

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*March 9, 2005*  
*Volume 13 Issue 10*



## *Western Separation* *Roots of the Discontent*

*Martha Stewart*  
*Still a Role Model*

*Questions*  
*Are you afraid to ask?*

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

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## THE VOICE

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# FREE THE WEST!

## THE WESTERN SEPARATION MOVEMENT

*Mandy Gardner*



Ours is a multicultural country with a strong sense of national unity. Canadians coast to coast embrace diversity in a way that is reflected by the governments' bilingual and tolerant immigration policies. We as citizens value and are clearly proud of our country. So why, then, is there a prominently displayed sign along Highway 2 near Olds that calls for Western separation?

Amongst all the fierce nationalists in this country, there are more than a few Canadian citizens that do not believe in Canada. The most well known of these people come from Quebec, a province that has twice held referendums on whether or not to remain part of Canada. The situation in Quebec has been explored in depth by politicians and the media alike, and as a result the rest of the country has come to understand a little better why the issue of separatism arose in the first place. That is not the case for western Canada.

The idea of Western separatism has been gathering support since before 1980, when the Western Independence Party formed. Several local supporting parties also evolved from the common

goal of Western separation; the British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Separatist Parties, as well as the all-encompassing Western Block Party that is active today.

Many supporters of the Western Block Party are ex-members of right-wing parties such as Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives. The aforementioned parties were united in 2003 under the common goal of dethroning the Liberals from constant power in Ottawa, something that made many former members uneasy. Many felt that the new Conservative party had lost its integrity and become mildly left-wing, compared to the other, much more liberal, political parties in Canada. As a refuge for the ultra-conservatives that had been left behind in the merger, separatism became a hot topic.

Many of the values that define us as 'Canadian' are precisely what drive some Westerners to lobby for a new sovereign nation of Western Canada. The primary goals of the Western Block Party are to establish mono-lingualism, stop immigration, get rid of the gun registry and to stop sharing western Canada's wealth with the rest of the country. On top of that, Separatists want to opt-out of the Kyoto accord, arguing that the environmental policies will cost them too dearly, and that the risks of the Greenhouse Effect have been proven non-issues.

It seems that the biggest issue for western Separatists is the way wealth is being extracted from western Canada - in the form of oil, gas, coal, and agricultural revenues - and redistributed to the rest of Canada's provinces and territories. This centralized collection and distribution of the country's wealth strikes Canada's more conservative citizens as a somewhat "socialist" economic

organization, and they are not exactly socialism enthusiasts. Members of the Western Block Party want to keep their own resources and the associated revenues within their region to create a wealthy nation of their own. They are tired of having no representation in Ottawa, and feel that separation is the only means to achieve their goals.

Advocates of western separation may like the idea of controlling their own resources, but they are disregarding how they themselves benefit from the Liberal system in times of uncertainty. Specifically, the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have each received federal payments through the Equalization Plan for the past several years. The Provincial Equalization Plan has been in effect for years, and its renewal was outlined by Finance Minister Ralph Goodale in Budget 2005. The plan aims to spread federal wealth throughout each province that produces less capital than the average Canadian province, essentially "equalizing" them. This plan is unsettling to Western Block Party members, who feel that each province and territory should learn to live within its means instead of relying on other parts of the country.

Supporters of western separation do not all expect to one day see Canada split down the middle; they do, however, expect that if they apply enough pressure, Ottawa will respond and start giving them what they want. On the other hand, there are members of the party that are relentlessly committed to separating from Canada.

Doug Christie, leader of the Western Block Party, is one of those. He expresses his concerns about our "juvenile and bankrupt country" (Western Block Party forum), ignoring the economic prosperity Canada has enjoyed these past seven years. This year marks our seventh consecutive balanced budget, a fact which sets the stage for vast surpluses each year. Christie says "This country has the mental attitude of juvenile and spoiled children," and that "the West is betrayed by a socialist state." Clearly Doug Christie is not one of the flag-waving nationalists that come to mind when one thinks of Canada.

Maybe there is no real way to please members of western Separatist parties, since the majority of Canada remains more liberal minded. Giving people like Doug Christie what they want - one language, halted immigration, and an end to Kyoto - means an extreme betrayal of Canadian values. The sign on Highway 2 remains more than just a symbol of the ongoing struggle of the western Canadian to be heard by Ottawa, it is a shining example of the flaws in our national identity. Beneath the surface of Canadian pride and multiculturalism lies a frustrated population at odds with the national majority. Unless members of the separatist movement are provided with some kind of concession from Ottawa, their signs are likely to remain all over western Canada.

## Links

Western Block Party, home page: <http://www.westernblockparty.com>

Western Block Party forum: <http://westernblockparty.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=6>

Canada Budget 2005: <http://www.fin.gc.ca/budget05/pdf/bp2005e.pdf>

*\* photo courtesy the author*



## FROM MY PERSPECTIVE Martha Stewart

*Debbie Jabbour*



I've never written a piece of fan mail before, but I had the urge to do so recently. Why? Because I have found myself profoundly affected by a famous person who just got out of jail. You've probably guessed that I'm talking about Martha Stewart. The news media has been saturated lately with footage of Martha arriving home from jail, analyses of what the experience meant to her, and where she will go from here. When I watched the news footage of her arrival at home after her five month jail term I couldn't help but feel a deep sense of admiration for her story of survival.

