

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*March 30, 2005  
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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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## IMPORTANT NEWS ITEM: EXCITING NEW LEARNING ACADEMY ABOUT TO OPEN ITS DOORS

Busby LeClair

As anyone who has ever lived and worked in a big city knows, life in the metropolis can be filled with rampant materialism, designer drugs, shallow relationships, and anonymous sexual encounters. But I'm not kidding myself, there are downsides to it, too.

These drawbacks are apparent to anyone who has made the move from a smaller town or village to a large urban centre. Separated from the strong support network of friends and family, and removed from the more wholesome values of small town life, these new arrivals to the "mean streets" can all too frequently be set upon by despicable, unscrupulous sharpsters seeking to take advantage of the hayseeds' open and trusting natures, or to prey on their insecurities. I can't tell you how often I've seen good men and women brought to ruin by the many pitfalls and dangers that lurk around each and every corner in the urban jungle.

Fortunately, hope is on the horizon for these poor newbies. Having spent all my life in the "big smoke," I obviously have a vast storehouse of wisdom and anecdotal knowledge to pass on to those less experienced than myself. Also, having come from a long genetic line of horse thieves, pickpockets, no account drifters, bunko artists, snake oil salesmen and orthodontists, I have some familiarity with the types of scumbags lying in wait for the poor, unsuspecting uninitiated. Furthermore, I have been fortunate enough to have made a very tidy living over the years in a variety of entrepreneurial fields, such as experimental health care treatments, currency speculation, fortune telling, introduction services, and adult entertainment-all of which have provided me with the wherewithal and desire to give something back to those less fortunate.

For these reasons, I am pleased to announce that I will soon be opening the doors on my latest venture: The Busby Leclair Academy of Urban Living, Spiritual Wellness Centre and Hair Replacement Clinic Ltd. For a nominal but hefty fee, based upon a complicated series of financial calculations involving the prospective student's immediate cash flow, I will be offering an itinerary of invaluable seminars and courses, leading to some sort of a diploma. Amongst many other things, my lucky proteges will be exploring basic safety issues, such as why it is not such a good idea to organize your wallet while walking down dimly-lit alleyways. They will also be instructed on what to look for when purchasing black market painkillers and other illicit items, and will gain an understanding of the proper use of heating/air-conditioning ducts as effective means of avoiding awkward encounters with police and security personnel. Students will be encouraged to experiment with financial options for investing their life savings in a manner that will double or even triple their existing funds in only a few weeks - a unique and limited-time opportunity that will enable them to live the kind of affluent urban lifestyle most city-dwellers can only dream of.

Of course, when choosing any educational institute, it is of the utmost importance that prospective students should have full confidence in the quality of instruction they will be receiving. The sad fact is, there are too many fly-by-night operations out there. This is why I will be offering a "full" money-back guarantee to any student who is not absolutely satisfied with the tuition that they have received, and who is able to contact me within six months after completion of all courses. I furthermore guarantee that all lectures will be personally presented by myself, or by somebody looking remarkably similar to me, but with perhaps a moustache and different-coloured hair.

Finally, I am pleased to present the following accolades and testimonials that I have received over the years from some of the most esteemed minds of the twentieth century:

"Busby Leclair is perhaps the greatest humanist-educator I have ever met." Marshall McLuhan

"I stand in open-mouthed awe at Leclair's genius and moral rectitude." Buckminster Fuller

"I would trust this man with my life!" George Orwell

"If anyone can make you rich, it's him!" Mahatma Gandhi

All interested students should leave their names with the editor of this magazine, and somebody will be in touch with you very shortly to discuss non-refundable processing fees and surprisingly affordable payment options.



# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

## Accidents and Social Responsibility

*Debbie Jabbour*



The other day I came upon a car accident, and that incident, in addition to the unfortunate recent events that have befallen my daughter's vehicle, got me thinking about the topic of social responsibility. Over my lifetime I've been involved in a few motor vehicle accidents and I've learned several important lessons. The obvious, of course, is that utmost caution should be exercised at all times when driving to avoid accidents. I've been lucky that none of my accidents caused loss of life or limb; although my daughters and I sustained long term injuries that left me with chronic pain, things could have been much worse.

As I grow older I drive far more carefully (like the proverbial grandmother that I am!), realizing that driving really is a privilege, not a right. But where does social responsibility come in? Aside from the situation described last week, where an individual hits and runs or steals a vehicle part, accidents can provide an opportunity to do something nice for another person - if you happen to see it occur.

Many people become rubber-neckers, curiously blocking traffic and often causing more accidents. Others become irritated at the delay in their busy lives and aggressively push their way through the traffic stoppage. A few stop to render aid. But how often do we stop and offer to act as a witness, even to an apparently minor accident?

The other day we were among the rush-hour crowd, eager to get home from work on a snowy Friday afternoon, when the car in front of us was suddenly struck by another vehicle that was going straight in a right-turn-only lane. Both cars immediately pulled to the side. We could have driven around the accident scene and continued on our way, particularly since traffic was heavy and everyone in a hurry to get out of the way. I refused to do so, however, and instead pulled over, found some scraps of paper and wrote our name and number on them, providing this information to both drivers. At that point I wasn't completely sure who was at fault, but I've learned through hard experience just how important the role of a witness can be.

