

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

April 20, 2005  
Volume 13 Issue 16



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*Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan*

*New, Voice original comic strip*

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*The harrowoing results of too much stress*

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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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## NEWS FLASH: ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY'S EDMONTON LEARNING CENTRE IS MOVING!

*Katie Patrick*



When Athabasca University's (AU's) main campus was moved from Edmonton to Athabasca, Alberta in 1984, Learning Centres in both downtown Edmonton and Calgary remained in their existing location to continue to provide a face-to-face AU presence in their respective city. Now, the Edmonton Learning Centre (ELC) is making headlines with its move to a brand new location.

In a recent interview with Neil Henry, Chair of the ELC Move Logistics Committee, we learned that Capital Health Region had purchased the Seventh Street Plaza office building. As a result, the current location and central headquarters of the ELC must move. "Due to this," Henry explained, "the current ELC office will officially close on Thursday, May 5th at 4:30 p.m." to facilitate the move to the new location in the Peace Hills Trust Tower. The ELC move is a logistics feat that will be conveniently completed over the May 6-9, 2005 holiday weekend. This schedule minimizes the amount of time the ELC will be closed with services being temporarily disconnected. However, Henry indicated, although the ELC office will be closed during this time, the telephone services at the AU Information Centre and

the Calgary Learning Centre (CLC) will remain operational during regular business hours. Both the AU Information Centre and the CLC will be available to assist individuals with questions or concerns. The AU Information Centre can be reached toll-free at: 1-800-788-9041.

The AU Students' Union (AUSU), an autonomous student-run organization that has its office space within the ELC, will also be moving to the new building, as will the Voice Magazine. The AUSU office will be closed on Friday, May 6 and Monday, May 9. The AUSU phone lines should remain in working order with the possibility of some brief outages. Calls will be handled by the AUSU Communications Coordinator at a remote location. The most reliable way to contact AUSU during the move is through email: use [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org) for general inquiries, and [webmaster@ausu.org](mailto:webmaster@ausu.org) for inquiries about the AUSU website or account issues. AUSU's office hours and contact information will remain the same, with the exception of a new office address (see below).

On Tuesday, May 10, 2005, the new ELC office is scheduled to officially open at 8:30 a.m. The ELC Service Centre will be located on the 12th floor of the Peace Hills Trust Tower, as will the AUSU office. The AU Academics Centre will be located on the 11th floor. There is access to both floors via elevator and stairs. The new location site, Peace Hills Trust Tower, is located near the current location in the Seventh Street Plaza building. Both office buildings are situated on the edge of the downtown area in Edmonton. The physical distance between the old and new ELC locations is minimal, totaling a mere two blocks. Both office buildings have a similar parking situation and offer easy access to public transit.

Many students are likely wondering whether any ELC services will change with the move to the new location. Students will be pleased to know that "few changes will be made to the services previously offered at the Seventh Street Plaza location," promised Henry. "The ELC office," he stated, "will be open during the same regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the telephone numbers will remain the same." AU's main Edmonton telephone number will continue as



(780) 421-8700. Changes that will be implemented at the new location include the removal of the small computer lab that was present in the Seventh Street Plaza location. However, Henry points out that this lab closure is not attributable to the ELC move, but rather it is a result of a previously agreed-upon policy that will be implemented in the Peace Hills Trust Tower location.

The new location will offer an increased number of AU Academic Units, as well as a staffed reception desk during regular office hours to assist students and visitors, two invigilated examination rooms, on-site AU student advisors, and Access to Students with Disabilities (ASD) offices.

