

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*April 6, 2005*  
*Volume 13 Issue 14*



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*Lamenting the Loss of "I Am Canadian"*

*From my Perspective: Living Death*  
*What Terri Schiavo can teach us*

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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.**

**RE: The Good Life, v13 i13**

While Ms. Behrens makes some good points, I'd have to argue with her choice of Nick Tosches as an authority on the art of wine tasting. She says "Tosches wonders how a nose sophisticated enough to detect in "a bottle of rancid grape juice...". That's the first problem. If Tosches believes wine is made from "rancid" grape juice, he's not just a cynic, he obviously doesn't like wine. As a proud "pseudo-connoisseur" of commercial wines and maker & judge of home-made wines, I know that the end-product reflects your ingredients. I call myself a pseudo-connoisseur, not for the reasons Toches gives, but because I, too, won't spend a fortune for a good bottle of wine.

Ms. Behrens quotes: "A true wine connoisseur, if there were such a thing, would taste the pesticide and manure above all else." Well, I know a good number of vineyard owners, and none of them use manure. However, choose a good Burgundy and if you don't smell a little manure in there, you probably aren't trying. Generally, viticulturists don't use a lot of pesticides, for exactly the reason Toches gives. However, most of the noticeable faults in wine are related to sulfur compounds, and these can all be caused by overuse of sulfur sprays, too close to harvest. Yes, we do notice these things!

On the question of whether "expensive" equates to "better", I'd say that it's covered by the law of diminishing returns. Expensive wines are often better than cheap ones. But, do I get 10 times the enjoyment out of a \$100 bottle of wine than a \$10 one? Certainly not, if I drink it myself. I have, though, drunk bottles of \$200 Burgundy, Chateau Neuf du Pape and Vega Sicilia, shared with up to a dozen other people, and I'd say my share was well spent.

I'll quibble with Ms. Behrens on another matter - you can't make fine wine from Concord grapes... you're not even allowed to use Concord grapes for [commercial] wine in Ontario. How one can believe that "handcrafted cheeses, cold pressed olive oil, and good quality imported balsamic vinegar" are requirements, but wine made from jam grapes is "good enough" is beyond me.

For reasonably priced, quality wines, try Argentina and Uruguay for reds, a new crop of reasonably priced whites from South Africa, and Spain for Rose. Check out "Trapiche" (Argentina), under \$10; the "Oak cask" label is well worth the extra \$3-\$5. From South Africa, try the "Tribal Sauvignon-Blanc/Colombard" - \$7 in Ontario, 2004 Spanish roses in May or June, or the Chivite "GRAN FEUDO ROSÉ" (the 2003 is \$11 in Ontario, but it's getting a little old - wait for the 2004, it'll be worth it).

Cheers,  
Derek Broughton - Musquodoboit Harbour, NS

## THE VOICE

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## My Brother, My Father, My Pope

Magdalena Tywoniuk



The Pope has died. As a Pole, as a young person, and as a part of the world, my heart is heavy at his loss. Everyone has a story about the man who touched millions.

I am no exception. My family moved from Poland to Italy when I was a child. There I began a long relationship with Pope John Paul II. On my first visit I was a couple rows from where the Pope was greeting people in St. Peter's Basilica. I was on my father's shoulders, a girl of five, yelling "Pope, Pope," in polish. He, with his great love reached out his hands over the heads of rows of people. I

reached for him, leaning and leaning, people bowing their heads down to make way. The Pope grasped my hands and it was that moment that he grasped my soul. The two of us connected for one moment in time.

The second time I met the Pope at one of his regular Wednesday audiences. I was eager to see him again and so nervous that he might not see me. He approached me and I looked up at him and again said "Pope" in polish. He looked at me and said, "Child, how did you get here?" Then, he took me into his arms and kissed my forehead. When he put me down I was red and stunned. I knew joy and kindness that I had never known before.

For many years (though I am only 20), I followed the Pope on his pilgrimages and attended his masses in Poland. Each time our bond was strengthened by shaking his hand or seeing his face.

My story is one that reflects the great love that filled this man, a man who loved youth. He was not a man that hid behind doctrine and teaching. In Poland, during his priesthood and when he became a Bishop, he would take groups of youth hiking and tell them to call him "uncle." This was a precaution against the tyranny of communism because his actions were illegal. This beautiful man would take young couples and counsel them about life and love while canoeing. There is much talk about the Pope's conservatism on contraception and yet he was the first to address the importance of sexual satisfaction for women. In his 1960's landmark book, *Sexuality and Responsibility*, he told men to pay attention to the needs of women and cease to be sexually egocentric. He was a complicated man full of conviction.

He was a man loved by all people. He was a man loved by his people: he would sit by his window in Krakow where he sat and talked with theme. This was the way he won over the world, with his sincerity, his humility and his smile.

There is much left to say about Pope John Paul II, and so much that does not even need to be said, but is simply understood. He is the kind of person that made even unbelievers wish that heaven does exist, so that he may enter it. He made Poles proud to be Poles. He made people in the most dire straits and times of hopelessness know that someone is praying for them. This is why the whole world is watching and grieving. He was for us and we were for him. Now our hearts and our tears forever belong to him.

Much like the whole world, I am relieved that his pain is over. I am inspired that he finished his life with such dignity. I am overjoyed with every smile and joke he made. I am brought to tears by every picture. I am hopeful that he sees how we mourn him. I am saddened that I will never see that smile again nor hold that hand. I love him, Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II.

*In November of 2003, The Voice published 21st Century Pope: The Challenge of the Coming Conclave, by Stephen Murgatroyd (v11 i41). The article discussed the process of selecting a new pope, and how this process has changed through the years. The article can be found here: <http://www.ausu.org/voice/search/searchdisplay.php?ART=2112>*

*\* photo of the author and Pope John Paul II, courtesy the author.*

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# NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

## Birds en Route

Despite the disheartening weather I see as I look out my window today (slush everywhere, drab grey clouds and blowing snow), I have received some secret information that spring is nigh. I thus sit, resting happily assured that the day's weather is but a last ditch attempt by winter to lord its dominance over its more congenial successor. My source for the coveted information is varied: the lakes, the sky, and the new sounds venturing forth from all around. My friends, this information is being brought by none other than our feathered friends - the birds. They are on their way back to their northern retreats, and I must say that the sights and sounds of recent weeks are like nectar to the parched desert soul.

