Unfamiliar with some forms of poison, she accidentally drops a thermometer in the chemistry lab sink, and pushes the glittering blobs around and around with her finger. At lunch, she eats french fries from a cardboard carton with Megan Moloney in the breezeway, then they sneak in Mr. Allister's class, unscrew the bulb from the projector, deface the portrait of Galileo.

In social studies Mr. Allister, deprived of audiovisual support, organizes a group discussion about the Gulf War (which would one day be called the First Gulf War - but nobody could know that yet). They talk about how the Arabs invented algebra and about scud missiles and CNN and the way that news footage of luminous U.S. rockets looks like home video of UFO sightings. They talk about Saddam Hussein and George Bush (who would one day be known by the world as George Bush, Sr., but not yet, not yet). They talk about right and wrong, good and evil. Mariel wonders if anyone remembers whether she is half-Iranian.

In English class, Mr. Wei explains about fairy tales, how they fulfill the human desire for unity and order. Always three tasks to be completed, three wishes to be granted. The wicked stepmother, the brave youngest daughter. She thinks of the story that her father's mother once told her, the old Persian legend of the hyenas that sing like mermaids and turn themselves into beautiful women in order to entice men from the villages. Once the men come to them, they transform back into hyenas and rip the flesh from their bones.

Joan had once bought a book of Grimm's fairy tales from an antique bookshop in Venice. She'd gone there on a business trip with Camyar before Mariel had been born - before the ballet dancer, in proper evil-fairy

fashion, had enchanted her father and stolen him away. It had a soft red-leather cover, gilt-edged pages and cream-coloured paper. It was written in Italian, a language that Joan spoke only very slightly, and nobody else in the family at all, so it remained on the living room bookshelf for many years, unread and in excellent condition.

Dizzy with her first cigarette, in the long grass and bulrushes behind the portable, she kisses Saul Bennett and feels his hand slip inside her sweater. He's in grade twelve and has muscular arms and a tattoo of a dragon on his pelvic bone. He rides a motorcycle and carries around a copy of *Dubliners*. His tongue tastes of chewing gum and ashes. "You are so fucking beautiful", he tells her as his finger circles her nipple. "My Arabian princess."

After school, she enters her house through the basement door and works on her project for English. It's about what *paradise* means to different people. They're supposed to make a poster out of images of desirable things. Glossy pictures of cars, stereo equipment, houses plaster gnomes in the front yard. Photographs of family pets, airbrushed advertisements for designer clothes, perfume, jewellery, credit cards. Gothic cathedrals, walled gardens with rare birds sitting in fruit trees, shopping malls, movie stars, exotic cities, dessert buffets. Mariel has a Dairyland milk crate hidden behind the furnace filled with old *Blueboy* magazines that Dolores has stolen from the stash that her brother has hidden in the crawl space above his bedroom closet. She's using a pair of scissors and carefully cutting out glossy pictures of penises and testicles. A glorious chaos of cocks and balls the colour of saffron, cinnamon, walnut, mustard, burnished copper. She's pasting them onto a sheet of blue bristol board so that they form the image of a dome. She calls the piece *Welcome to the Pleasure Dome*, after a favourite pop album by Frankie Goes To Hollywood. From a distance it looks like the cupola of a cathedral or an observatory silhouetted against a twilight sky, reflecting the last rays of the setting sun. Six months later, this project will figure prominently in her discussions with Miss Newcome, the school counsellor.

When Mariel eventually comes upstairs, there's an album of sentimental Italian love songs playing on the turntable, and several more stacked above it. There are two empty wine bottles and a heaping ashtray on the living room table. As she walks down the hallway, she notices the smell of candle wax, the sound of trickling water. There's a puddle of warm soapy water spreading out from the bottom of the bathroom door and soaking through her slippers.