Years ago, at the age of sixteen, I was involved in a highway collision, an accident that could easily have cost my life. I was travelling at highway speed, when a farm truck suddenly pulled out from a field directly in front of me, travelling at an extremely slow rate. Although I had seen him waiting to enter the highway, I never dreamed he would pull out with me so close. When I tried to pass on the left to avoid a rear-end collision, he abruptly began to drift across the highway to the left, preparing to turn left into the next field only a few hundred feet ahead, seemingly unaware of my existence. I slammed on the brakes, which sent me into a spin, weaving back and forth across the highway. I fought to regain control, and might have successfully managed to straighten my car out into the proper lane and avoid an accident - except that the farmer, rather than complete the left turn he had started, which would have taken him out of my way, inexplicably decided to continue driving along the highway at the same slow rate of speed. When I swung my vehicle up out of the ditch, still struggling for control, there he was, in front of me again!

The collision that followed was not pretty, although by now I had slowed my vehicle enough so that it was not the deadly crash it could have been. In the gathering of people that followed the accident, several people came up to me and said they had seen the whole thing (it was a fairly busy highway). They stated absolutely that he was at fault and they were amazed that I had avoided a worse outcome. I was young and inexperienced and had never been in an accident before, so I didn't think to get any names as witnesses. I was confident that I was not at fault and thought that was all I needed. I was to learn differently. In the court case that followed, responsibility ended up being assigned 50-50. Because I had no witnesses, it was my word against his, and since my vehicle had struck his, I was faulted.

Since that day, I learned the importance of getting a witness. I also learned the importance of being a witness, and this has been reinforced over the years in other situations where the word of an observer proved to be absolutely essential. It takes time and effort, of course, and many people are reluctant to get involved. This is particularly true if you witness other situations, such as a violent crime. Some people have a very real fear that speaking up in court against a perpetrator could have serious personal repercussions. But it is so important and can mean so much to the individuals involved (not to mention ensure that the wrongdoer is punished for the crime). It may only be a matter of filling out a police report, or it may involve court appearances. Either way, it is our duty and social responsibility to get involved.

In the case of the accident we saw the other night, our witness testimony may have meant that the person at fault was held responsible, and the innocent party was not punished by her insurance company.\* Without our testimony - who knows. The innocent driver was a young girl, and her word may not have held as much weight without corroboration (insurance companies are already very quick to blame young drivers and punish them with excessive rates).

*\*note: the insurance company later advised me that they have a formula they follow to determine at fault, and this is dependent on where the vehicle is struck, not necessarily on who broke the law. They did, however, tell me that our witness testimony would act in favour of the innocent party in other ways, and reduce the insurance penalty.*

Most of us have probably seen signs posted at intersections, or ads placed in newspapers, asking for witnesses to an accident to please come forward. It is most likely that in these cases, individuals are being unfairly held to blame, and having a witness to the accident could make a huge difference - accident at-fault decisions may affect whether insurance will pay for a collision or whether demerit points go on an individual's license, and can have a significant financial impact.

So the next time you happen to be witness to an accident, don't hesitate to stop and offer your "expert" testimony, and provide the innocent party with your contact information. Don't assume that it will be obvious to the insurance company who carries blame. And if you are ever unfortunate enough to find yourself involved in an accident, collect witness information immediately. If you have new drivers in your family, train them to do the same - it's not something they will learn in their driver education courses, but it is an essential driving skill just the same.



## Political Philosophy: Plato to Machiavelli (POLI 355)

Another new AU course is rolling out, hot off the press! Opening in time for a May 2005 start date, Political Philosophy: Plato to Machiavelli (POLI 355) is the first half of a core political philosophy course at AU. If you're majoring in political science, interested in politics, or just love learning, this course is for you.

POLI 355 introduces students to the political thinking of ancient and medieval philosophers; in addition, it "invites students to read carefully and develop critical thinking skills," says Dr. Jane Arscott, the course author, in a recent interview.