The colours, the calls, and the diversity of returning birds are truly heartwarming. There is something so reassuring about this repetition of an annual pattern that, perhaps, we instinctively know it to be a harbinger of good things to come. For without spring's return of our birds, things would seem very worrisome indeed. Those calls of the season's new arrivals, so cheerful, so insistent, go down like an anti-anxiety pill for the environmentally conscious. But setting our minds at ease in such a way has been no easy feat for these world travellers. The trip from point A to point B (often many thousands of kilometers long) requires great strength, stamina, and a good supply of the necessities of life *en route*. Places to rest, goodies to eat, safety from predators - these are all keys to the successful arrival of birds back on our home turf.

When you think of all of the challenges facing these extraordinary creatures on their travels, it seems incredible that spring migration is such a predictable and regular event. It reminds me of the surprise many parents feel if their children have made it through the tumultuous years of childhood and adolescence without having suffered any broken bones. With so many potentials for harm, how on earth do so many make it through unscathed?

For birds, the inherent challenges of their cross-continent journeys are compounded, more than ever, by the many changes to the landscape that have occurred, and continue to occur, with alarming rapidity. Collisions with reflective high-rise buildings that dot their migration route; domestic cats out for a game of search and destroy; toxins lacing the very food on which the birds must rely for their travelling fuel. In all, migration these days is a tough haul. Add this to the fact that migratory birds, the ultimate creatures of habit, often head towards historical spots of plenty that are simply no longer there. It ain't easy being a gypsy in a changing world.

Some of the work that needs to be done to ensure the continuation of migration's many joys is major. The huge number of jurisdictions through which birds must travel, each with its own environmental policies and priorities, makes conserving our birds' well-being quite a daunting task. But take heart - many steps can be taken by humble folk, such as ourselves, to help make birds' lives a little easier. Some ideas? Go native plant crazy. If you aren't lucky enough to live in an area already blessed with natural vegetation, cover your yard in as many native trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers as possible. Replacing lost habitat, little by little, and ensuring that avian visitors to your little patch of heaven will have the best places to rest, hide, and forage is a great way to give back to the bird world.

Look into what window coverings you can afford, if you find that birds collide with your windows. Avoid all outdoor lighting that points to the sky. Migrating birds become confused by these lights. Opt instead for down-lighting. It's more intimate

anyway, so you'll be doing something good for the birds, while at the same time encouraging a few more romantic evenings on the patio. Avoid pesticides in the garden - your health and the birds will thank you. On a grander scale, encourage town and city planners in your area to take the plight of migratory birds seriously when building new skyscrapers or considering alterations to old ones. Many options are available to avoid bird strikes - one of the most significant causes of avian deaths today.

Keep your cats indoors. It may seem unfair to your lovely feline companion at first, but birds are killed by the hundreds of millions each year just to end up as playthings for well-fed kitties. And think of all the dangers (e.g., cars, predators, poisons, etc.) your cat will avoid by remaining safely inside.

Be sure to lend your support to organizations working to help save avian habitat. Without a place to live, breed and once again set out from, migratory birds won't have a chance to reap the rewards of all of our other efforts. Bird Studies Canada (<http://www.bsc-eoc.org>) is a great place to start, and local and provincial naturalists' groups are often very active in advocating for habitat protection.

There's no beating about the bush. It's a hard time to be a bird, but there is a lot to be positive about too. With so much good work being done to ensure that generations to come will witness migration in all its glory, and with growing awareness of the challenges that birds deal with, there is reason to be optimistic. So let your hope for the future take flight and begin by giving spring's most wondrous new arrivals a helping hand.

## I Hate Pretentious People

Busby LeClair



I was sitting listening to Mahler last night, sipping an amusing little French wine, and thinking about the embarrassing pretentiousness of some people. Of course, I'm referring to the sort of phony pseudo-intellectuals who continually about blathering on about Strindberg and Noam Chomsky. Personally, I like to consider myself a man of the people, and yet at the same time a true renaissance man. Somebody who can elaborate on the subtleties of Strindberg over a glass of Burrowing Owl one minute, and the next be just as comfortable sitting down and having a nice bottle of Lucky and discussing various groin scratching techniques with the average benighted lunchbucket the next. In think this is why

so many of the little people enjoy my company.

On the other side of the coin, there is my infernal neighbour, Cecil Idris Idris Jones. Everything the haughty bombast does is steeped in condescension and patronising snobbery. Just the other night, he showed up - uninvited mind you - to my weekly performance art presentation and haiku reading, with a copy of *The New Yorker* rolled up under his arm, and began loudly rustling through the pages right in the middle of my piece-de-resistance performance of *Ode to Marcel Marceau* (an ironic, post-modernist meditation on the confluence of Mondrian's negative-space capacities and non-homogenized French cheeses). I can tell you that the other audience members appeared to be quite put out by this rudeness, and both of them left during the intermission citing very feeble excuses. I haven't previously felt the need to hire security personnel for these informal and light hearted get-togethers, but I am now definitely considering it.

To make matters worse, it now seems the pudgy little blighter has begun to fancy himself quite a patron of the arts. For the last few months, monsieur Jones has been hosting showy fundraising events at his house for a variety of arts organizations: a South African wine tasting night for the Opera Society; gourmet dinners on behalf of the Vancouver Art Gallery; dog spaying soirees in support of the Jungian Surrealists of B.C., that sort of thing. I consider myself to be a pretty stable, well-adjusted person, but when I heard about his blatant efforts to buy himself social cache in this way I had the strongest desire to crawl through his bedroom window, murder him with a large flat rock, and bury him in the back yard. I just have to figure out how to make it look like a suicide.



It's been said that Canada's suffered three invasions throughout her history: French, British, and the cultural one by our neighbours to the south. The first two shaped us as a physical nation, the third is interfering with one of the largest problems we, as a people, have ever faced: our search for a national identity. We're stuck, y'see, between two world powers, one old and one new, trying to figure out if we're more British, more American, or something else entirely. In some small fashion, at least, I think we've decided that we want to be something else, taking the best elements we've learned from our two largest English-speaking cultural influences, pounding them together with what we remember of our French and Native heritages, and coming up with something that is uniquely Canadian, something that we didn't have to borrow from somewhere else and pretend was ours.