At the hospital Camyar buys her a hot chocolate and a cheese sandwich from the vending machine. They sit on stackable orange plastic chairs and watch through the open doors as men and women dressed in different styles and shades of white and green uniforms push trolleys of food, patients and medical equipment down the bright halls. Later that night, while she's pretending to sleep on one of the waiting room benches, she feels her father put a blanket over her and brush back the hair from her forehead. Two hours later the doctor with the beautiful, gentle voice takes them into another room to give them the news.

True to the strange, messy fashion in which memories are made, it is the orange chairs and the feeling of fingertips brushing against her skin that she most vividly recalls years and years later. It's right after the outbreak of the Second Gulf War. Her husband, Ethan, is stroking her forehead while confessing his affair with the associate professor in the physics department. Apparently they had become infatuated with each other while discussing Niels Bohr and chaos theory over take-out Chinese food the weekend Mariel had been at the Montreal gallery opening. "I don't know how it happened. We'd had too much to drink. It was just a physical thing. Christ, I'm such an asshole. I respect you so much."

Twenty minutes later, he watches her pack her things into a leather suitcase. A couple pairs of jeans, a sweater or two, some underwear, her red dress just in case, she tells him, she casually gets a notion to fuck someone. No need to wake Joel and Gavin now, she'll be back in a few days after he's all packed and ready to move out. And he needn't tell them anything yet if he doesn't feel up to it. She'll take care of all the messy stuff. In the meantime, she's sure he can make up some appropriate lie for them about where mommy is, something plausible and suitably antiseptic - he's good at that.

At eleven o'clock on a Saturday night, the only hotel room she can find is at the Lakewood Pines Motel. Lying in the bathtub with her clothes still on, she balances the small, smoky bottle filled with jewel-like

pills on the back of her hand. She watches the reflection in the mirror of a television newscast. She listens to the latest American president talking about the great battle between good and evil, right and wrong. She finds she can operate the television screen by bouncing the remote control signal off the surface of the mirror. Muting the sound, she listens to the hum of the ice machine outside her door and the sound of the couple in the adjacent room humping, the headboard of their bed thudding against the wall with the rhythm of an unbalanced washing machine.

Images of missiles crashing noiselessly into factories and schools. Click. Some penguins stranded on an ice floe. Click. A satellite dish rotating against a night sky. Click. A large breasted woman enthusiastically sucking on a penis. Click. A man putting icing on a layer cake. Click. News footage of a body being pulled from a river. Click. Buster Keaton hanging from the hands of an enormous clock. Click. Darkness.

The couple next door are silent now. The wind outside is howling through the branches of a tree. She watches shadow pictures of skeletons and great ragged birds sliding across the ceiling, across the white towels and the framed print of the Van Gogh sunflowers. The ordinary and the awful side by side into eternity.

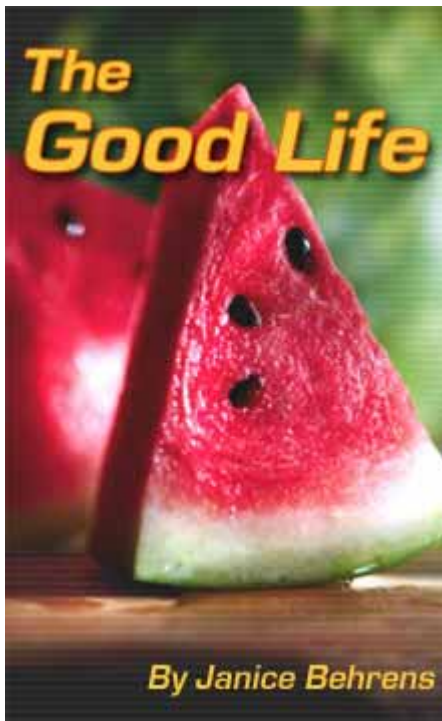
In her dream, she's in the middle of a great desert. There are strange constellations in the sky, icy comets tracking through the darkness. She has matches in her left hand, so she builds a small fire out of bleached sticks that she finds lying at her feet. Drawn by the heat and light of the campfire, three creatures move out of the shadows. They have the heads of terrible, beautiful dogs, the bodies of naked women. They feed her figs and bowls of dark, strong coffee. They tell her stories in a tongue that she feels she should really understand. They nibble on her toes and sing to her a song that begins like the love song that was playing the night she found her mother, then turns into something that sounds like cellos playing deep underwater. She thinks she understands now why those men, and surely the women too, keep wandering out into that desert to hear their song. Of course they're not stupid. They've heard the tales, they know about the great jaws yawning wide, the rows and rows of shining teeth. But it's the beauty, you see. The goddamn awful beauty and mystery of the song. Worth any amount of risk.