If you are in Edmonton after the ELC opens its new doors, stop by the 12th floor of the Peace Hills Trust Tower and take a peek! Effective May 10, 2005, the ELC's new address is:

Peace Hills Trust Tower  
1200, 10011-109 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

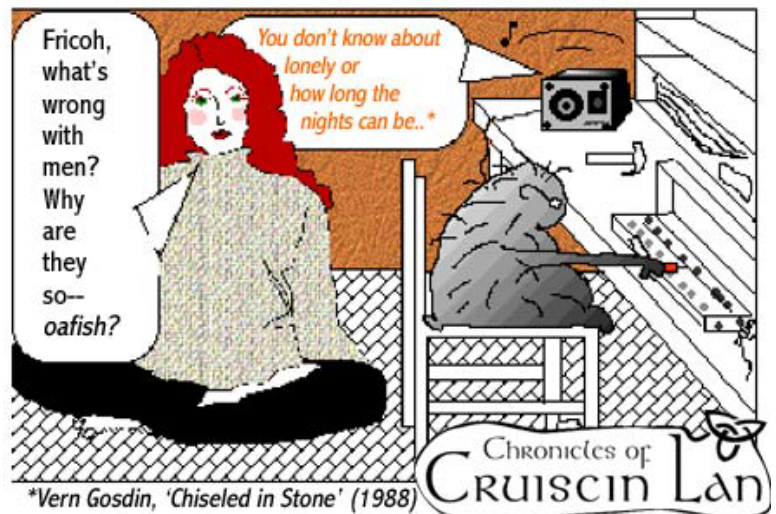
Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
(Monday to Friday)  
Telephone: (780) 421-8700

The AUSU offices will be located on the 12th floor of the new building, in suite 1213. The office will be straight down the hall from the AU reception desk and very easy for students to find. The new mailing address for AUSU is:

Athabasca University Students' Union  
Peace Hills Trust Tower  
1200, 10011-109 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8  
Phone: 1-800-788-9041 extension 3413

The Voice Magazine will receive mail at the same address, but mail should be address to:  
The Voice Magazine, Editor

Poet Maeve and Fricoh Mac in: ~ Men are Bad ~



# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

## Heart Scare!

*Debbie Jabbour*



As busy students at AU, many of us are managing incredibly complex schedules that may include family, work and community activities in addition to our coursework. We may have heavy responsibilities and health issues or disabilities that contribute to a high level of stress. I'm a prime example of a full-time student who maintains an almost super-human load of responsibility. Graduate studies, while proving to be immensely satisfying, have added significantly to that workload. Throughout the last year, I've become far more conscious of the need to slow down and sort out my priorities. *Voice* readers may be familiar with the many events in my life that keep me constantly

running, and I've written about the factors that have contributed to my recognizing the importance of taking time for myself and my family.

Since the beginning of last year I've made conscious efforts to put my health and my family first, to enjoy my grandson, to reduce stress and to maintain a healthier balance. I thought I had made some essential changes to my philosophy, but it is much harder to implement an improved balance than it seems. Of necessity, I'm still working three jobs while in school full-time, and other stressors and worries seem to be constantly ready to overwhelm me. As much as I try to stop worrying and take things easier, I rarely succeed. There is just so much to do, so much I want to accomplish, so many new things that keep coming up, so many demands on me and my time.

Sometimes we need a good scare. One week before Christmas I had mine.

There was no advance warning that particular night, nothing that should have contributed to what happened. In retrospect I realized, however, that the cumulative stress I had been under during the previous six weeks was exceptionally heavy, even for me. So it really should not have come as a surprise.

It was the perfect description of a relaxing, quiet evening at home. My daughter, her friend, and I were watching a documentary on BSE, a fire was burning brightly in the fireplace, and I was knitting a scarf (multitasking as usual). No assignments were pending, my tree was up, my gifts were wrapped, and I was planning on enjoying a rare evening off. I had made myself a tuna sandwich a bit earlier and taken my regular prescription medication. Now I was relaxing with a cup of tea and a glass of ice water on the side. Nothing was out of the ordinary.