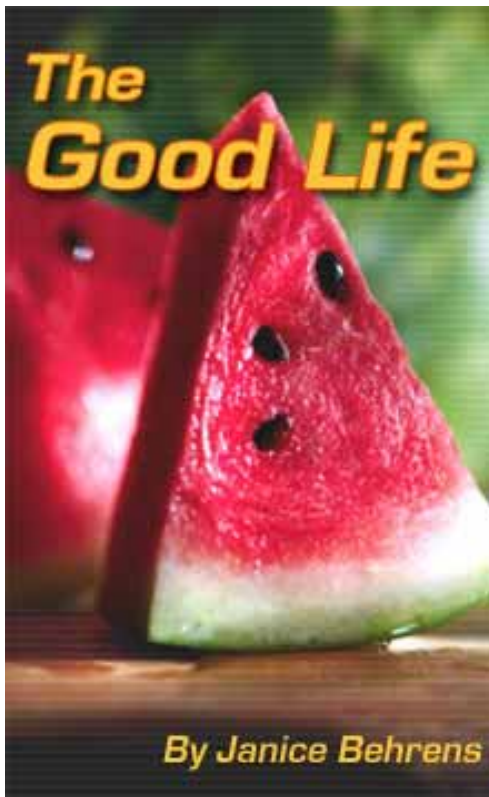
The course is divided into two parts. The first introduces students to different perspectives on political philosophy in ancient times. It explores the core political philosophies of famous ancient philosophers like Plato and Aristotle. Students will have the opportunity to research Plato's views on inquiry, good, decay and corruption, in addition to his philosophical thinking surrounding education. Likewise, students explore the world of Aristotelian thought, discovering views on internal happiness and the Ideal State, as well as on education and revolutions. The second part of POLI 355, which consists of six units, traces political philosophy from medieval times to the current-day. Students will explore the political thinking of famous men like Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas; additionally, they will be introduced to Niccolo Machiavelli's theories on success in politics. Students will also focus for one unit on Hildegarde of Bingen, a medieval woman who offered a non-conventional political philosophy from her position as a "inspirational political visionary and cosmologist," indicates Dr. Arscott.

The course has several interesting and just plain fun components integrated into the instructive content as well. "After each unit", says Dr. Arscott, "we have provided crossword puzzles to test students' knowledge". Additionally, the four texts used in POLI 355 are the original works of several famous philosophers, including Saint Thomas Aquinas, Aristotle, Plato, and Machiavelli. Dr. Arscott says that having students read the original texts takes the course an extra dimension because of the different language, and way of thinking and expressing thoughts expressed in these original sources.

Your evaluation in POLI 355 is calculated using three assignments, each of which is worth 20%, and a final exam worth 40%. Two of the assignments are relatively open-subject, with students being able to choose from a selection of course-related topics. The third essay is a more involved one where students can "focus in depth on one particular philosopher studied in the course, if they like," says Dr. Arscott. One unique feature of the assignments is that Dr. Arscott carefully designed them to help "forestall plagiarism" since the assignment topics make it too difficult for students to take something word-for-word from the texts or course manual.

The course author for Political Philosophy: Plato to Machiavelli (POLI 355), Dr. Jane Arscott, coordinates the Human Services Department at AU. Dr. Arscott received her PhD in political theory, and feels that writing POLI 355 is a "way of giving back something," from her area of expertise.

Since POLI 355 will open shortly in time for an May 2005 start-date, you can have the chance to be the first student in this "hot off the press" course! For more information, visit the course syllabus at: [www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/poli/poli355.htm](http://www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/poli/poli355.htm)



## Avoid Being a Pseudo-Connoisseur

As much as I enjoy a good glass of red wine every once in a while, the idea of spending more than ten or twelve dollars on a bottle of vino is something that very rarely occurs to me. Despite what the movie *Sideways* and my wine snob acquaintances have to say, I agree with the assessment of Vanity Fair contributing editor Nick Tosches, who asserts that the only valid words to describe the tasting of wine should be "good", "bad," or "just shut up and drink."

Obviously a dyed-in-the-wool cynic, Tosches wonders how a nose sophisticated enough to detect in "a bottle of rancid grape juice...delicate hints of black currant, oaken smoke, truffle, or whatever other dainty nonsense with which nature is fancied to have enlaced its taste," is not able to "detect the cow shit [that] fertilizes its vines." "A true wine connoisseur, if there were such a thing," he says, "would taste the pesticide and manure above all else." This unrealistic promotion and idolizing of wine, he claims, is an example of the disturbing character of our times, an era he labels "the age of pseudo-connoisseurship" in which we, "the moneyed suckers of today," hypnotised by

slick marketing campaigns, "seek fatuously to distinguish ourselves from the main of mediocrity."

I can't help but think that he has a very valid point, and it's something I frequently consider when I'm writing this column about finding ways to better enjoy our lives. As much as I believe that it is one of the great joys of life to turn eating into a quality experience by spending some money on fine ingredients, I think that there is an ever-present danger of falling into the belief that "more expensive" automatically translates as "better." There are certain items, such as handcrafted cheeses, cold pressed olive oil, and good quality imported balsamic vinegar that I will go to my grave believing are must-have ingredients in every kitchen. And I have been known to indulge in the odd pound or two of out-of-season organic grapes or asparagus, and even the rare three hour lunch at my favourite French bistro when I find myself down in the dumps.

In the end, though, I think that the best things in life are most often the simplest, and least costly, like ripe tomatoes and fragrant sage grown right in my own garden, or a bottle of delicious wine made with love and attention to detail in my neighbour's basement, from concorde grapes grown on the roof of his carport. About such things, nothing fancy needs to be said.

### References

Tosches, Nick. The Last Opium Den. New York: Bloomsbury, 2000.