When she wakes up the sunlight is pouring in warm through the window. She packs up her things in the suitcase, slips a five dollar note under the pillow for the maid. Then she closes the door behind her, and walks out into the world, with no costume at all, to see what'll happen next.



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

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



Lent - A Time of Renewal

One of my best friends is a big NHL fan. She has had season's tickets to the Canucks for several years, runs her office hockey pool, and rarely misses Hockey Night in Canada. Like a great many other hockey fans across the country, she was saddened and angered by the dispute between the players and owners. She wondered how this void in her weekly routine could be filled. As it turned out, though, she quickly adapted. Instead of watching hockey on television, she began to take her son to watch local Junior level games, and found that what is lacking in the players' talent and experience levels is more than made up for by their intensity and enthusiasm. She also found that not watching television as frequently or reading the sports section of the newspaper as often freed up more time to become active herself. She is training for a five kilometre run, and often goes with her family to the local school playground to shoot some basketball after supper.

Obviously this is change on a small scale, apparently not very significant. But I think that the lesson my friend learned about discovering new joy in one's life by the act of letting go of old habits can be applied on a great many levels. Change is often frightening and frequently painful, but it is also a source of great personal renewal and freedom.

One thing I am beginning to believe more and more strongly as I grow older is that all belief systems have important messages for humanity. It doesn't matter what names those belief systems go by, whether they be Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Paganism, Existentialism or Science - there is no monopoly on truth. One doesn't have to be a Buddhist to find value in the belief that we need to be more mindful and to avoid illusory attachments, just as one doesn't have to be a confirmed rationalist to see beauty in linear algebra or Einstein's theory of relativity. In fact, being a rigid rationalist is actually opposed to the picture of the universe - both wildly random and richly and intricately patterned - that modern physics (with such concepts as chaos theory and string theory) is developing. If anything, the underlying force that drives the cosmos seems to be closer to the trickster figure so prominent in First Nations' spirituality.

Likewise, I believe that there is no need to be Catholic / Christian to find the truth in the tradition of Lent, which is now upon us. Easter is a time of powerful, cathartic energies. The energy to create and to destroy. An opportunity to make positive changes in our lives, and to break through psychic barriers to our well being. Perhaps what we choose to discard will be a physical addiction, or an addiction to a negative emotion, such as anger, resentment, guilt or irrational fear. Perhaps we will find the strength we need to finally silence the harsh inner critic who is always telling us that we are not good enough to succeed, and not strong enough to shape change or accept change. Perhaps it will be something as simple as turning off the television more frequently, or eating in a more conscious way.

Lent, as it leads us toward Spring, is a time when we have the ability to smash the negative chains and cycles that hold us prisoner, to decide what is important and healthful in our lives, and discard some of the toxic clutter that contaminates us.



The Betrayal of the Budget

The annual federal budget was released last Wednesday, and has been roundly labeled as a betrayal by the NDP and the Bloc Quebecois. The reason for this is quite clear, as one of the campaign ideas put forth by the Liberal Party was that Canadians should vote liberal to avoid being subjected to a Conservative regime, yet the liberals have ironically have created a budget that is to the liking of the Conservatives.

For those who've managed to miss it on the news, the big announcements in the budget were an increase of 12.8 billion dollars for national defense and corporate tax cuts, including the elimination of the federal corporate surtax and a reduction of 2% in the general corporate tax rate. Notably absent was any kind of funding for post-secondary education, or even to establish a position to examine the issues involved with education.