One thing we've always been proud of is our beer. We like the fact that it's better and stronger than that of our neighbours to the south. There's always been something uniquely Canadian about the way we approach beer and beer drinking; something we could be protective of, and something that, until recently at least, Molson was getting very good at reminding us of -- however many Canadian stereotypes they played into. Their commercials highlighted certain beliefs we have about ourselves, and while not always being in the best of truth, sense, or taste, they did give us something else that crept into our national identity: they allowed us to say "I Am Canadian" in more than just a beer-drinking context, mean it, and be proud of it.

I can't really describe the old Molson "I Am Canadian" ads to anyone who's never seen or heard one, but they played on certain Canadian stereotypes well and made us all happy about them. They were cute, enjoyable, and amusing.

Ever since Molson's merger with the Coors empire, however, the tone has changed. The ads are mostly sex-oriented, with big production budgets. Even their promotions are sexually motivated. The ads are no longer cute, amusing, or enjoyable. They're getting crass, vulgar, and playing on the cheap side of stupid rather than the subtly amusing side. The old ads could have appealed to women as well as men in some cases, but now they're all decidedly male-oriented, and play on aspects of lies to the female, headgames with the female, and being Big Man On Campus. The ads have become stupid. While some of the concepts are all right, they get buried under all the tits-and-ass appeals. We've never been a nation that needed its beer sold to them with tits and ass. We've been fine having it sold to us with guys playing hockey, loons in the background, and nights around the cottage campfire. We're not a hard lot to sell beer to. The big shiny beer ads aren't necessary. The Hollywood production quality is over-the-top. It, like the advantage you're supposed to take of the women and situations portrayed in the ads, is going beyond what is necessary for doing other than big-budget action films.

Molson, I am losing any respect I had for your company. If you felt that the merger with the American beer empire had to change your style of advertising, I can certainly understand that, but couldn't you have come up with something less overt? Did you lose all sense of subtlety when you signed those merger contracts? Please make a liar out of me sometime soon, before you take what was a good nationalistic ad campaign and make me regret every bottle of Canadian that's passed through these lips.

Right now I'm sorely disappointed, and if I see someone wearing one of your lie-to-the-woman conversation-starter t-shirts, I'll be heading in the opposite direction. How am I supposed to take seriously a guy who's wearing a t-shirt they got out of a slab of beer anyhow? I never have before, and I don't think it's suddenly going to appeal to me now. I miss the offshoot of Canadiana and Canadian identity your old ads were. That's gone now, and I think, however silly it may sound, taking those ads away removed you from our national identity -- a place that it was probably very good for your business for you to be. It was certainly good for some faction of our identity as a people. We've got other beers to turn to, but it's not the same.

Well, my identity is still intact at least; I Am (Still) Canadian, but I'm not so certain about you.

# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

## Living Death

*Debbie Jabbour*



Over the last few weeks, American news media has been intensely preoccupied with the case of Terri Schiavo, a topic that has touched many and prompted vigorous and acrimonious debate. Her life and death struggle has sparked important dialogue in many homes, including my own. I cannot begin to imagine how difficult her life has been over the past 15 years. If, as some believe, she was aware and conscious of what was going on around her, that makes it even worse. I cannot begin to think of myself or a loved one, existing, helpless, at the mercy of those around me, unable to

express my desires, unable to say what I'm feeling or what I need.

I was once in a situation many years ago that I can use as a comparison. I had been very ill, in a crisis state, and when I woke up in the hospital recovery room, I was alone, except for a nurse. I was hooked up to a respirator, which left me unable to speak. The room was excruciatingly warm (or at least, I was), and I desperately wanted to communicate that to the nurse who was monitoring me because I thought I was going to suffocate from the heat. Although I was attached to various tubes on both sides, I managed to move my arms enough to flip off the blanket covering me, hoping to get some relief and let in some cool air onto my overheated body. The moment I moved the blanket off me, the nurse immediately replaced it, tucking it in firmly at all sides. I desperately struggled, trying to communicate to her with my eyes and finger movements that I was hot and could not tolerate the blanket. With as much movement as I could muster in my fingers, I again tried to flip the blanket off, only succeeding in moving it a few inches. Again the nurse tucked the blanket in. This struggle had made me even more uncomfortable and hot, and again I fought to move it off. The nurse became quite irritated and reprimanded me, telling me that the blanket needed to stay put. She pulled it up even more firmly around my shoulders. After several more feeble attempts, I finally gave up. I lay there in helpless silence, tears rolling down my face, mutely accepting the fact that I was not going to be able to communicate my needs to that nurse, knowing that I would have to remain subject to her whims. I felt like I was going to suffocate, but I was powerless to change the situation. The feeling of having total consciousness, yet being forced to lay there without any control over what was happening to me, was indescribably horrible.

If Terri Schiavo was able to experience these emotions, I can't help but feel that it was unbelievably cruel to keep her alive in that helpless state. To be at the mercy of those around me... to not be able to communicate even my simplest needs... I could barely tolerate it for those few hours until the breathing tube was finally removed -- but for 15 years?

On the other hand, if Terri was in a "persistent vegetative state," as her doctors ruled, then I'm not sure what to think. What is there to be gained by sustaining existence for an individual in this condition? In many ways it seems selfish, clinging to an unreasonable hope. As a parent, I ache for Terri's parents, who kept hanging on to any shred of hope that Terri might come back to them. I wonder if I would feel the same, were it one of my beloved daughters. Yet, as a parent, do I have the right to force my child to keep breathing, enduring a life of complete helplessness? Do I have

the right to inflict my own needs on her and force her to stay alive? Do I have the right to make a life or death decision for someone I love?

Adding to the complexity of this drama, countless individuals and organizations have used Terri's suffering to advance their own political or social agenda. It seems to me that the only person really thinking for Terri was her husband, who made the decision on her behalf to end the torture.

Watching this drama play out on national television has motivated me (like many others) to write my own living will; to define in detail what I want done if I ever should find myself in a similar situation where I'm unable to make the decision for myself. It's not a conversation most of us want to have with our loved ones, but a necessary one.