It's odd, since there are other high profile people I admire, but I've never felt like writing to them before. I've also never really had much of an awareness of Martha Stewart. I don't recall ever seeing her television show, in fact I don't think we even received it here in Canada until the advent of expanded cable service, and K-Mart is not a widely-distributed chain in Alberta. To me, Martha Stewart was simply a humorous character sketch on Saturday Night Live. Although SNL gave me a sense of what she was all about, it was not until the ImClone scandal broke that I suddenly saw Martha Stewart as a person.

Right from the start of the scandal, I found myself feeling sympathetic to her. Yes, she appeared to have committed a crime, lied to investigators, and yes, this type of white-collar crime is just as serious as any criminal offense. But as days passed, the media reports began to lead me to believe that Martha was being punished, not just because of a crime she had committed, but because of who she was - a highly successful, self-made woman who elevated homemaking to a fine art. People loved to hate Martha, and you could see how the sharks moved in for the kill as soon as they saw a weak spot in "The Diva of Domesticity."

From what I've seen and read, Martha had a rather ordinary childhood. She was raised with a demanding perfectionist father, likely leading to her develop many of the traits people criticize her for. They have called her a perfectionist who is demanding, intolerant, and ready to stomp on the weaknesses of others. Donald Trump, among many others, has pointed out that there is a double standard at play here, since these same traits would be admired in a man (MSNBC News Reports, March 6, 2005).

To me, Martha's story of self-made business success is inspirational, since it is a story that makes you feel like anyone could do it. She worked hard to be successful, starting as a model while in college, and doing a stint as a broker with the New York stock market. It was after she and her husband moved out to the country and began to renovate an old farmhouse that she began what would become a highly successful catering business. Business flourished, and Martha's sense of style and expertise at homemaking soon led to books, a magazine, becoming a spokesperson for K-Mart, and her own television show, Martha Stewart Living. By 1996, Martha was CEO of Martha Stewart Enterprises, later called Martha Stewart Omnimedia, a million dollar company that quickly became billions of dollars when her stock soared in value.

On the way up, Martha had assistance and support from her lawyer husband, who negotiated her first book deal and whose legal counsel no doubt played an important role in her success. But some accounts say she was intolerant of his passivity, in contrast to her strong and demanding nature, and there are rumours that she was abusive toward him. He eventually left and filed for divorce after 26 years - a situation Martha strongly fought against, to the point that he obtained a restraining order against her (MSNBC, Headliners & Legends, March 6, 2005). Critics and friends alike attribute this situation to Martha's unwillingness to be seen as having failed - a typical response for a perfectionist.

Of course, unlike many divorced women and single mothers, she had a wonderful career worth millions, and was a highly successful female executive running a multi-media corporation. She also became a favourite target of comedians, particularly the talented Ana Gasteyer of SNL, who poked fun at Martha's perfect homemaking and demanding personality. As a successful female in a man's world, she drew her share of animosity. It wasn't just men who resented her and were threatened; women were also intimidated by Martha's seeming perfection and obvious success.

Martha's stock experience and the amazing success of her own stock holdings did not protect her from making a very bad decision, which she considered a "small, stupid mistake," a "small personal matter" that became "an almost fatal circus event of unprecedented proportions." The trial itself gave many people an opportunity to paint a picture of Martha as "rude, demanding, cheap and mean" (*Edmonton Journal*, March 6). It seemed clear to me that Martha was being prosecuted very harshly for her mistake, far more harshly than she would have been had she been someone other than who she is - a highly successful female in a man's world.

In some ways, though, that mistake may turn out to be Martha's greatest legacy. It certainly seems to have been quite a learning experience, and the style and attitude in which Martha is now re-building her life is impressive. Media reports show Martha in extremely good spirits, joking about how she missed lemons while in prison (talk about making lemonade out of lemons!) Reportedly she has added prison rights advocacy to her list of upcoming projects, along with a new Apprentice show, and the continued growth of her Omnimedia company (although prosecutors reportedly plan on continuing their attempts to punish Martha by seeking an injunction to ban her for life from holding a company CEO position).

In a televised appearance at her first day back at work, Martha addressed her organization, stating that every person is unique, and that no matter their circumstances, everyone deserves opportunity and the comforts of a good home. She stated that her focus is on making life better, not just for herself but for all people, to fight negatives, conquer fear and to encourage people to do something great with their lives. One phrase really sealed my admiration - she stated that she believes, "life should be an adventure" (MSNBC News reports, Mar 7, 2005)- a philosophy that I myself have tried to embrace.

Martha merits my admiration for many reasons. She has taken homemaking and turned it into an activity worthy of respect. She has allowed women to take pride in the work they do at home, and to place high value on everyday tasks that a career-oriented society has tended to disparage (I've heard Martha say she loves ironing and vacuuming!). She bore the adversity of a public trial that examined not just her mistake, but also her personal integrity and character. She endured punishment for her crime willingly and with good grace - rather than dragging things out with endless appeals and legal wrangling, she made the decision to serve her sentence and then get on with her life. She has taken a very negative experience and turned it into a positive one that will have long-term benefits not just for herself, but for others. I also cannot help but admire that her first book was not published until she was 41, with much of her success occurring during the next decade. At age of 63, she is still actively progressing in her career - something very encouraging to those who, like me, are starting late.

I likely will never write that piece of "fan mail", but I probably should. Individuals like Martha, in spite of the strong and powerful image they put on in public, need the support and respect of others. I understand that all too well, as I feel like I'm similar to Martha in many ways (without the success and the millions!). If I could demonstrate all of the qualities I've seen from her as "grace under pressure" I think I would be a much better person!