This comes despite Prime Minister Paul Martin's own words in 2004, where he claimed "The federal government has an important role to play in post-secondary education, and it begins with access. We as a society cannot deprive people of opportunity simply because their families don't have money."

The honourable Alexa McDonough, the NDP's Foreign Affairs and Post-Secondary Education critic in Parliament has declared that "we need to develop a national vision for post-secondary education," and that we've seen no leadership from the Federal Government on this matter. I find I have to agree, unless you consider leadership to mean "ignore it and hope it'll work out." We've seen how that strategy unfolds, however.

Unfortunately, with the Conservatives and Liberals moving in lockstep on the post-secondary issue, there's little that the smaller opposition parties can do to bring any type of change to the system.

That doesn't mean that change isn't in the wind however. The NDP have started holding virtual press scrums, allowing university papers a chance to briefly ask various party members direct questions. The Voice editor asked how distance education would fit into such a plan, and Ms. McDonough's response was heartening. After assuring that Distance Education is a vital tool to enable rural, aboriginal and northern students to participate in post-secondary education, she posed the question "What's the point of having advanced telecommunications technology if we're not using it for education?"

What indeed.

Alberta Puts Money into Video-Conferencing

The Alberta government has announced that it will be spending six million dollars in a province-wide video conferencing initiative. Almost four million dollars of that money will go to establishing or expanding video-conferencing rooms. The catch is that this initiative is only putting video-conferencing in the classrooms of the K-12 grades.

The remaining two million dollars is going into research on how to use video conferencing to its best effect. Athabasca University is involved with this in partnership with the University of Lethbridge and the Galileo

Educational Network. Personally I find it somewhat ironic that AU is doing investigations of how to use video-conferencing in a K-12 environment when there is little to no use of it in AU undergraduate courses.

Isn't AU supposed to be the distance institution?

On The Bright Side

The provincial government of British Columbia is doing something for students however. They're changing their student loan regulations to realistically assess how much parents can pay for their child's education.

More important to AUSU members, the British Columbia government has recognized that computers actually play a fairly important role in post-secondary education today. Due to this, they are giving a small allowance in student loans of about \$300 for students to pay for computing expenses for the year, whether this be an internet hook-up or simply some computer hardware or software.

Take the small victories as they come, I suppose.

AUSU THIS MONTH



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's Website Has a New Look

The AUSU website has a new look and navigation. Please stop by to take a look and let us know what you think. It's possible that a few links may not be working as we go through and ensure the new menu system is updated, so please write webmaster@ausu.org if you notice any problems or have a comment.

New Social Groups Section Created in AUSU's Discussion Forum

There is a new section in the AUSU Discussion Forum called **Social Group Forums**. Stemming from the coffee groups idea, these forums will provide easier communication and access to coffee group members, as well as anyone who might wish to talk with others in their area, but who may not want to, or be able to, meet up in person. Don't forget to visit the Coffee Groups page on the AUSU website. New coffee groups are being started all the time. For more information about this new forum and/or coffee groups please visit the forum at <http://www.ausu.org/phpBB2/index2.php> where you will find the new forums listed at the bottom of the page. You can also send an e-mail to the Chair of AUSU's Groups and Clubs Committee, Lonita Fraser, at lfraser@ausu.org.

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.

Dear Prime Minister...

In the December 2004 *AUSU News*, AUSU asked students to write to the Prime Minister in support of improved funding for education. The need for such letters is still high. The voice of Canadian students, in support of the provinces' requests for more education dollars, could be a factor in deciding how the Feds fulfill these requests. If you would like to write to the government in support of educational funding, you could use our model letter in AUSU News as a starting point. You may also review some written by AUSU members in response to our call. You can find them in our Advocacy section, here.