Quality of life is at the heart of the debate, and it has nothing to do with living with disabilities, as some would have you believe. I have many good friends who suffer disabilities of different degrees of severity. I would never presume to judge what they consider quality of life, nor would I ever presume to suggest that an individual has no quality of life simply because they are disabled. But my own experience has led me to conclude that quality of life takes priority over remaining alive simply for the sake of life itself. What is of utmost importance is individual free will, and I believe each individual should have the right to decide their own destiny and write their own quality of life definition. If, as Terri's husband alleges, it was her decision not to be kept alive by artificial means, this should have been the deciding factor (as the courts ultimately ruled).

When I was a teenager, my grandfather had a stroke at age 70. When the stroke had hit him, he had fallen to the floor, weak and paralyzed, yet still able to speak. He told my grandmother that he could not move, but she didn't believe him initially. By the time the ambulance finally arrived at the farm to transport him to hospital, he was almost completely helpless, unable to speak, move or respond.

I remember all of the family rushing to the hospital, as he lay in a coma. We didn't know what to expect, and thought he might die. I stood by his side, stunned, watching the nurses administer to him when suddenly he began to cry out for my grandmother. I realized that, even though he was paralyzed on the outside, he was very much aware on the inside.

In the years that followed, my grandfather continued to "exist", even though everything else changed around him. My grandmother died, the farm was sold, nothing of his former life was left. His body was paralyzed and movement limited, but for the first few years he retained his mental agility. He knew who we all were, understood his surroundings, and was able to be part of the community in a limited way. But he soon lost this as his physical body slowly deteriorated. I would go to visit him, and he had no clue who I was, nor was he able to even hold a meaningful conversation. It made me so sad to watch him decline, and I vowed to never live that way myself if it was under my control.

My aunt became the primary caregiver for my grandfather at the auxiliary hospital that became his home. She related to me how he would sometimes scream out in pain and frustration, asking God why he was being forced to stay alive in this helpless condition. He would beg her to let him die, to please not make him stay alive. But euthanasia was not an option, and my grandfather was forced to continue to exist until his physical body finally gave up 12 years later. For me, my grandfather died the day he had the stroke. In that helpless shell of a body, he was no longer the same grandfather I knew and loved.

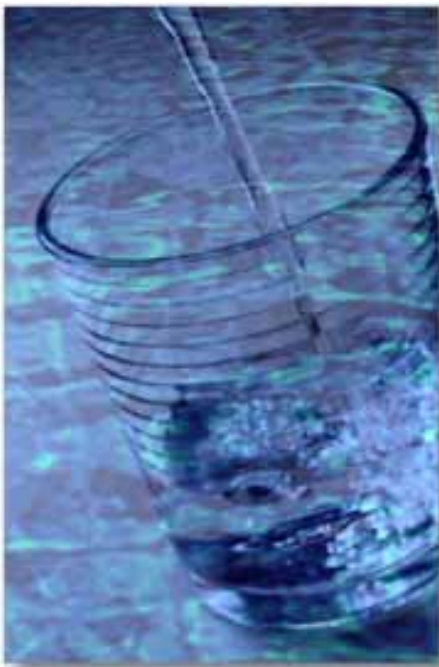
Writing a will is a difficult enough procedure--no one wants to think about dying. Writing a living will is even more difficult because no one wants to even imagine what life might be like living in an uncertain physical condition, or with a severe disability. Many people with disabilities manage to have a very high quality of life. Many do not. What it should come down to is personal choice. No one should be able to decide for me whether I'm obligated to stay alive, regardless of the quality of that life. I do not want to remain alive, helpless, desperately trying to communicate my simplest needs to those around me, yet unable to do so. Nor would I wish this on anyone I love.

There are many other debates that surround this very sad story. First and foremost is the topic of euthanasia, along with compassionate care for terminally ill, definitions of disabilities and brain death, and the ethics of withholding treatment. The latter includes food and water, and many argue (quite rightly) that euthanasia would have been a more compassionate route than starvation in Terri's case. Unfortunately, our society has not yet managed to resolve these ethical and moral dilemmas, so families will continue to face the same heartbreaking choices Terri's family did.

The legacy Terri Schiavo has left behind is that many people, including myself, will have this necessary dialogue with their families -- making a decision regarding their future. What is most important is the right each of us have for self-determination, the right we each have to control our own destiny, the right to decide for ourselves what direction we wish to go, whether it be life or death.

## Lobbying for Canadian Sovereignty

*Mandy Gardner*



The Council of Canadians (COC) is calling for donations and the support of Canadians again, and this time the issue is sovereignty over Canadian water. Centered in Ottawa since 1985, the COC is a non-partisan organization concerned with presenting national issues to the citizens of Canada. In the recent past, the COC has successfully lobbied to block use of the Bovine Growth Hormone in dairy cattle, pressured Monsanto to abandon its goal of genetically engineered wheat, and helped to halt the proposed bank mergers (COC, 2005a).

The latest and most pressing issue being presented by Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the COC, involves opening up Canadian waters to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) market. Ontario and Quebec, as well as eight U.S. states, are currently in discussions that may decide whether or not to sell the water of the Great Lakes to freshwater-lacking areas such as Asia and the southern United States. Several years ago the same idea of water sales arose in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, but was countered by strong public protest.

What worries members of the COC is not that Canada should not share its wealth of freshwater with other parts of the world. The main worry is that by agreeing to sell, our water market will no longer be in Canada's jurisdiction, but instead will fall into the jurisdiction of NAFTA. COC

members are most concerned by the almost inevitable loss of Canadian sovereignty that would follow the sale of Great Lakes' water.