*"I'll be back, I'm not afraid"*

*- Martha Stewart, at her announcement that she would be going to prison.*

- Edmonton Journal, March 6, 2005. Prison rehabilitated Martha's image: Humbler diva ready to rebuild life.
- MSNBC News, March 7, 2005. Broadcasted in Edmonton, AB on Shaw Cable. Text at: MSNBC Reports: The New Martha: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7019986/>
- MSNBC Headliners & Legends: Martha Stewart. Broadcast in Edmonton, AB on Shaw Cable, March 6, 2005.
- A new life for Martha Stewart, CNN News: [http://money.cnn.com/2005/03/03/news/newsmakers/martha\\_walkup/](http://money.cnn.com/2005/03/03/news/newsmakers/martha_walkup/)
- Martha Stewart Official website: <http://www.marthastewart.com/>



## QUESTIONS

*El-ahrairah Jones*

It's all the selfish bastards out there ruining the world. If I were in charge, if I had any power to change things, the world would be a different place. No more homelessness, no more poverty. Unfortunately, everything is run by a handful of greedy, power-hungry individuals and corporations, and I'm just a regular Joe. All I can do is to look

after myself and my family, maybe give a few dollars here and there to charity. At least I vote NDP, and I do buy organic sometimes.

Sound familiar? It does to me, anyway. The excuses I give myself for remaining detached. Too easy, isn't it? What am I afraid of? What have I got to lose by standing up and making some real noise, making some real contribution to society that goes beyond a few hours per year of volunteer work and signing the odd petition? What is it that I get from this society, this evil status quo, that convinces me that it's okay to accept the suffering and anonymous deaths of those who live outside my everyday mental radar - the people who live half way across the world or in the streets outside my windows? Why do I continue to ignore all the evil that supports my incredibly privileged lifestyle, and yet still manage to feel hard done by every time I have to pay taxes or wait in line at a restaurant?

On a personal level, why do we continue doing jobs that are unfulfilling? Why do I keep sucking up to my boss, hiding my contempt, angling for promotion and making all my blatant manipulation and shallow use of others seem okay by calling it "networking"? What am I so addicted to? What are *you* addicted to? Bollywood films? Italian operas? Japanese surf music? Shopping malls? Single malt scotches? Hugo Boss? GICs? Pretty young things with glittery fingernails and tattoos between the shoulder blades? Do you collect DVD's, vintage motorcycles, expensive writing paper, rare books? What do you do to feed your taste for truffle oils and aged vinegars? Do you misrepresent investment information? Conduct weapons research? Fudge expense accounts? Overcharge for orthodontics? Did you marry for money? Would you? What would any of us do to protect the way we live, the things that bring us pleasure, the pretty pictures we have of ourselves?

What do you do to shut down your mind and to keep yourself from asking all of these questions?



Parkland Institute and AlbertaViews Annual Student Essay Contest 2005

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## Bud & Bridey's Motion Picture Reviews



### **Scarface (1983)**

**Director:** Brian De Palma

Update of 1932 movie "Scarface, the Shame of the Nation"

**Screenplay:** by Oliver Stone

**Actors:** Al Pacino, Steven Bauer, Michelle Pfeiffer, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Robert Loggia, Miriam Colon, F. Murray Abraham, Paul Shenar, Harris Yulin

BUD: Those folks looks and dresses just like them down to the legion.

BRI DEY: For some of us the eighties never die.

BRI DEY: Why do you suppose Castro dumped all those jailbirds on the shores of the U.S.?

BUD: Out of the kindness of his heart. 'Cause he loved them so.

BRI DEY: The crooks or the Yanks?

BUD: Both.

BRI DEY: T'isn't the first time the dregs of a foreign land have been dumped on America's green shores. England did it regular as death and taxes.

BUD: It's what made America great.

BRI DEY: Tell that to Michael Moore.

BUD: We should have killed you people when we had the chance.

BRI DEY: Ah, hindsight. Well, you're stuck with us now.

BUD: *Tony Montana entered the room with a challenging air, like a farmer with pig manure on his boots and a sawed off shotgun in his pocket who silently dares the folks at the bank to tell him he smells...*

BRI DEY: See the way he smiles at his sister? Something funny about that, ain't there?

BUD: Remember that old priest? The one that used to say, "Oh how I love the smell of incest in church"?

BRI DEY: That's not the woman for you, Tony! Ain't a pick on her! You could slide her under a door! If she bends over she'll snap like a twig!

BUD: Yeah. Now your sister—*there's* a woman!

BRI DEY: This puts me in mind of 'Pulp Fiction'—Pfeiffer's hairstyle, her rich drug dealer husband, the crack she keeps on snuffing up her nose. I wonder how many times Tarantino saw this film?

BUD: Pacino does a pretty good Hispanic accent.

BRI DEY: You think so 'cause you never get to listen to any Hispanics.

BRI DEY: Not much.

BUD: French, Mi'kmaq, Germans, Arabs, Greeks, but relatively few Hispanics here in the province. Remember that Mexican exchange student in high school? It was like the Martians had landed.

BRI DEY: Is Tony Montana a bad guy? Or is he a good guy driven to desperation by poverty and the baubles held out by consumer America? Or is he filled with a sense of emptiness he desperately seeks to fill? As the utilitarian philosophers say, everyone seeks happiness as their highest goal, we just differ in what constitutes happiness and in where we seek it. Too many of us seek happiness in ways that destroy us. This is the essence of the human tragedy.