AUSU Helps Sponsor the Alberta Services for Students Conference

The Alberta Services for Students Conference will be held this May at Mount Royal College and AUSU councillor Lisa Priebe will be in attendance to meet with students and answer questions. AUSU has donated \$500 to provide students with snacks and coffee during the conference. Students can attend the conference for \$110. For more details on this conference and how to attend please contact the AUSU Office at ausu@ausu.org or toll free at 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413.

AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

AUSU is in need of more volunteer mentors to help our new students adjust to AU and distance education. If you're an experienced AU student and interested in being matched to a new student, please email ausu@ausu.org for an application form. The mentor program is designed to aid new students in their adjustment to distance learning. If you're a new student and would like to be matched to one of our mentors please fill out the application form at this address: <http://www.ausu.org/services/mentorsforms.php>

The AUSU Office is Moving this May

This May the AUSU Office and the AU Edmonton Learning Centre will be moving to the 12th floor of the Peace Hills Trust building located on 10011-109 Street in downtown Edmonton. The new location is only two blocks away from our current location. Our office will be closed for a few days while we carry out this move. Keep watching this column and the AUSU website for more details.

Next AUSU Council Meeting

The next AUSU council teleconference meeting is scheduled for February 28 at 5:30 PM MST. Any AUSU member may attend this meeting. Please contact the AUSU office at ausu@ausu.org or call toll free at 1-800-788-9041 ext 3413 to obtain the meeting package and the instructions for how to attend.



THE WILD SIDE OF POODLES

Life indeed works in mysterious ways. Finding myself in need of a little extra cash so I could lay my hands on some particularly fragrant Afghan hash that an ex-roommate of mine happened to be peddling, I was sitting in front of my computer last night, with my trusty hookah pipe at my side, waiting for some exciting idea for a *Voice* article to materialize. I thought perhaps it would just swim up to the inside of the glass of the monitor, like a brightly coloured fish in an aquarium. Well, after twenty minutes of so of that, I began to become discouraged. Just then, though, my sister phoned to tell me that she had bought a poodle.

I have to confess that, except as a potential source of emergency protein, I have never been particularly fond of poodles. To me, a slobbering black lab-whippet cross is a real dog - something suitably dimwitted and affectionate. As far as I'm concerned, poodles are the inbred aristocrats, the toffee-nosed twits, of the dog world. As a result of this personal prejudice, I suppose my reaction was not as supportive and

enthusiastic as I might have wished to project, because she went on to defend her choice of four-legged companion by pointing out to me, for some bizarre reason, that poodles "have completely waterproof fur." Well, I had to confess that this was new information for me. "And yet we still insist on wearing Gore-Tex", I couldn't help saying. "And", she added, even more bizarrely, "they were originally bred as hunting dogs."

Naturally, this is not the type of information that any indolent, under-employed freelance writer with writer's block, a looming deadline and a jones for high quality hashish (not to mention cheap whisky) can afford to pass up. The ideas and images tumbled over themselves inside my free-associating brain. Packs of wild poodles taking down a gazelle on the African Savannah. Eerie, blood-chilling howling emanating in the middle of the night from wrought-iron balconies up and down the streets of Montmartre. Cowboys huddling close to a mesa campfire as the firelight is reflected off the cruel, shining eyes of dozens of savage Fifis and Emanuelles gathered in the shadows, waiting.

In my admittedly stoned state, the whole subject seemed so interesting to me that I even, momentarily, toyed with the idea of actually doing some research on the topic and presenting, for a change of pace, a thoughtful, educational piece to the editor. Then I remembered that research is extremely fucking boring, whereas eating and drinking is fun. So I decided to go to the Kingston Pub and let my sister pick up the tab for chicken wings and beer. Hey, like poodles, we all gotta survive.



Dear Barb;

My family is faced with a difficult decision. Our family dog is 12 years old and her health is failing. We are starting to consider whether we should put her down. Our family members are divided on this issue. Some of us believe we should do whatever is necessary to keep Molly alive, while the rest feel the humane thing to do is put her down. How do we know what is the right thing to do? We would appreciate any help you can offer.