## 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.



## Thoughts of a Late Bloomer

There are a couple of things that are apt to send me, from time to time, into a bit of an existential tailspin about where I'm at in life. The first of these is the habit I have of randomly reading the obituaries of people I have never met. I don't know why I do this. It is something like wiggling a loose tooth, or prodding a chancre sore with my tongue. Perhaps you've heard the joke about the man who bangs his head against the brick wall because it feels so nice when he stops...

I suspect you're familiar with the type of obituary I'm talking about. They are the ones listing the seemingly endless accomplishments of the recently deceased. It's always a person who, in addition to a forty-year career as neurosurgeon, has been on the boards of numerous corporations and non-profit societies, founded several private schools, explored remote areas of the Takla Makan desert, and composed a number of symphonies and comic operettas. Before falling from the north face of the Eiger on his or her ninety-seventh birthday, this individual was, amongst a host of other things, an accomplished amateur pastry chef and ballroom dancer, and had been fluent in fourteen languages.

I suppose that there are always two ways of looking at things, and this sort of tribute should really be an inspiration, a vision of the extraordinary accomplishments that human beings are capable of. Unfortunately, they inevitably lead me to contemplate the sorts of things that will one day be said about me when, well, *you know*. I try to imagine this memorial column in my mind: *Bill was an accomplished mimic, and had several Monty Python routines nearly committed to memory. He once took up SCUBA diving because he thought it would impress women and look good under the "hobbies and interests" section of his resume, but gave it up when his friends made fun of the way he looked in his wet suit. He was known to have won several games of Scrabble by placing QUISLING on the triple word score.*

I imagine that the sort of people referred to in these obits are also the sort of people who have kept extensive journals of their wondrous day to day activities, and that said journals will now be turned over to some museum or archive. And it's this keeping of diaries and journals that is the second depressing reminder to me of my own shortcomings in the area of life accomplishments.

From the time I was twelve years old, I have wanted to be one of those keepers of journals. About every six months, I get swept away by the urge to record my days for posterity. It sorts of comes upon me like a form of literary lycanthropy. I grab a fancy-pants notebook, poise my pen above the paper, and wait for really interesting things to happen to me. And I wait. And I scratch. And I wait. Then, I'm generally interrupted by one of my friends phoning to tell me that his Great Aunt Dottie has just fallen off the Eiger, or he is off to host a week-long seminar in Bali on the relationship between the music of Fats Domino and the art of Hieronymous Bosch. Whoever said "It is not enough that I succeed, but my friends must also fail" (Gertrude Stein? Todd Bertuzzi?) was bang on, although I would happily settle for one or the other.

A randomly selected entry from one of my journals might give you some idea of why this whole process is not a real self-esteem booster for me:

*June 16th, 2001: Strangest thing happened today: was cleaning dryer, and noticed that lint on screen bore uncanny resemblance to the profile of Ralph Nader. Went to IGA to buy bananas and bleach. Noticed hubcap in the ditch, think it might have been from Ronnie's Tercel. Will let him know when he gets back from Bali.*

Sometimes, during these journal writing phases, I become so desperate for something interesting to happen to me that I consider wearing a large papier mache trout head and skateboarding naked down Fourth Avenue with a burning roman candle in each hand. But I swore on my fortieth birthday that I'd never do that again.

When these dark thoughts become particularly bad, I pull myself out of the funk I'm in by convincing myself that I'm really just a late bloomer. On good days, I can really pull one over on myself, and imagine that this greatly prolonged larval stage of mine is really a good thing, and that at some unspecified date, not too far into the future, I'll be discovering planets, tossing off librettos, and traipsing up and down the banks of the Nile like Bob's your uncle. I might even be lucky enough to fall to my death on my ninety-seventh birthday. *Sigh.* Let's hope it's not from a step stool.



*Dear Barb;*

*My best friend has just been diagnosed with bulimia. We have been friends for years but I didn't realize she had this problem. What are the signs that someone has an eating disorder and what can I do to help her? I feel bad that I didn't see she had this problem. I would like to be more aware so I can help her get over this. Thanks so much.*

*Mindy in California*

Hi Mindy. You have asked a question that I'm sure scores of readers will be able to relate to. Bulimia is a disorder that affects many individuals, mostly young women. It is a reflection of our society and its obsession with thinness.

Don't feel bad that you didn't see the signs of this disorder in your friend, as it is a condition that individuals choose to keep secret. Unlike anorexia nervosa, where the individual becomes extremely thin, those with bulimia are often able to maintain a steady weight for quite a while. However, when the results of this illness begin to erode the health of the individual, the condition becomes very difficult to keep hidden.

The most common symptoms of bulimia nervosa include binge eating, where the person eats a massive amount of food and then purges. Rather than vomiting, some bulimics abuse laxatives or diuretics on a regular basis. Still others may exercise excessively after eating large amounts of food. As you can see, these are all things that could be hidden from family and friends, at least in the early stages. However as this condition progresses, serious health issues arise and the individual is no longer able to hide the affects.