BUD: Did you read that on the back of the video box?

BRI DEY: No. Sometimes this late at night I start to make a little sense.

BUD: A little. What's this on your list?

BRI DEY: It's on standby. I'll need to see it again.



*Bud and Bridey only watch old movies. If you're looking for reviews of more recent films, check out Laura Seymour's Flicks and Folios Film Review*

*By Wanda Waterman St. Louis, with Steven St. Louis.*

## CLICK ON THIS

### *Little Bit O' Lit*

**Lonita Fraser**

As students we spend an awful lot of our time reading, but we don't always get a lot of time to read for pleasure. Here are a few sites of a literary nature, which are also a little fun too.

**Books2Eat** - <http://www.books2eat.com/>

"The International Edible Book Festival is a yearly event that takes place on April 1 throughout the world. This event unites bibliophiles, book artists and food lovers to celebrate the ingestion of culture and its fulfilling nourishment. Participants create edible books that are exhibited, documented then consumed."

**Building With Books** - <http://theory.csail.mit.edu/classes/bookbuild/>

Who says books are only for reading? This project highlights some unusual uses books were put to by a group of students at MIT.

**Jabberwocky** - <http://www.cd.chalmers.se/~jessica/Jabberwock/>

A site dedicated to translations of Lewis Carroll's beloved poem in such diverse languages as Welsh, Esperanto, Yiddish, and even Latin.

**Aesopica** - <http://www.mythfolklore.net/aesopica/>

A wonderful resource where you can find translations of Aesop's fables in Spanish, French, Latin, and more.

**Dream Encyclopedia** - <http://www.dreamhawk.com/d-ency.htm>

Though the contents of dreams, and their interpretations, are highly subjective, this site provides a wealth of information on our subconscious meanderings.

**First Lines** - <http://people.cornell.edu/pages/jad22/>

Can you name the book if given only its first line? See how well you fare.

**The Thousand Nights and a Night** - <http://www.wollamshram.ca/1001/>

The stories of Sheherazade, and more, transcribed for your reading pleasure.

**Read Print** - <http://www.readprint.com/>

A free online library offering thousands of free books for students, teachers, and the classic enthusiast.

**4000 Years of Miniature Books** - <http://www.indiana.edu/%7Eliblilly/miniatures/>

"Miniature books, most of which are less than three inches tall and some of which are smaller than a penny, have delighted readers for centuries. Popular because they were easily carried or concealed, these historic books range from tiny "Thumb Bibles" to illustrated nursery rhymes."

**Customised Classics** - <http://www.customizedclassics.com/>

Everyone wants to be in pictures, or write the great novel. Why not be in the novel? This site lets you do just that - in novels like "Alice in Wonderland," "Moby Dick," and even "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes."



*This monthly column features news and issues affecting gays and lesbians in Canada and around the world. Look for it on the second week of each month, only in The Voice.*

The religious right was preparing to boycott Famous Players over what they thought they had given Canadians for Equal Marriage a public service announcement. When the Defend Marriage Coalition learned the ads were paid for, they refused to buy their own. The ads have since been pulled by Famous Players.

- <http://www.recorder.ca/cp/Entertainment/050208/e020851A.html>
- <http://www.equal-marriage.ca>

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Previously against gay marriage, the Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas Riley now says he favours same sex marriage, and will oppose any efforts to ban it. He is a potential Democratic candidate for Governor. "Once rights are given, they should not be taken away," Thomas Riley told the Boston Globe.

- <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/02/021305massAg.htm>

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Tory MP Jason Kennedy got in hot water after he suggested that gays and lesbians could indeed marry, just not each other. The Calgary MP made the comments to the Press while in Toronto. The bill to legalize same-sex marriage is being debated in the House of Commons.

- <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2005/02/13/930118-cp.html>

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The Liberal Party of Canada has endorsed same-sex marriage. At its recent policy convention, members overwhelmingly approved of the government's bid to legalize it. The bill is expected to go to full vote in June.

- <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/03/030605liberals.htm>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2005/02/16/same-sex-debate050216.html>

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The BC government has been paying to treat homosexuality as a mental disorder, they admitted to 365Gay.com. Doctors have billed the BC Ministry of Health \$237,000 between 1999 and 2004 to "cure" homosexuality, even though it's not considered by any medical or mental health professionals to be a mental disorder. The Ministry says that homosexuality was removed from the code, but could not explain why it was paying doctors to treat this.

- <http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/02/021305bcDrs.htm>

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The Anglican Communion has asked the Anglican Church of Canada and the Episcopal Church to leave the world body. The Church is miffed at the Anglican Church of Canada's willingness to bless same-sex unions, and is appalled by the election of a gay Bishop to the Episcopal Church in the U.S. Both churches expect the dialogue and debate to continue.