Suddenly I started to feel dizzy and nauseated. My hands became sweaty, cold and clammy, and I couldn't breathe. I struggled to finish my row of knitting, but my fingers were becoming stiff and swollen, my palms so wet I could barely hold on to the needle. What was happening to me? Although my thoughts were becoming disjointed, I tried to rationalize what was happening. An allergic reaction to the fish? Some previously-unknown side effect or reaction to my prescription medication? My furnace had not been working properly lately, perhaps the fire was causing a build up of carbon monoxide?

I tried to focus, taking sips from my glass of water, but the room began to spin slowly and I could feel myself losing control and becoming unable to breathe. I struggled to my feet and made my way to the door. Perhaps fresh air would clear my head. I hung on to the door jamb and leaned out into the chilly December night, desperately trying to suck air into my lungs, hoping this horrible, dizzy feeling would pass and I would be able to breathe again.



No success. The weird, sick feeling intensified. Fearful that I would pass out and tumble down my front steps, I closed my front door and weaved through the house, hanging on to the walls, to make my way to my bedroom to lie down. By this time I was starting to become quite frightened. There was something very wrong with me, and the symptoms were looking suspiciously like a heart attack. I lay down, feeling sick, clammy and disoriented. A heaviness started to settle into my chest, weighing me down. I struggled to lift my head but I could not fight off the heavy pain in my upper body. I couldn't feel my extremities and a strange feeling of depersonalization took over. My daughter had stepped outside with her friend and I heard her come in. I called to her weakly, praying she would be able to hear me. Puzzled, she came into the room, asking me what was going on. I tried to explain, but I was having trouble forming a coherent sentence. My breathing became shallow and more difficult, the heaviness in my chest increased, and my heart suddenly started to race. It was a sensation I had never felt before. It was not possible that a heart could beat that fast without exploding. I began to panic, terrified, and finally managed to get the words out to my daughter - "I think I'm having a heart attack!"

My daughter offered to drive me to the hospital, but I hesitated, hoping it would not be necessary. Even though I was certain I was having a heart attack, I was still in denial (I later discovered that denial is even listed as a symptom on the Heart & Stroke Foundation website). This simply could not be happening, it had to be something else - an allergic reaction to the fish or the medication or the smoke from the fire. But it sure seemed like a heart attack. I knew the signs, and I had read that women often experienced non-traditional symptoms. I'd had angina attacks on occasion during the past few years. I knew I was not in the greatest physical shape and likely at high risk due to my excessive stress levels. And as the minutes passed, the symptoms intensified. Yet both of us were still in denial. As frightened as I was, I kept minimizing the seriousness of what was happening, sure that if I relaxed and managed to focus, it would pass. If I could just get control of my thinking, if I could calm down, I could make it go away. I struggled to drag my scattered thoughts into a coherent whole, telling myself to calm down, breathe, regain control. My daughter checked my pulse (even though my heart was racing, my pulse was steady) then called one of my other daughters for advice and gave me the phone. I tried to explain what was going on but I was becoming increasingly incoherent, unable to breath, unable to control my fingers to hold the telephone. "I think I have to go to the hospital," I finally gasped. My daughter again suggested she drive me to emergency, unwilling to burden me with the cost of an ambulance, both of us still not quite believing this could be that serious. But as my heart raced, I felt my ability to maintain any semblance of control slipping. By now I was certain. "No... you have to call 911" I struggled to get the words out, "I'm dying, I'm not going to make it."

This seemed to be the catalyst, and as my daughter dialed 911, I went into full blown panic. Tears streamed down my face as I begged her to hurry. We had hesitated too long, and now it was going to be too late. All through it she stayed so amazingly calm. She would tell me afterwards that she was certain on some level that I was OK, that all my vital signs seemed normal, and this helped her to stay calm. I thought she was just doing it to try to keep me calm. The 911 operator, of course, had a million questions, and both of us started to lose patience. Every moment seemed like an hour, and I was sure they would not arrive in time. I know that 911 operators are trained to ask questions and take their time in getting accurate information, and even though I was able to process this thought, I was certain that every question, every small delay, was bringing me closer to death. "Please, please, make them hurry!" I was sobbing by now, my daughter had her arms around me, and her tears mingled with mine as I begged her to not let me die. I told her how much I loved her and asked her to please tell her sisters and my grandson that I loved them too. The room was hazy, everything was distant, the pressure on my chest pressing me down. I could feel every cell in my body being extinguished, growing weaker and weaker. Even as I fought for control, to hold on, I knew I was losing the battle. The sensation that life was slipping away intensified.