Once the person is ready to seek help there are many treatment options available. Support groups are highly effective in helping the individual to recognize and accept their condition. Also, medication may be given in the form of antidepressants or anti-anxiety drugs. A professional should be consulted who, after assessing the individual, will recommend a particular treatment option.

The reasons for this disorder are not always clear, although there seems to be some specific personality traits (such as perfectionism) that trigger this ailment in certain people.

Mindy, I hope I have been able to shed some light on this most complex disorder, and I'm sure your friendship will go a long way in helping your friend through her recovery.

*Are there any readers who have overcome this condition and would like to offer some insight into how they were able to accomplish this? If so please write. Your anonymity is assured, and you may be able to help someone else get to where you are.*

E-mail your questions to [dearbarb.voice@ausu.org](mailto:dearbarb.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.



### Alexander Rutherford Loses Significance

Once again the Alberta government has announced its award of the Alexander Rutherford Scholarships to deserving high school students. To be eligible, the students need to have honors marks in grade 10, 11, or 12, with each year having a progressively larger amount. This year, the government is giving out over 16 million dollars.

Despite this, the scholarship itself is slowly losing significance. I graduated in high school in 1989 and received the full \$2,500 that they allot for a person having honors in all three years. For me, it was a great thing as it paid for most of my first year at the U of C. However, in the almost 20 years since, the amount awarded to individual students has not increased. Today it doesn't even pay for a single semester. The government has plans to expand the program over time by

increasing the endowment, but nothing I've read has ever said they plan to increase the amounts that it provides.

While I'm sure the students who receive it are happy for any help that comes their way, if the intent of the program is, as the Minister of Advanced Education David Hancock says, "one way our government is helping to encourage Albertans to advance their education," wouldn't it make sense if the full award enabled a student to avoid paying any fees at all for at least a single semester of university?

### Dude, You're working at Dell?

Dell Computers has a customer care center operating in Edmonton, Alberta. While the center only had its ribbon cutting ceremony in January of this year, it's actually been operating since July of 2004. So why am I reporting on old news? I'll tell you why: just to comment on the efficiency of our government.

On March 18, 2005, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade put out an announcement about this call-center's opening, nearly a year after it actually begin operations. Way to go guys! Nice to know our tax dollars are paying for folks that are right on the ball.

My question is, if there's a call-center in Edmonton, why do my support calls always get routed to India?

### BC Gets their Vote On

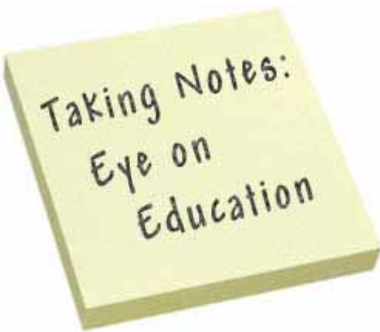
Why, oh why is it that government representatives insist on trying to sound cool and only to make themselves seem completely out of touch? The latest example of this is the "Get Your Vote On" mobile network, developed in partnership with the federal government, the provincial government of BC, and the mobile MUSE project (which is run by the University of British Columbia).

The object of the program is laudable; to get young people involved with the political process, the program will use text-messaging and instant responses to get young people start thinking about political issues. Considering that young people are taking up instant and text messaging in record numbers, it might even work.

But why the horrible, horrible, name? With all the money the federal government has doled out to marketing agencies for no reports at all, what would a marketing agency that is in tune with their demographics earn? "Get Your Vote On" is really the best they could come up with? I doubt that we'll see many of the trend-setters in high-school and on university campuses proudly announcing their part of such a thing. Why not call it "i-Nvolved" or something like that? At least then those using it won't feel like they have to hide it.



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)



## QUEBEC STUDENTS PROTEST

**Debbie Jabbour**

Quebec university students have been actively engaged in dramatic protests over the past few weeks, and many have been boycotting classes. On March 25, theology students staged a mock crucifixion. Claiming that Jesus was a political activist, a student draped in white carried a cardboard cross through the street, while being whipped by fellow students who represented the Charest Liberal government.

Several days previous, thousands of students protested in front of the National Assembly in Quebec City, blocking traffic and resulting in the arrest of several students who were occupying the Education Ministry offices. Students also took over the offices of the Conseil du Patronat du Quebec, where another 24 students were arrested. Students also blocked highways during rush hour, and staged a series of sit-ins in various locations. In some cases the protests became quite violent.

Students are protesting government plans to convert some \$103 million worth of bursaries into student loans. The education minister and Charest's Liberals are standing firm on their decision, in spite of the protests. Quebec students currently enjoy the lowest tuition in all of Canada, at approximately \$1600 a year.