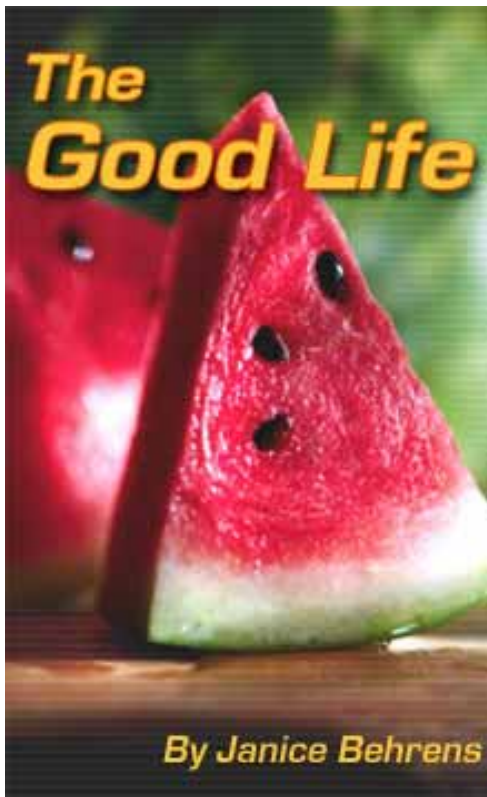
- <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/americas/02/24/anglican.canada.ap/index.html>

### *Quote of the Month*

"Marriage is open to everybody, as long as they're a man and a woman... It doesn't say you can't marry if you're a homosexual. The fact is that homosexuals have been married and do marry."

- Conservative MP Jason Kenney, Feb 13, 2005.





## Becoming a Doer

Most people I know, including myself of course, have a problem with procrastination. This is something that can affect and damage a great many aspects of our lives, from completing university essays and assignments to paying bills on time and discussing important relationship matters with our partners. Sometimes we feel so overwhelmed by the complexity of our lives that we just simply don't know where to begin. We feel completely paralyzed and end up doing nothing at all, or something that is harmful and detrimental to our well being, something that moves us further away from who we would like to be.

Each of us have some idea of the person we would like to be in the future, and the type of life we would like to lead. Whether our dreams involve creating more leisure time for ourselves, acquiring a more challenging career, finding a soul mate, raising a family, or all of the above, this sort of long-range planning and treasure-mapping is a very important and positive function of our conscious minds.

Where many of us fall down, though, is in our inability to translate this planning into action. We can tend to become so good at seeing the big picture that we forget about the details, all the little steps that must be taken in order to achieve these dreams. Without taking care of the small details, we often find that we have become stuck in a rut. Sometimes a great stretch of our lives can go by without us having really come any closer to the place where we want to be. It's at these times that we can become discouraged and overcome with a feeling of helplessness, even hopelessness.

This feeling makes it even harder to come to grips with the changes we have to make so we can move forward. Like little children who believe that by covering their eyes they can disappear from sight, we sometimes believe that our dreams will be realized without any effort or sacrifice, and that by avoiding our day to day problems they will simply vanish.

The reality is, however, that phone bills will not pay themselves. If you want to be an artist, you must first pick up a paint brush, and if you want to get your PhD you first have to complete that midterm assignment in the 200 level course. The challenge I am giving myself this year is to become more of a doer, and less of a thinker. My promise to myself is to concentrate more on the step-by-step process of getting from point-A to point-B, and less time thinking of reasons why tomorrow would be a better day to do whatever it is that I have been putting off. The truth is that I will not have any more free time a week or a year from now than I do at this moment, so I may as well begin. I do not intend to rush, but rather to move gradually and steadily forward, one step at a time, to where I'm going.



## AUSU THIS MONTH



### 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](mailto:webmaster@ausu.org) if you notice any problems or have a comment.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

#### OFFICE MANAGER

Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) requires a F/T Office Manager. The ideal candidate will have 3-5 years office administration experience and be comfortable with basic book-keeping. A post-secondary diploma or degree is desirable but not required. Applicants must have strong communication skills, excellent organizational and problem solving skills, be able to work independently, multi-task, take initiative, and work with confidential matters. Required computer skills include; MS Office, Simply Accounting, e-mail, and internet research. An understanding of educational institutions, students' unions and distance education is an asset. Salary is 26-30k per annum, depending on experience. Deadline: March 18th.

AUSU is an equal opportunity employer.



Please e-mail a resume & cover letter to: [president@ausu.org](mailto:president@ausu.org).  
For information on AUSU, visit:

[www.ausu.org](http://www.ausu.org)



## A MINOR SERIES OF STRANGE AND PROBABLY MEANINGLESS EVENTS

A few years ago I was in Van Dusen Botanical Gardens with my daughter. Despite the fact that it was a perfect Autumn day, bright and crisp, and I was immersed in a place of tranquility and beauty, my soul was troubled. I had just encountered what seemed at the time a calamitous upheaval in my life, and although I was sitting on a bench in the sunshine, my mind was drifting far away from me. I have a bad habit of doodling with a pencil in the margins of my textbooks, and I drew a strange picture of my brain as one of those antique bathyscaphe submarines, far below the surface of the sea but tethered by a thin air line to my physical body floating on the surface. I was so lost in my own thoughts and regrets about past and future that I was almost unaware of the information being provided by my senses. I didn't notice the sunlight on my face, the cool, pungent smell of the trees, or the visual image of my daughter at the edge of the pond feeding clumps of grass to the enormous swan that had come swimming up to her.