Alison in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

Wow Alison, what a difficult question!

Euthanasia is an issue that can divide even the closest of family and friends, and there is validity to both sides of this argument. Most of us find it difficult to be expected to make decisions that we believe should be left to a higher power. Nevertheless a lot of people will be forced to make this heart wrenching decision several times during their lives. Choosing to be a pet owner brings us much love, joy and companionship but it may also include making decisions such as this.

To assist you in making this decision you need to ask yourself some important questions about the quality of your pet's life. Most importantly, how much pain is your dog experiencing? Is she able to eat and control her bowels? Does she interact with the family, or is she withdrawn, isolated and basically just existing? I assume you have consulted with your veterinarian and are doing everything medically possible for Molly.

Perhaps these are questions you could discuss as a family. This discussion may provide a venue to bring forward each other's intense feelings and perhaps work through this issue together.

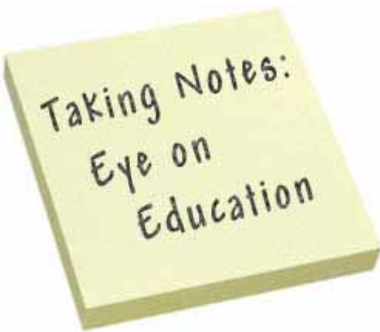
Frequently people are reluctant to make these types of decisions because they don't want to confront their own feelings of grief and loss. However, this decision must not be about you. Your first interest has to be whatever is best for your dog and finding a way to ease her suffering.

In the end there is no right or wrong answer. You and your family are the only ones who can assess Molly's quality of life and ultimately make the best possible decision for her.

Thanks for writing, Alison. I trust that in the end you and your family will be able to make this decision together.

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.

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



MARKS HURT BY HIGH TUITION

Debbie Jabbour

A new study has shown, not surprisingly, that high tuition has a negative effect on student academic success. Students are paying a significantly larger proportion of their educational costs, and skyrocketing tuition costs mean more students are working extra hours while in school full time and academic performance suffers. Study authors recommend that when recruiting new graduates, employers need to revisit the emphasis placed on marks.

The survey was commissioned by nine of Canada's largest employers (including four banks), and included more than 20,000 college and university students at 40 campuses across Canada. Half of the students work to support themselves while studying, with one in five working more than 16 hours a week while in school full-time. According to study co-author Graham Donald, "academic success in school may be compromised" as students take on extra work to fund their studies, a situation that will worsen as tuition rises. He suggests that "more than ever, employers need to look beyond students' academic achievements" to assess potential.

A separate study last year by the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation found that many students are taking longer to graduate, since high tuition means they must take time off from their studies to work.

Schmidt, S. (2005). Employers told to look beyond grads' grades: Marks may be hurt by need to work to pay for high tuition. CanWest News Service, Edmonton Journal, February 9, 2005:

<http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=7a874454-835f-4f96-ae03-0d6da847938e>

Women you should know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Gloria Anzaldúa

1942-2004

Gloria Anzaldúa (1942-2004) was born September 26, 1942 in the South Texas Rio Grande Valley. She toiled as a migrant worker along side her parents and siblings. Gloria has described herself as a "chicana dyke-feminist, poet, writer and cultural theorist." She became a teacher of students from preschool through to college, including special needs' students. Anzaldúa was a diverse writer who won many awards for her work. Her most acclaimed book, *Borderlands*, published in 1987, offers insight into the Chicano and Latino culture, as well as what it was like to be a lesbian living in the midst of straight, white, American society. "Borderlands" provided a venue for Anzaldúa to express her obviously intense frustration at the oppression experienced by individuals who are different, either by their sexuality, or their cultural background. Some of her awards include the Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award; The Lambda Lesbian Small Book Press Award; and the National Endowments for the Arts Fiction Award. Gloria used her talent and vision to champion the lives of those who, through no fault of their own, do not fit in. Gloria Anzaldúa died May 15, 2004, from complications of diabetes.