- Quebec university students stage mock crucifixion to protest loans situation. Canadian Press, March 25, 2005. [http://ca.fullcoverage.yahoo.com/fc/Canada/Education\\_News/](http://ca.fullcoverage.yahoo.com/fc/Canada/Education_News/)
- Two students arrested in latest protest. March 24, 2005. <http://montreal.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=qc-studarrest20050324>
- 24 arrested as students take over business office, March 23, 2005. <http://montreal.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=qc-protest20050323>
- Striking students step up the pressure tactics. Canadian Press, March 22, 2005. <http://www.canada.com/montreal/globaltv/story.html?id=c5579ae9-a8ad-4ad4-9437-5b2d7c72fa4d>

## ***Women you should know***

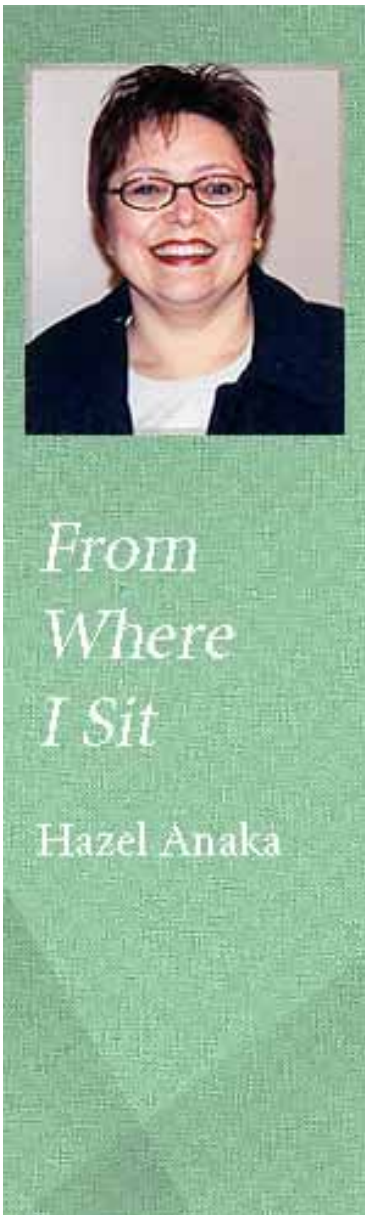
***Compiled by Barbara Godin***

### ***Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)***

Harriet Tubman was born in Dorchester County, Maryland. She was one of 11 children, all born into slavery. In 1844, Tubman, still a slave, married a free man. Five years into the marriage, fearing she would be sold, Tubman ran away. Her husband did not go with her, but her two brothers did. However they soon lost their courage and turned back, while Harriet continued on her own. She was eventually able to find work and provide funding to help over 300 slaves escape to freedom. Her selfless acts put her safety at risk, when a reward was offered for her capture. Tubman's other achievements include promoting women's rights and helping to organize the African Methodist Episcopal Church. During the civil war, Tubman worked as a nurse and was able to save many of the sick and dying. Her heroic actions resulted in her being viewed as the "Moses of Her People." In 1913 Harriet Tubman was laid to rest with full Military Honors.

To read more about Harriet, visit: <http://www.nyhistory.com/harriettubman/life.htm>





## Things Will be Better

The lovely, white snow filling ditches and covering the landscape has brought a cautious smile to farmers and gardeners alike. But the promise of increased moisture levels and a renewed sense of hope are not the only things these two groups have in common. Like farmers, gardeners have the "hope gene" deep within their genetic makeup: that unshakeable belief that next year things will be better.

And so we plan. I find myself ordering seed catalogues from nurseries across the country. Even if I never order so much as a packet of seeds, the dreaming alone is therapeutic. Flipping through them on cold, dark nights is a visual feast. I automatically gravitate to the flower section for the incredible array of colours and varieties: exotic new "tenders," tried and true favourites, hybrids, something for everyone. Sometimes I envy our BC or southern Ontario counterparts their extended growing seasons, milder winters and more temperate zone designations. Then in true Alberta fashion, I note that *anyone* can garden there, but it takes real character, heart and cunning to garden in our Zone 2.

Last fall I nagged Roy into building me two raised garden beds for vegetables. With Hilary's food allergies and the cardboardy taste of store veggies, I was determined to return to the land this coming spring. Anyone who knows me, knows I haven't had a real vegetable garden for about 15 years. I resented mosquitoes eating me alive as I weeded after work. I hated that it always needed watering and the original garden plot was 3-50 foot garden hose lengths away and far too large. I failed in all the womanly arts of canning, pickling and jam making. I made the case loud and often for the high cost of seed, fertilizer, sprays, powders, and canning supplies. Not to mention the work. I truly couldn't understand those people who worked like hell at this and then complained about the 3 freezers being full, the kids who do (or don't) come out in September for the bounty without the work, and the surplus

fed to the pigs each fall.

My weakness has always been flowers and shrubs. I loved the convenience and camaraderie of exchanging perennials with friends. Last year I even started my own annuals. Luckily I kept notes of my misadventure because I did make some mistakes. Started them too soon, started some finicky things that didn't thrive under my careful eye, relied only on the natural light from our east and south facing windows, seeded too thickly, transplanted clumsily, alienated my loved ones with seed trays on every conceivable surface, and so on and so on. The results, however, were good. The beds were full and lush. I think I'll try it again this year, with modifications. The diagrams I did of each flowerbed last year will aid in this year's planning.