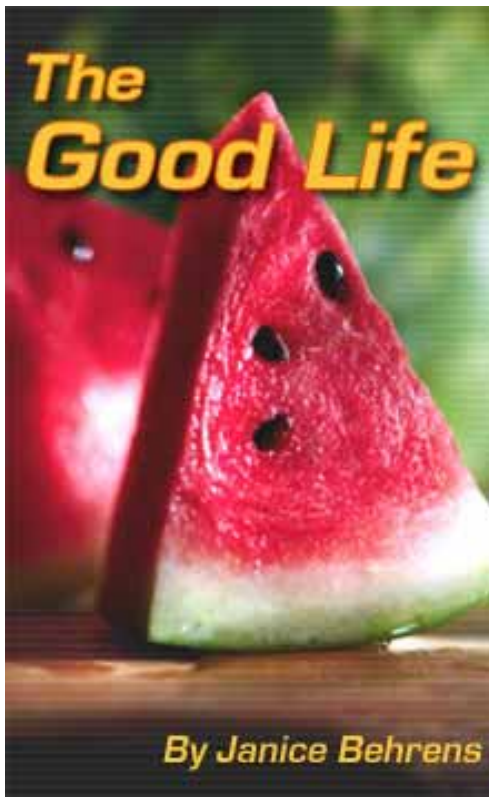
NAFTA rules state that once Canada (or any other member of NAFTA) agrees to export a product or raw material to a foreign body, it must allow other foreign investors the same privilege (Public Citizen, n.d.). This provision means that if Canada decides to sell its water to any foreign buyer, there is no going back. One trade agreement could lead to others, since the introduction of water into the vast North American market opens the door to corporate control. Essentially, NAFTA is turning North America into one conglomerate marketplace, with a loss of localized power.

Many Canadians are increasingly concerned with this loss of autonomy, which is why the COC is speaking out. To date, the government has been rather indecisive when it comes to taking a firm position on the water issue. To help the politicians to take a position, a petition is currently being circulated via Canada Post. The petition urges Canadians coast-to-coast "to express their concerns and to demand action to stop the Great Lakes Annex." (COC, 2005 January 11) There is also an online version available to individuals who were not included on COC's original mailing list. The online petition (COC, 2005b) can be retrieved from [http://www.canadians.org/documents/gl\\_petition\\_e.pdf](http://www.canadians.org/documents/gl_petition_e.pdf).

Maude Barlow of the COC feels that now is a crucial time in the COC's appeal for water sovereignty, due to the particular sensitivity of the minority government. The COC hopes to collect thousands of signatures on the petition, and to present an overwhelming case of Canadian public interest to the Prime Minister. Any donations that are received by the COC will further fund the Save our Water Campaign (COC, n.d.). Anyone interested in supporting the case for sovereign water is urged to visit the website published by the COC (<http://www.canadians.org>). Select the link entitled "ACT for Canada's Water," to learn how to help promote Canada's autonomy. As Maude Barlow states in her letter accompanying the "Save our Water" petition, "If you and I are going to succeed in getting the government to protect our water... we'll have to work together."

## References

- Council of Canadians (2005, January 11). *Feds need to enforce, not just promote, Great Lakes water protection*. Retrieved April 3, 2005, from [http://www.canadians.org/display\\_document.htm?COC\\_token=coc\\_token&id=1051&isdoc=1&catid=68](http://www.canadians.org/display_document.htm?COC_token=coc_token&id=1051&isdoc=1&catid=68).
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- Council of Canadians (n.d.). *Water campaign*. Retrieved April 3, 2005, from [http://www.canadians.org/browse\\_categories.htm?COC\\_token=coc\\_token&step=2&catid=40&iscat=1](http://www.canadians.org/browse_categories.htm?COC_token=coc_token&step=2&catid=40&iscat=1).
- Public Citizen (n.d.). *NAFTA chapter 11: corporate cases*. Retrieved April 3, 2005, from [http://www.citizen.org/trade/nafta/CH\\_\\_11/](http://www.citizen.org/trade/nafta/CH__11/)



## Seafood Watch

I generally don't give a lot of credence to people who are always talking about the "good old days," when children were supposedly more respectful, and life in general was seen as somehow better and safer. In my experience, that kind nostalgic nonsense is usually just a mask for some sort of narrow-mindedness, or a desperate attempt to escape from reality. As an 83 year old friend of mine likes to say, the world has always been a beautiful but dangerous place.

On the other hand, there is one area in which I think things have taken a disturbing downward spiral, and that is in the integrity of our food sources. When I was a child, I really didn't have to think too much about what I was putting in my mouth. I may not have liked the Brussels sprouts and cauliflower that my parents were putting on my plate, but I never doubted that it was nutritious and safe. These days, despite nerve-wracking news shows that have made parents increasingly (over)protective in some ways, and a higher level of environmental consciousness, we often tend to turn a blind eye to the aspects of food safety and environmental considerations

that arise out of what we put in our families' mouths. When a can of innocent-looking tuna may be laced with mercury, rain forests may be decimated so we can enjoy our morning coffee, and gigantic scale factory processing of food "product" means that a pound of ground beef purchased from the supermarket can contain the partial remains of several hundred cows, it is the responsibility of everybody who cares about themselves, their families, and the environment to put some thought and research into this matter.

I have recently become a bit more educated -- thanks to my daughter's recent school field trip to the Vancouver Aquarium -- in the crucially important area of sustainable fishery. During the field trip, each of the children was given a pocket-sized laminated card listing three categories of fish products, based on research compiled by the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. The "Best Choices" list contains fish that are "abundant, well managed and caught or farmed in environmentally friendly ways." These include farmed rainbow trout, Pacific halibut, sardines, trap-caught shrimp, farmed tilapia, white sea bass, and black cod from Alaska and B.C. Although the seafood items listed under the "Proceed With Caution" category are generally considered to be reasonably good choices, there are "some concerns with the way they are caught or farmed" (Seafood Watch). Listed here are squid, U.S. swordfish, sea scallops, mahimahi, Alaskan king crab, imitation crab, and canned tuna. Finally there is the "Avoid" list, for those products that "at least for now ... come from sources that are overfished or caught or farmed in ways that harm other marine life or the environment" (Seafood Watch). Here we find, amongst others, Chilean sea bass, Atlantic and Icelandic cod, Lingcod, monkfish, orange roughy and, of course, all farmed salmon.

For more information and complete listing of these products, I suggest you check out <http://www.seafoodwatch.org>. It's one small step in the right direction...