A couple of hours later, my daughter wanted to find her way through the garden's maze by herself, so I sat beneath a tree near the exit to wait for her. I was taking a Children's Literature course, and had brought my textbook along. I casually flipped it open to a section discussing the role of the trickster figure, typically manifested as a raven or a coyote, in Native North American folktales. After a few pages, I found my mind too muddled to really concentrate, so I put the book away and took out a paperback mystery - P.D. James's *The Murder Room* - that somebody had loaned me. One of the characters is interested in the history of the period between the First and Second World War, known as the Inter War Years. The character mentions a number of historical events that occurred in the year 1931, one of which was that a balloonist by the name of August Piccard became the first human being to reach the stratosphere. I'm not sure why, but something about that fact caught my attention. Just then I had a strange feeling that I was being watched. I looked up from my book and saw a coyote standing and watching me from the edge of a clump of trees about twenty five yards away. We stared at each other for maybe a minute before it nonchalantly turned and trotted down a path. Just then, my daughter emerged from the maze. On the way out of the gardens, I happened to run into an acquaintance who was heading into the gift shop. I told her about seeing the coyote, and she told me she had heard from one of the gardeners that a coyote had just killed a swan.

That night, suffering from insomnia, I got out of bed around midnight and sat down with a glass of milk in front of the television. I caught the tail end of a documentary about the psychologist Carl Jung. It discussed an event during Jung's career when he had been listening to a patient describe a dream in which a scarab beetle had appeared. Jung, who believed that dreams are portals into the collective unconscious of the human race, was particularly intrigued by this patient's story due to the sacred significance of the scarab beetle to the ancient Egyptians. Just then, though, the story was interrupted by a banging at the window, which proved to be a large scarab beetle hammering its wings against the glass. Jung's office was in Zurich, Switzerland - a place where this insect is rarely seen, and incidentally the birthplace of August Piccard and of the woman who had told me of the killing of the swan.

After that, I was aimlessly flipping through the channels when I came across another documentary discussing the connection between left handedness and intelligence. The narrator talked about Leonardo Da Vinci, Albert Einstein, Pablo Picasso, Charlie Chaplin, etc. She also talked about the Swiss inventor August Piccard, the first man to reach the stratosphere. As it turns out, he was also the inventor, in 1953, of the bathyscaphe submarine - they very thing that I'd drawn a picture of in my textbook.

By now, you're probably wondering what this is all about. What possible significance any of this has - the coyote, the balloonist, the psychologist, the drawing of the submarine. I wish I knew. Perhaps they were

nothing more than random coincidences. Perhaps not even that remarkable, when you consider how many of these little synchronicities go unnoticed in the course of our busy days. I can't help feeling, though, that oddities like those that I experienced that day somehow point to a mysterious order that lies behind our so-called real and rational world, a consciousness that directs the flow of the time and space. A consciousness, moreover, that has something of a quirky sense of humour. Oddly, I find that a comforting thought.



*Dear Barb;*

*My husband and I have been married for eight years and we have two children. We get along well for the most part, but our major problem is that I feel my husband puts his family (mainly his parents) before our children and me. Whenever his mother calls, he drops whatever he's doing and goes to her. When we married I realized that because he was from an Italian family and I am not, that we may have some problems. I'm starting to wonder if I can live with his for the rest of my life. Do you have any advice to help me deal with this?*

*Anonymous, Anywhere*

Thanks for writing. I understand your need for anonymity as this is a very sensitive issue.

In-law problems rank as one of the top ten stressors in marriage. It's too bad you and your husband weren't able to deal with this issue earlier in your marriage, but it's still not too late.

You don't mention how your husband reacts to his family's demands. When he responds to their calls, does he go willingly, or is he just as frustrated as you? Since you are the one that seems to be at her wit's end, I will assume he goes willingly.

First of all you have to discuss this with your husband, but be gentle and not confrontational. Tell him how you feel, but don't attack his family or his culture or belittle him for being a caring son. These approaches will put him on the defensive and you will get nowhere. Explain to him that you feel less important than his family. Give him a chance to digest what you are telling him. Don't expect everything to change overnight, give him time. When he does something that indicates he is trying to put you ahead of his family, be supportive. Let him know you appreciate his efforts.

I know this will be frustrating for you, but don't expect things to change quickly. Most importantly, pick your battles. You obviously understand that since he is from an ethnic family, his familial expectations are different than those of Canadian families. Therefore, as hard as it may be, you may have to accept some of this behavior and not see it as diminishing you in any way.

Ultimately, if you try your best and still do not feel you are making any progress, I would suggest you find a good marriage counselor. Your marriage is far too important to give up without trying every possible avenue open to you.

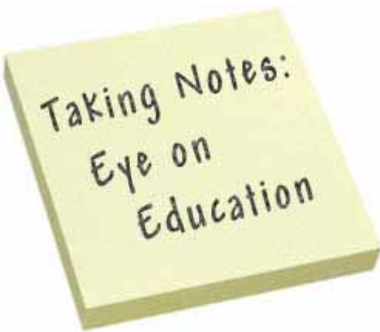
Good luck, and don't give up on your marriage. With some work I trust you and your husband will be able to get through this turmoil and as a result have a better, stronger marriage.

*Readers, watch for responses to past columns in an upcoming issue.*

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



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



## AU STUDENT INVITED TO HARVARD

*Debbie Jabbour*

An Athabasca university student has been invited to Harvard to address the Faculty of Canadian Studies. Not just an ordinary AU student, of course, but none other than Alberta Premier, Ralph Klein. Reports call this a "considerable honour" and a "chance to deliver an important speech on the state of Canada-U.S. Relations" (Edmonton Journal, March 6).

The speech will take place at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs as part of the Canada Seminar, which invites presentations from "public figures, scholars, artists, and experts in various fields" to examine "Canadian economic, social, cultural and political issues in their domestic and international dimensions" (Canada Seminar website). Harvard currently has a University of Alberta connection - U of A School of Business Professor of Economics, Randall Morck, is on sabbatical at Harvard and is seminar chair for 2005.