This year has got to be better, from where I sit.

*\*Reprinted with permission*



# Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

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

## alberta

### APEIRON SOCIETY FOR THE PRACTICE OF PHILOSOPHY

Tuesday, March 29th, 2005 at 7pm

Valhalla Room of the Scandinavian centre,  
739 - 20<sup>th</sup> ave n.w. Calgary.

**Topic:** " Publish or Perish - Basis of Jaded Sensibilities in Ethics and Aesthetics" Terry Storey

The Talk: The "publish or perish" syndrome in the U.K. and the U.S.A. after WWII encouraged funding of geological publications in order to counter shortages of geologists in industry and academia. In 1952, I became a vocal critic of modern geological concepts that lacked traditional stratigraphic principles, the basis of geology. In 1959, Storey and Patterson published a comparison of traditional and modern concepts of geology, and in 1968, Stewart warned that classical geology in universities was being replaced by a disconnected, analytic, and descriptive approach, which was devoid of syntheses. Stewart's note prompted my "Intellectual Pyramid" (never published), a blueprint or philosophy of how practitioners, specialists, experts and generalists in geology fit the actual practice of geology. This could improve the aesthetics and ethics of publication and education in geology.

**Biographical notes:** Terry was Vice-President of Apeiron for 9 years. He sees himself as a "non-joiner" in every way. He always lives in a state of questioning, just as with the Emperor's New Clothes, often suspecting intuition, never seeking high status and recognition, especially by publish or perish authorities.

Terry obtained his B. Sc. in Chemistry and Geology from the University of Manitoba in 1943. He worked as a Petroleum Geologist between 1943 and 1985 and is a member of the Society of Petroleum Geologists and a Professional Geologist and Life member of APEGGA. Terry worked in Norman Wells

between 1943 and 1946 and in the Middle East from 1948 to 1951 and again in 1971 to 1979. He spent the rest of his professional life in Western Canada and presented special reports in Rio de Janeiro and Caracas.

OXOXOXO

Annual Membership in the Society is \$30 (\$15 after January 1<sup>st</sup> to end of season). The Attendance Fee to each seminar, payable at the door, is \$3 for members (and for people visiting for the first time), \$5 for students and seniors, and \$7 for others.

The Society's Web Page, kindly maintained by Fred Appleyard and Britta Lenander, may be found at: <http://members.shaw.ca/blenander/Apeiron/Apeiron.html>.

## quebec

### CANADA'S ICE HOTEL

Now until 2 April 2005

Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier, Quebec

Duchesnay Ecotourism Station

143, Route de Duchesnay

Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier, Quebec

GOA 3M0

Tel 418 875 2122 Fax 418 875 2868

[duchesnay@sepaq.com](mailto:duchesnay@sepaq.com)

From \$522.40 a night

This isn't a normal hotel. While riddled with creature comforts befitting plush five-star numbers, this snazzy hostelry forgoes fluffy cushions and bouncy king-size beds in order to make the best use of what surrounds it: frozen water. The net result of this eco-friendly design is a structure made entirely from ice and snow with ceilings as high as 16 feet, walls

covered with original artwork and furniture carved from ice blocks.

Covering a total area of 3000 square metres, the Ice Hotel was forged with 11,000 tons of snow and 350 tons of ice. Just like its sister in Sweden, it boasts two art galleries, a movie theatre and an Absolut Ice Bar, as well as rooms where you can bed down for the night in toasty furry sleeping bags.

### **SALSATHEQUE**

**Every Wed-Sun, Montreal, Quebec, 9pm-3am**

Salsatheque

1220, Peel St, Montreal, Quebec, H3B 2T6

514 875 0016

Disabled access: Yes

Cost - Fri & Sat when live bands play \$5; otherwise free

For the hottest Latin rhythms in Montreal, look no further than Salsatheque for non-pretentious fun with a crowd who know how to party.

Fridays and Saturdays are jam packed with snake-hipped shimmiers and those eager to join their ranks. For the more serious there are regular dance competitions: Thursdays see Merengue while Salsa competitors can be seen on Sundays. For those wishing to brush up their steps, or start from scratch, there are Salsa lessons on Wednesdays.

### **SIVANANDA ASHRAM YOGA CAMP**

**Daily - Val Morin, Quebec**

Sivananda Ashram Yoga Camp

673, 8th Avenue, Val Morin, Quebec, JOT 2R0

Tel 819 322 3226 - Fax 819 322 5876

[HQ@sivananda.org](mailto:HQ@sivananda.org)

The Sivananda Ashram Yoga camp is set in the beautiful Laurentian mountains near Quebec. Founded in 1962 it is one of the longest running and most successful yoga ashrams in the West. Various special programmes and training schemes are on offer - but you are basically free to arrive at the ashram anytime and stay as long as you like.