## References

Seafood Watch: Regional Seafood Guides. Online at: [http://www.mbayaq.org/cr/cr\\_seafoodwatch/sfw\\_regional.aspx](http://www.mbayaq.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/sfw_regional.aspx)

## 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.



## Ode to a Loudmouth

My dear friend Linda, whom I have known for twenty or so years, is one of life's truly free spirits. She's the sort of person who will spontaneously show up at your place at ten o'clock on a Friday night with a bottle of wine tucked under her arm and a large pepperoni pizza. A woman of diverse and unpredictable interests, she recently attended a mechanical bull-riding competition and a poetry festival on the same weekend. Her idea of organizing a holiday is packing her antique black leather suitcase, grabbing her passport, and heading off to the airport before deciding which country she will wait for a stand-by flight to. On her fiftieth birthday she decided to fight back against elevated cholesterol by taking up in-line skating, making her possibly the only person in my circle of acquaintances who owns both Rollerblades *and* an electric blanket. Certainly she's the only one I know who has ever done time in a Mexican prison for being involved in a politically motivated street riot (she claims it was all a misunderstanding).

As she makes perfectly clear, she doesn't have any special regard for the intelligence of the male gender, but she is willing to tolerate us from time to time, as long as we remember to pick up our own bar tabs. She has little or no internal censor, or particular desire to hide her feelings, so getting to know her means you'd better be prepared to be called an idiot or a jackass on a fairly frequent basis. I've disagreed with her on enough issues - from the death penalty to legalizing marijuana - to have earned her particularly low opinion of my rational faculties, but I think she's just written me off as "a bit simple, but good-natured enough."

By her own admission, she's a "loud-mouthed old broad", thick-skinned and outspoken to a fault, and not the sort of person to suffer fools gladly. I sometimes suspect that she relishes being on the opposite side of any debate just for the sheer pleasure of dusting her knuckles. On the other hand, I've known her to spend hours at a time volunteering at food banks and reading to her grandchildren -- or teaching them how to cheat at card games. All-in-all, she's the sort of person we could use a lot more of in this Yuppie-dominated, holier-than-thou, politically-correcter-than-you-are age of lily-livered shrinking violets. I have this theory that if civilization is to survive, we need more people like her, brazen and audacious enough to shake us all out of our complacency, and remind us again and again that the emperor has no clothes.



Dear Readers, this week and next week I will include updates from previous columns. Thank you to the readers who took the time to update me on their situations.

*Dear Barb: I am a recently divorced mother of a 12-year-old daughter. I work full time and attend university part time. I have recently begun dating a very nice gentleman. However my daughter does not like my boyfriend and does not want him coming into our home. Consequently, the only time I can see him is when my daughter visits her father. My question is, how can I get my daughter to accept my boyfriend as part of our lives?*

*Name withheld*

*The Voice 2004-07-14 (v12 i27 -*

*<http://www.ausu.org/voice/search/searchdisplay.php?ART=2997>)*

Hi Barb:

I just wanted to let you know how I made out with your advice. As you suggested, I did not rush the relationship between my daughter and my boyfriend. We started out going bowling on Saturday mornings and at first things were very tense as they hardly spoke to each other. After about three weeks they started kidding around, then placing bets on who would get the highest score. Things progressed nicely, although not without some incidents, which we were able to successfully work through. I'm now happy to say we are planning on moving in together within the next few months, and I'm not sure who is happier -- me or my daughter.

Thanks again Barb.

*Dear Barb: I just graduated, but have not been able to find a job. Therefore, I have no choice but to move back in with my parents. I feel really bad about this, as most of my friends seem to be moving forward with their lives. Any suggestions on how to make this move easier for my parents and myself?*

*Jamie in North Bay*

*The Voice 2004-06-23 (v12 i25 - <http://www.ausu.org/voice/search/searchdisplay.php?ART=2958>)*

Dear Barb:

I just wanted to give you an update on how I made out. Moving back in with my parents did not go well. I felt too stifled by them. They wanted to treat me the same as they had before I went away to college. They made me feel like I was 15 years old again. No matter how much I pleaded with them, they just could not see me as an adult. Fortunately, I was able to find a job and move into my own place. As you said, for this situation to work both sides would have to be willing to put forth the effort. I guess my parents are just not ready to let me grow up. Thanks anyway Barb, it was worth a try.

Jamie

*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.*



### Here Comes the Sun

The province of Alberta will soon have a large-scale solar heating project, the first of its kind in North America. This project will apparently provide up to 90% of the heating costs of a community of about 52 homes and will serve as an example of just what can be done. The province will be chipping in over half a million dollars to create this community, with an additional 2 million dollars coming from the federal government and another 2.9 million dollars coming from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

In addition, numerous private companies and organizations are also on board, "including United Communities, Sterling Homes, ATCO Gas, the Town of Okotoks, Climate Change Central and EnerWorks."

This is the type of action that the Kyoto Accord is supposed to promote, but the Federal Government has not yet provided any guidance to the provinces on how it is supposed to work. Fortunately, it seems that, at least in Alberta, things are starting to happen anyway.

One of the scary things about this system is that to provide heat to 52 homes, the heating plant itself has to be centralized somewhere. That means that should the system fail in the dead of winter, the entire community will likely have to find other places to stay until repairs are made. Or perhaps I'm being pessimistic. Maybe the planners have thought of this already and that's why ATCO Gas is involved – providing a backup system to the individual houses.

The first steps are always the hardest. Congratulations to Alberta for making this one.

### Here Comes the Competition?

In British Columbia, Premier Bob Campbell was pleased to announce the opening of Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. In the same announcement is the approval for a 12 million dollar Open Learning Centre to house British Columbia's own "Open University and Open College."

Like AU, this university will offer primarily undergraduate degrees and some master's level degrees, as well as vocational and developmental programs.

Also like AU, this university will have a mandate "to focus on teaching excellence and to promote the open learning instruction that people throughout the province can access. The university will also undertake the research and scholarly activities that support its programs."

The only thing that's not entirely clear from the release is whether they will also be focusing on distance education, or on a branch-office model. Josh Keller, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations for Thompson Rivers University explains that they are indeed expecting distance education to become an increasing component of their course offerings. He also states, however, that he is expecting relations between AU and Thompson Rivers to be "more collaborative than competitive," so I suppose that's a sigh of relief for the administration in Athabasca University, which has a large number of students in B.C.

I tend to think that a little competition between the Universities couldn't hurt. I'd certainly like to see AU start competing on things like providing better student services and lower costs.

## There Goes Provincial Student Funding

In New Brunswick, the recently released budget is trying to focus a little more on post-secondary education, with budgeted increases between 3.0 and 4.6 percent over the next three years. While not exceptional, it's certainly nice to see.