Read more about her at:

<http://voices.cla.umn.edu/newsite/authors/ANZALDUAGloria.htm>

Being Alone



From
Where
I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Either through design or default, odds are that at some point in our lives we will be alone. We can rail against the inherent unfairness of our circumstances or we can maximize the opportunity and blossom in the experience.

At least part of the distinction of whether being alone will be tragic or terrific lies in the reason for the aloneness. A Bridget Jones type search for Mr. Right and fast approaching spinster-hood may mean desperation and despair are the order of the day. The euphoria and freedom felt by a recent divorcee is the polar opposite. The loss of a beloved through death will exacerbate feelings of loneliness and sorrow.

Is the period of being alone temporary or permanent? Is it short-term or protracted? Is it the result of gut-wrenching soul-searching and a conscious decision? Or is it the result of someone else's decision and action? Is it the means to an end - a retreat or sabbatical? Is it job-related and therefore a non-negotiable, necessary evil?

In my mind the degree to which we can control our own destiny is the single largest determiner of state-of-mind. Equally important is how we choose to react to those circumstances and matters outside of our control. Auschwitz prisoner Viktor Frankl was not able to prevent his incarceration and torture but he was able to control his thoughts and triumph over circumstances that have destroyed others. The same ability to choose our response to what happens to us lives in us all.

I choose to maximize my use of my husband's absence by using the time alone to pursue a university degree, write, paint and be still. The fact that he is earning a living driving a truck into the United States and is gone for a week or so at a time is vastly different than if he had left me for a twenty-five year old. It was a joint decision. After 31 years of marriage we have the maturity, trust and prudence to know that for now, for us, this is a good thing.

Like for many of my friends in similar situations with work-away spouses, there's a tangible, unspoken-of, upside to these absences.

Freedom. And empowerment. The freedom to organize our days in ways that suit us. The freedom to pursue interests and hobbies unfettered by spousal demands. The opportunity to make decisions quickly, unilaterally, decisively. The ability to eat, sleep, work, and play on your own timetable and to meet our own needs. The chance to be "numero uno" and enjoy it.

I have had friends complain that when HE comes home, he has the nerve to sit on her side of the bed. Or has different expectations of the children resulting in clashes over discipline. He's been away so he feels magnanimous when the little darlings act up. She's been with them 24/7 and knows the rules of engagement and heads are going to roll. She's had to deal with the dental appointments, parent/teacher interviews, fund-raising and car-pooling and frankly resents his "just dropping by" interference in her domain. Juxtapose that reality of resentment with the newly widowed woman who would do anything to have her man back again to snore or drop his dirty socks beside the hamper. That woman would be grateful to argue over how to handle the kids.

In my own case, when Roy leaves for Texas or Kentucky or Chicago I feel an odd mix of relief and "call to order." The need to step up to the plate and be in charge. It is almost as though I live in limbo when he's here and then spring into action when he's gone. I've noticed the meals are sparer, healthier when he's gone. I wake up earlier and accomplish more. I answer the phone and deal with whatever comes because I must. There's no one else to delegate it to.

That is not to say that I don't love or miss him. After all these years of marriage I've come to rely on him for laughs, vehicle maintenance, a warm bed and sex. I rely on him as an escort, a chauffeur, a confidant, and a handyman. I rely on him for help parenting our grown children. There is a distinct relief in having someone special to share both the worries and the joys. These chunks of time spent alone have deepened my love for this man.

I choose to use the time and space to continue re-discovering who I am and why I am here. I choose to blossom. I choose to maximize being alone. For that, I'm profoundly grateful.

**Reprinted with permission*



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 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://cadcwww.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 FESTIVAL

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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News Contributors Lonita Fraser

Regular Columnists: Janice Behrens, Wanda Waterman St. Louis, Debbie Jabbour, Karl Low,

Katie Patrick, Hazel Anaka, Bill Pollett, Barbara Godin

Contributors to listings columns: Zil-E-Huma Lodhi, Lonita Fraser

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