Participants rise at 5.30am, meditate through the dawn, then chant until early morning (sweet) tea-time. This is followed by two hours of basic hatha yoga, for which you get the reward of a delicious vegetarian meal at 10am. The afternoon continues in a similar fashion - yoga, food, meditation, with sufficient breaks along the way. The stumbling block for some is the compulsory "karma yoga" - when you get to practice your altruism helping out with ashram duties. Collecting-leaves karma yogics tend to be a bit more into the job than cleaning-toilets karma yogics. But remember, the harder the task, the greater the spiritual reward.

The Sivananda organisation is Hindu. The chanting is ancient Sanskrit and you are quite likely to be staying during a festival (Hindus festivals are frequent). There's no reason to be alienated if you're not a believer: Sivananda preach credence in a universal, non-denominational God, of which Shiva, Krishna, Rama et al are mere ramifications. Ashram rules apply: women should cover their shoulders, men and women sleep in separate quarters, there is no smoking or consumption of meat or alcohol.

It's worth phoning before you arrive at the ashram to make sure that there's room for you. Accommodation options are shared rooms, dorm beds or camping.

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



## Searching for Internships

**Lonita Fraser**

### RAWK GIRL

#### Staff Writer

**Job Location:** Anywhere, MA, United States

**Job Description:** Rawk Girl needs talented, young music writers to contribute to our articles database and newsletter. Staff writers are people who can be regularly counted on to contribute articles to us including, but not limited to, women in rock profiles, interviews, CD and event reviews, news items, and general information about the music business. Not only will this position look awesome on your resume, you'll also get the chance to earn free and discounted merch, attend music events in your area, and receive free CDs in exchange for a written review. See our website for an application

**Job Requirements:** Must have professional attitude, wide knowledge of contemporary music, and outstanding writing skills

**How To Apply:** Fill out the application at our website and send us a short writing sample as described on the application. No calls or mail please. If you have a question e-mail us.

#### Contact Information

Heather Greene

Rawk Girl

50 College St, South Hadley, MA, United States 01075

Phone: 413-565-9089

Email: [rawkgirlbands@yahoo.com](mailto:rawkgirlbands@yahoo.com)

WWW: <http://www.rawkgirl.nextdesigns.net/contribute.htm>

### SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

#### Development Intern

**Job Location:** San Diego, CA, United States

**Job Description:** This is an office position that mainly consists of the following: Research organize and maintain files on major donors and prospects; Calendar updates; Correspondence letters; Data entry; Filing; Research and compile information and collateral; work involved with our annual fundraiser.

**Job Requirements:** We are seeking individuals interested in contributing to the Development/Fundraising department. You must have good communication skills, computer skills, research skills, great attention to detail, be organized and have an interest in the arts. Please submit your resume.

**How To Apply:** Please submit your resume to [tmurphy@sdmart.org](mailto:tmurphy@sdmart.org)

#### Contact Information

Contact: Tara Murphy

Development Assistant

San Diego Museum of Art, PO Box 122107, San Diego, CA, United States 92101

Phone: 619.696.1993 FAX: 619.232.9367

Email: [tmurphy@sdmart.org](mailto:tmurphy@sdmart.org)

WWW: <http://www.sdmart.org/info-development-intern-form.html>



# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi*

## OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT NATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION

**Value:** 1st prize \$5,000; 2nd prize \$2,000; 3rd prize \$1,000

**Number of Awards:** 3

**Application Deadline:** April 5

**Description:** Full-time undergraduate students enrolled in non-professional faculty of a Canadian university or Cegep. Must submit 1,500 word essay responding to the question: How can Canadians improve their standard of living without sacrificing what they hold to be distinctly 'Canadian values'?

**Instructions:** For further information, please visit the website posted below

**Contact Information:**

Joseph L. Rotman School of Management

**Web Site:** <http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/essaycompetition>

## GUELPH WOMEN IN NETWORKING (GWIN) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**Value:** \$500

**Number of Awards:** 2

**Application Deadline:** April 15

**Description:** Residents of, or students in, Wellington County Full-time female college or university students 1/3 of the way through post secondary studies Working towards a career that is not recognized as "traditional" for women Submit 3 pages on plans after graduation, chosen field of study and extracurricular activities

**Instructions:** Letters of reference and transcripts required.

For more information please visit the website posted below

**Contact Information:**

Guelph Women in Networking (GWIN)

**Web Site:** <http://www.gwin.ca/scholarship-information.php>

## RETAIL AS A CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

**Value:** \$1,000

**Number of Awards:** 10

**Application Deadline:** April 15

**Description:** Canadian students who have applied to, or are currently enrolled in retail or business-related, post-secondary program of study Must have retail experience on at least a part-time basis. Submit 500 word essay outlining scholastic and workplace achievements and thoughts on retail industry.

**Instructions:** Must submit proof of enrollment, reference letter, transcripts and employer contact information. For further information, please visit the website posted below

**Contact Information:** Canadian Retail Institute (CRI) / Institute canadien du commerce de détail (CRI)

**Web Site:** <http://www.canadianretail.com/cr/content/Content.po?content=careers#education>





*Provided by Lonita Fraser*

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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

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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/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](mailto:aus3@ausu.org) for more information. It's free to join!

## THE VOICE

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