However, one very interesting idea that New Brunswick has come up with is integrating the provincial student loans with the federal student loan program, thus making it so that students only have one loan to deal with.

This is a great idea in many ways. As previously government-financed students who obtained loans during the changeover period when the governments took over loans administration from the banks, my wife and I had a total of six student loans outstanding when we terminated our funding. We would have had eight, but Alberta remission eliminated the two provincially held loans that were bank funded. When the government began taking the loans programs back from the banks, they promised students who were caught in the changeover that the various loans would be combined, but this did not occur. This is a hardship on graduating students in a number of ways not generally thought about.

First, more student loans means more loans and payments noted on a student's credit report. This makes it harder for students to get additional credit. In addition, it increases the chances that an error will be made and payments being sent to the wrong place, or confusion between which institution is holding which loan. It also increases the chance that applications for assistance programs, such as interest relief, might fail to go to all of the loans holders, which can have a significant impact on a students' credit rating.

The downside, of course, is that there is no federal remissions program. Hopefully the province will continue to help out the students with remissions paid to the federal government.

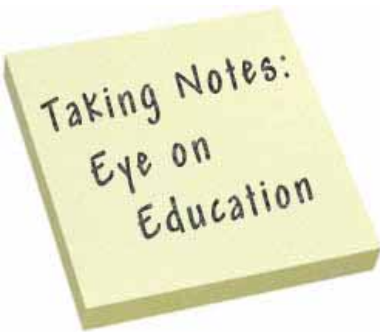
But still, it's another step in the right direction.



**WRITE FOR THE VOICE!**

Contact The Voice editor at [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org) for details on writing for The Voice. Provide a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.

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)



## CANADA'S BEST PAID PROFESSOR

**Debbie Jabbour**

Financial records just released for the University of Toronto show that Shirley Neuman has become Canada's best-paid university professor, earning more than \$347,000 last year. Neuman was born in Alberta, but was recruited to the University of Toronto from the University of Michigan, where she served as dean of the college of literature, science and the arts. Neuman abruptly stepped down as vice-president at the end of January, 2004, then was reassigned to a post as professor in the English department. Although on research and administrative leave until the end of 2005, she continues to draw a salary; a controversial compensation package that has many fellow academics puzzled.

The average 2004 salary of a humanities professor in Ontario was \$93,125, with a full professor earning \$110,239. Neuman earned \$347,865 plus \$40,640 in taxable benefits during 2004, while serving only one month as vice-president. In 2003, she filled the role of vice-president for the full year, earning \$336,353 salary and \$52,273 benefits.

It is not uncommon for university administrators to go on administrative leave once their appointments are complete and prior to returning to the rank of professor. During that time they often retain the higher administrative salary until the end of the year. In Neuman's case, she didn't complete her term as vice-president, citing "personal reasons." Several sources suggest she was asked to step down because of personality conflicts with staff and faculty, and student leaders from Governing Council and Students' Administrative Council claim that she "refused to take students' opinions seriously and would not respond to criticism" (The Strand, 2005).

According to the Athabasca University Annual report for 2003-2004, the vice-president academic earned \$179,000 (including \$23,000 in benefits) during 2004, and the vice-president finance earned \$152,000 (including \$24,000 benefits). The President earned \$225,000 in 2004, including benefits.

- Schmidt, Sarah (2005). Questions raised over professor's sweet deal: University of Toronto pays \$347,000 to former vice-president. *Edmonton Journal*, April 2, 2005, p.A9
- The Strand (2005). U of T Provost resigns. Strand in Brief - The Strand News. <http://www.thestrand.ca/news/2004/02/11/News/Strand.In.Brief-616673.shtml>
- Athabasca University Annual Report 2003-2004: <http://www.athabascau.ca/report2004/report2004.pdf>

## Women you should know

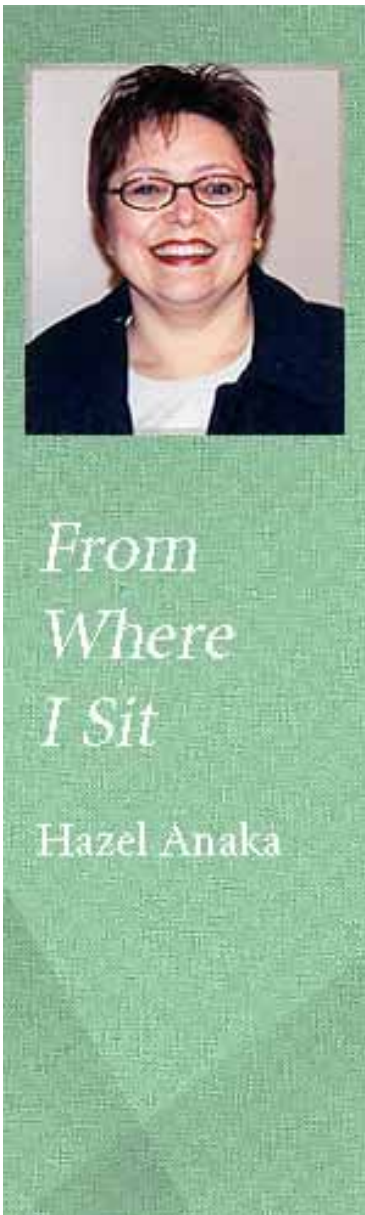
*Compiled by Barbara Godin*

### **Patricia Blondal (1926-1959)**

Patricia Blondal was born in Souris, Manitoba. After graduating from the University of Manitoba, she became a broadcaster in Winnipeg. As an aspiring writer, Patricia had the good fortune of being a classmate of another famous Canadian writer - Margaret Laurence. After traveling throughout Canada and England, Patricia met and married Harold Blondal. She settled in Montreal with her husband and children. Blondal spent years writing before finally having a novel accepted for publication. "From Heaven With a Shout" was initially serialized by Chatelaine magazine and later published in book form. Her most highly acclaimed book "A Candle to Light the Sun" was published shortly after her death. Patricia Blondal has been described as one of the most gifted Canadian writers of her time.

Source for additional information:

The Manitoba Writers' Guild. Manitoba Author Publication Index. Retrieved April 4, 2005, from [http://www.mbwriter.mb.ca/mapindex/b\\_profiles/hist\\_blondal.html](http://www.mbwriter.mb.ca/mapindex/b_profiles/hist_blondal.html).