Other noteworthy Canadians who have been on the speaker's list for the Canadian Seminar include former reform leader Preston Manning, ballerina Karen Kain, and Lt.-General Romeo Dallaire. Klein's speech is scheduled for March 24, and will focus on the "development of a continental energy plan and issues of security," although a source says the working title is "No cows? No Crude" (Edmonton Journal, March 6).

Edmonton Journal, March 6, 2005. Klein invited to speak at Harvard: Canadian studies faculty anxious to hear his take on Canada-U.S. relations.

Canada Seminar, Harvard University:  
<http://www.wcfia.harvard.edu/seminars/canada/home.asp>

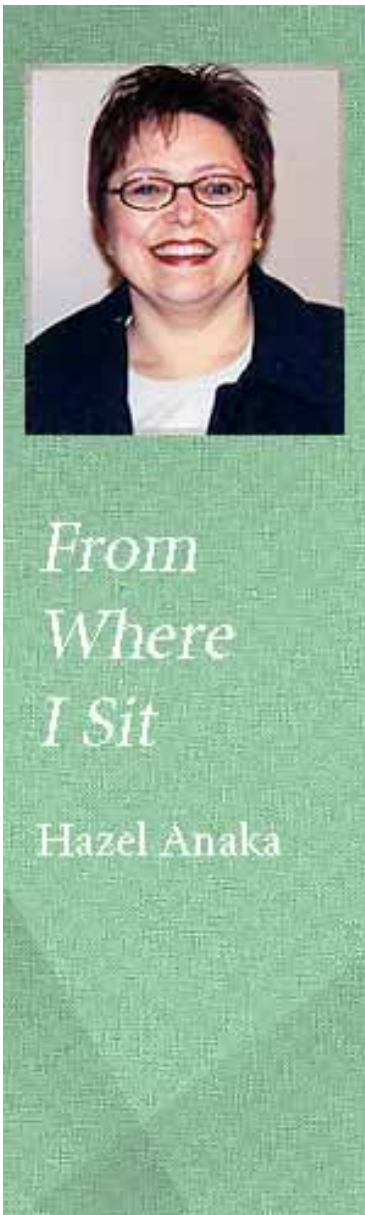
## *Women you should know*

*Compiled by Barbara Godin*

### *Clara Brett Martin - 1874-1923*

Clara Brett Martin was born in 1874 in Toronto Ontario. She graduated from Trinity College in Toronto with an honors B.A. in mathematics. After being refused admission as a law student by the Law Society of Upper Canada, Martin sought the assistance of some influential individuals and shortly after, she was able to begin her journey. In due course, Martin received the distinction of becoming the first woman lawyer in the British Empire. Martin received a Bachelor of Civil Law in 1897 and began her law practice in Toronto in 1899. As a result of being the first woman lawyer to enter a courtroom, her presence was quite unsettling to her male counterparts. Throughout her life Martin was active in several women's groups, but she never married. Martin's strong determination enabled her to pave the way for future women to pursue careers in law. However this road proved to be a difficult one, as 22 years later only 11 women had followed in her footsteps. It would be many years before a significant number of women entered this primarily male-dominated profession. Clara Brett Martin died on October 30, 1923 at the age of 49 years.

<http://www.coolwomen.org/coolwomen/cwsite.nsf/0/DE8FB0AD7AB8625185256D11006D41E7>



## Can You Imagine?

Can you imagine a world in which computer geeks use their creativity and skill to create software instead of viruses and worms? I've had it up to here with receiving and deleting the same 200 or so virus-ridden spam, crap messages that these pinheads send out. I've paid for virus protection with automatic updates. I've paid my computer troubleshooter to purge my system. I've paid with my time and my patience.

Unfortunately, I've come to rely on email to send my columns and stories electronically to publishers, to distribute meeting minutes to my writers' group, to correspond with a friend in Peterborough and to generally save time. Otherwise I'd scrap the whole damn thing and pull out my quill and ink well. Instead, I'm held captive by the technology.

I've been forced to change my email address. As I gradually let my essential contacts know I ask that they not send me any "forwards" no matter how funny, sad, or flattering they are, cuz life's just too damn short.

Profilers have determined that these computer criminals tend to be young males with no other visible interests. Most of them eventually discover girls and cars or just plain grow up. But not before costing businesses and individuals countless billions of dollars in lost productivity. What kind of people have so little regard for others? Are the parents of these guys oblivious to what their children are doing? Perhaps some jail time would be a deterrent.

I use a computer much the same way I use a telephone or fax machine or VCR or electricity. I don't understand what makes them work but I benefit nonetheless from someone else's ingenuity, brainpower, and creativity.

Can you imagine a life without Bill Gates' genius? Can you imagine if the people defacing rail cars and buildings with graffiti turned their talent onto canvas or paper or graphic design projects instead?

Last year I was stuck at a rail crossing in Edmonton for 15 or 20 minutes and watched dozens of cars go by. Each one was marked. Before long I began to differentiate the unique style of the different vandals. Though many of the words were indecipherable the designs were quite beautiful. As a practicing artist I know how long and hard most of us work to find our style. These guys already have it. But rather than using the talent for "good," they choose the "evil" of defacing someone else's property. They must work under cover of darkness because of the illegal nature of the activity. They aren't paid for their efforts. They can't take credit for their work or benefit from the exposure it gets. Dumb, dumb, dumb - no matter how you cut it.