As I drew what I thought would be my last few breaths I asked my daughter to forgive me for not being the best mother I could have been. She held me close and we cried together. I thought of my beloved children, my sweet little grandson, and the new baby I would never see. I so desperately wanted to stay alive, but I was consumed with the certainty that death was inevitable. I leaned close to my daughter, my face wet with tears, feeling the last moments of life ebbing away. "So this is what it feels like to die" I thought, as an eerie tranquility began to settle in.

Panicked, unwilling to release me from her embrace, my daughter kept yelling, trying to get her friend's attention so she would open the door for the EMTs. Throughout this whole episode, her friend had remained in the other room, watching TV, completely unaware of the drama unfolding down the hall - shocked when a fire truck and ambulance roared down the street and stopped at our door!

Suddenly there was the sound of voices outside my room. My daughter released her embrace and moved to the foot of the bed to make way for two young men from the fire department. As they took control of the situation I felt a glimmer of hope - perhaps they had made it in time?

Moments later the EMTs arrived and in the confusion and crush of people in my room that followed I just gave myself over to these trained professionals. They kept telling me to calm down and explain what was happening. I thought I was calm and tried to say so, but I was still having trouble formulating a coherent sentence. Their steady stream of questions and orders was vaguely irritating, but I attempted to answer them through my confusion. I figured that if they were asking and I was able to answer I would somehow be able to stay alive.

They seemed very matter-of-fact and their calm professionalism had the intended effect of easing my panic. As the minutes passed I started to believe their reassurances that I was OK, that I was not going to die, that everything would be fine. By the time they had me hooked up to heart monitors and an IV in the ambulance, some of the symptoms had subsided; but I was still dizzy, cold and clammy, and the feeling of depersonalization and the weight on my chest had not lessened. "We don't want to scare you," said one of the young EMT's, "but there are some abnormalities showing up on the heart monitor." They stabilized me with baby aspirin and nitroglycerin and prepared to transport me to hospital emergency.

I spent the rest of the night at the hospital, undergoing tests and waiting for results. Two of my daughters stayed with me, making periodic calls to the others to provide status reports. My oldest had a picture of my grandson with her, and she gently placed it on my chest as I lay in the hospital bed. Her tender act of concern touched me deeply, bringing tears to my eyes, and his sweet face added to my inspiration and desire to ensure I was alright. Only a few hours previously, I had been so certain that I would never see him again. Never before had I felt such a powerful sense of appreciation for the many good things I have in life, and for life itself.

After several hours the chest pressure had subsided and I was feeling markedly better. A blood test taken within a certain number of hours after a heart attack can provide information to confirm potential damage and whether an attack has actually occurred. The doctor advised that I would have to remain until all these tests came back and suggested that my daughters go home to get some rest. I lay on that uncomfortable narrow hospital bed in emergency, drifting in and out of a troubled sleep. Finally, at about 7 AM, the last of the results came back, and after doing final checks, the doctor said I could go home - it seemed that my heart was fine, with no signs of heart attack damage.

As I stood in the emergency room doorway in the chilly darkness of pre-dawn, waiting for my daughter to come pick me up, I thought about the terrible night I had survived. It had been the most terrifying experience I had ever endured in my life. To feel that close to death - once again I felt tears come to my eyes as I remembered how it felt, to be so sure I would die in my daughter's arms and never again see the rest of my beloved family. I was alive. I was alive, and a sense of pure elation washed over me. I felt incredibly lucky.

But an important question still remained. What exactly had happened? Where would I go from here? What about the potential for another such attack?