## What Not to Wear

Have you seen an episode of TLC's new one-hour program called "What Not to Wear"? If not, you have no idea what you're missing.

Here's the premise. Someone committing serial fashion faux pas is secretly reported to the show. With the clandestine help of friends(?) and family, this poor schnook is secretly videotaped for two weeks committing one fashion crime after another. Case in point: 47 year old Donna wearing a homemade dickie and pumpkin theme sweater including white picket fence running right around her hipline! Or the guy with a dozen goofy hats buying in bulk at thrift stores. Or the old hippie gal going braless, with a wrap skirt and exercise shorts under it. The fashion offender is then confronted at some public function and "out-ed". The shock and betrayal is softened with the promise of a \$5000 fashion budget to be spent in New York, after they learn "the rules."

All the while, stylists Stacey London and Clinton Kelly are offering commentary as they view and re-view footage and stills of the ugliest, shabbiest, most inappropriate stuff you can imagine. They are brutal in their analysis. Phrases like "the colour of baby vomit" are part of the blunt truth. The participant videotapes her feelings as the process unfolds. The pluckiness, defiance, and good-humoured resistance is truly funny. Despite the harshness of the stylists' comments, the underlying message is true: many of us are wearing the wrong things for our body size and type. Those wrong choices make people look bigger and exaggerate figure flaws.

The one thing that makes this reality show scarier than all the others combined is the dreaded 360 degree mirror. Participants alternately justify their old clothing choices or are horrified by what they see. We can only imagine their pain.

The show includes the ceremonial dumping of all things ugly, some instructional tips with the use of mannequins and sample outfits, a two day shopping spree, hair and makeup consultations, a mini fashion show for Wayne and Stacey, and finally the "reveal" for family and friends. Without exception, the results have been quite spectacular. To the show's credit they are picking real people as opposed to model types.

I suspect this is another BBC concept TLC has brought to North America. At Audrey's the other day I spotted a "What Not to Wear" book. With typical Brit bluntness, it includes chapters entitled "Big Tits, No Tits, Short Neck, Saddlebags, Thick Ankles, No Waist", etcetera. With full-colour photos it shows the worst and best possible styles for a particular figure flaw. Near as I could tell, there's no advice for the poor slob with multiple problems. Peplums, wrap sweaters and dresses seem a common solution. Leggings and tapered pant legs should be outlawed. Boxy white t-shirts are suggested as dust rags.

For a brave, new look at your own wardrobe, this show is hot, from where I sit.



# 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, April 12th, 2005 at 7pm, Valhalla Room,  
Scandinavian centre, 739 - 20<sup>th</sup> ave NW Calgary.

### "What is the ethical point of view?" Janet Sisson

In modern times people talk about ethics in the same way that they have talked about scientific theory. Ethical theorists like Kant and Mill sought for very general principles on which to ground more specific ethical beliefs and decisions. The point of view implicit in this thinking is...Thomas Nagel's 'point of view of the universe'. But, as Nagel argued, we humans do not look at the universe from this position. In this paper I will ask: from what point of view can we best talk about ethics...

**Biographical notes:** Janet Sisson teaches philosophy at the U of C and Mount Royal, was for 12 years a tenured lecturer in the Dpt .of Philosophy at the University of Glasgow, and has often spoken to the Apeiron Society. Her main interest is in ancient philosophy and in the relation of theoretical conceptions to the practice of philosophy. She is working on the influence of ancient mathematical ideas (which include research in geometry and harmonic theory) on philosophical practice, especially in Plato...

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Annual society Membership, \$30 (\$15 after Jan 1 to end of season). Attendance Fee to seminars, at the door, is \$3 (members & new visitors), \$5 (students & seniors, \$7 (others):

<http://members.shaw.ca/blenander/Apeiron/Apeiron.html> .

## quebec

**SALSATHEQUE - Every Wed-Sun, 9pm-3am**  
1220, Peel St, Montreal, QC H3B 2T6 - 514-875-0016 - Disabled access: Yes  
Cost - Free; \$5 Fri-Sat when live bands play

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 for Merengue, Sunday for Salsa. There are also Salsa lessons on Wednesdays.

### SIVANANDA ASHRAM YOGA CAMP

Daily - 673, 8th Avenue, Val Morin, QC 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. 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, 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 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*

## GARFIELD WESTON MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGES (GWMSC) ENTRANCE AWARDS

Value: National awards at \$8,000; Regional awards at \$4,000; Provincial awards at \$2,500

Number of Awards: 70

Application Deadline: April 15

**Description:** For Canadian citizens or permanent residents, in final year of high school or an adult in the workforce who has been out of school for at least 3 years, intending to enroll in first-year of full-time college studies leading to a certificate, diploma or applied degree in Canada. Program of study must be at least 2 years in length. Minimum grade average of 75% in courses required for program of study. Must demonstrate academic ability, leadership potential, record of service to the school and/or community, and interest in selected field of study

### Contact Information:

Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship for Colleges (GWMSC)

<http://www.gwmsc.ca>

## CBIE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING GRANTS

Academic Year 2005/06

Application deadline: April 22, 2005

The CBIE International Learning Grants (ILG) promote international education and international relations careers. ILG allow undergraduate students to finance the costs associated with international learning, e.g. travel and living costs.

Interested candidates must complete and forward to CBIE by April 22, 2005, an online application form along with supporting documents as outlined in the Guidelines of the program. (Please read the Guidelines before submitting your application form.)

### Application Form

[http://www.cbie.ca/download/grants/ILGguidelines\\_and\\_application0506-en.pdf](http://www.cbie.ca/download/grants/ILGguidelines_and_application0506-en.pdf)

## FRANK HENRY RALPH POUNSETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Value: \$1,250

Number of Awards: 2

Application Deadline: May 13

**Description:** For Young adults with physical disabilities that have been served by The Easter Seal Society or are Easter Seal alumni, currently enrolled or currently applying to a post-secondary educational facility such as a university or community college. Must demonstrate consistent level of scholastic achievement throughout secondary school curriculum, and show participation in extra curricular activities and have served as a model and inspiration to fellow students

**Instructions:** Personal statement, letters of reference, and transcripts are required. For more information, please visit: <http://www.easterseals.org/services/default.asp?load=scholarships>



## 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

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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