I don't have any bright ideas for identifying people who are misusing their God-given talents. I don't have any answers for people who choose to hurt others through their actions. It's simply a waste of talent and energy, from where I sit.





## Searching for Internships

***Lonita Fraser***

### BUNAC - Work Canada

**Internship types:** Accounting, Agricultural Sciences, Business Admin, Management, Communications, Computer Science, Economics, Finance, Forestry, Graphic Design, Liberal Arts, Marketing, Ad, PR, Museum Studies, Technology, Hotel/Restaurant/Hospitality, Tourism, Cooking, National Park Employment, Resort Employment, Ski Resort Employment, Ranch Employment and State Park Employment

**Qualifications / skills needed:** You must currently be a full-time student at an accredited University. Please note that students on Study or Semester Abroad (except in Canada) who are still considered full-time at a US college or university ARE eligible for this program.

**Description:** BUNAC's Work Canada program is operated in conjunction with SWAP and allows you to gain the international experience of working abroad without actually having to go overseas. Work Canada is a program authorized by the Canadian Government to allow US college students the opportunity to work and travel in Canada for up to 6 months. The program fee is \$205, plus mandatory travel insurance. The program fee includes program and sponsor administration and materials, and support in the USA and Canada.

**Highlights:** Free choice of arrival date into Canada; Pre departure support from BUNAC including your work authorization documents; SWAP Canada Hosting Centers with job and accommodation advice, online computer facilities, telephones, mail drop and forwarding services and general advice from friendly and knowledgeable staff; Arrival orientation with vital information on bank accounts, tax, applying for a SIN (social insurance number) as well as practical information on job and accommodation hunting; 24 hours Emergency SWAP assistance; Special phonecard including voicemail and fax facilities; Fast processing, no express fees.

**Language required:** English

This internship is a paid position. Application process involves: Letters of Reference; Transcript; Written Application

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

**Location:** Throughout Canada

**Dates:** Throughout the year

BUNAC  
PO Box 430  
Southbury, CT 06488  
United States  
phone: (203) 264 0901  
fax: (203) 264 0251

# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi*

## LUCENT GLOBAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Two students attending Canadian universities will be chosen as Lucent Global Science Scholars in 2005. In Canada, the award competition will be administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education in cooperation with the Institute of International Education. The successful applicants will receive a one-time award of \$US5,000 and an expense-paid trip to visit Lucent/Bell Labs Global Headquarters in Murray Hill, New Jersey to attend the "Lucent Global Science Scholars Summit" in July 2005 along with other competition winners from around the world. When possible, the winner will be offered a paid summer internship.

### Eligibility Criteria

1. You must be a full-time student in your first year at any Canadian university entitled to grant degrees under provincial legislation;
2. Your major or intended major must be computer science, computer engineering, electrical engineering with a strong computer science interest, or a specialized technical telecommunications major, such as wireless engineering;
3. You must have high academic standing - as demonstrated by your marks in the final year of secondary school and first term at university;
4. You should be planning to pursue a career in information or communications technology;
5. You must be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
6. You must have demonstrated competency in spoken and written English;
7. You must have demonstrated your potential to contribute to your profession in the future and your interest in expanding your international perspective.

How to Apply:

A complete application consists of the following materials:

1. A completed Lucent Global Science Scholars Program Application Form, available from this site or from a designated representative at your university.
2. Two letters of recommendation. One must come from a secondary school teacher or university professor or instructor, ideally in science or math. The other must come from a professional non-family member who has supervised your education, work, and/or other activities.
3. An official transcript of grades from your last year in secondary school and your first year at university. Include explanation of marks provided by institution.
4. Proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent residency.
5. A typewritten essay of 500 words which describes your science or math-related achievements, your future career plans, activities that illustrate your international perspective and past and current activities that could help you benefit from and contribute to the Lucent Global Science Scholars Program and why you should be selected as a Lucent Scholar.

**Deadline:** The deadline for application is March 31, 2005. Semi-finalists will be interviewed by the selection committee in April. Finalists will be announced in May. Selection decisions are final; there is no appeal process.

**Application Address:**

Canadian Bureau for International Education  
Attn: Lucent Global Science Scholars Program  
220 Laurier West, Suite 1550  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Z9

For more information

You may send your questions on the Lucent Global Science Scholars Program by E-mail to CBIE at [info@cbie.ca](mailto:info@cbie.ca) or telephone 613-237-4820, ext. 243.



*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](mailto: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.

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

**8 to 12 March 2005**

<http://www.ra.informatik.uni-rostock.de/perel2005> - PerEL Organization Team - [perel05@informatik.uni-rostock.de](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:RLGent1@aol.com)

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

**19 March 2005**

Contact name: Laurie Ousley - E-mail: [lousley@monroecc.edu](mailto: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.artscouncil.org/csl/cslit.html> - Contact: Susan Robinson - [info@artscouncil.org](mailto:info@artscouncil.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](mailto: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](mailto:nectfl@dickinson.edu)

**MEPHISTOS  
Providence, Rhode Island USA**

**March 5-6, 2005**

<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](mailto:voice@ausu.org) with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.**

# classifieds

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

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for more information.



**AU SCIENCE STUDENTS' SOCIETY (AUS3) ONLINE!** The AU Science Students' Society is online at <http://www.ausu.org/clubs/auss/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](mailto:aus3@ausu.org) for more information. It's free to join!

## THE VOICE

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