*Next week: Piecing the puzzle together*





There is a scene in Rob Reiner's rock mockumentary *This is Spinal Tap*, starring Michael McKean, Christopher Guest, and Harry Shearer as David St. Hubbins, Nigel Tufnel, and Derek Smalls respectively, in which Derek Smalls, the heavy metal band's bass player, sets off an airport metal detector because he has stuffed his crotch with a tinfoil-wrapped zucchini. Obviously, this act of insecure egoism is meant to be funny. But I ask you, which of us has not, from time to time, attempted to present just such a false front to the world? Who amongst us has not made some attempt to seem more confident, interesting or attractive via the use of shallow materialistic trappings or assorted, strategically-placed winter squashes or root vegetables? Back in high school, how many of us desperately sought peer attention and approval through smoking, skipping classes, or for instance, getting blind drunk

on Vermouth and driving a stolen front-end loader into Mr. Hammond's ninth-graders' portable?

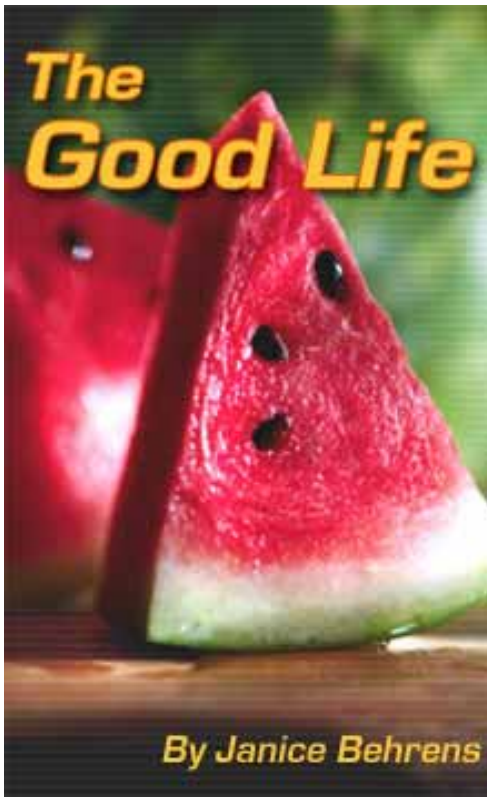
Why, like my doltish fedora-wearing neighbour Cecil Idris Idris Jones, do we so frequently engage in pathetic acts of posturing and role-playing, instead of simply learning to be comfortable in our own skin? Why do we buy into some marketing wonk's idea of the personal image that we should portray, instead of just learning to be ourselves? I think the answer is that, unfortunately, the selves we are born with tend to be rather blah and uninteresting. Let's face it, we're all boring jerks. For my part, *just being myself* tended to generate quite a lot of negative feedback and empty squares on the calendar. That is why I decided to create a new *self* -- an ongoing identity that I could feel more confident about.

For once, I decided not to rush into things. I spent an extensive amount of time researching a new and improved personal identity that would mesh with what I claim to be my existing moral and spiritual values, helping me achieve my fully-integrated life potential, and practically guaranteeing a chance to meet a vast number of bodacious chicks. I *test-drove* a few of these possible new identities, to see which of them felt the most comfortable for me. Enrico, the pretender Latin American Formula One driver, and Prince Constantine II, pretender to the throne of Monaco, both received quite high approval ratings from my test audience at *Smiley O'Ryan's Coconut Lounge*. Ultimately though, I settled on being Francois, a visiting Parisian neurosurgeon and former adult film star.

Finally, after so many years of searching and self-doubt, I have created for myself a *self* that I can truly be proud of. New persona, new and realistic-looking hairline and, if I may be so bold, a pretty impressive looking *curriculum vitae*. Now, if I can just get past those metal detectors...

### Reference

- Reiner, R. (Director) and Karen Murphy (Producer) (2000). *This Is Spinal Tap*. Embassy Pictures.



## Acts of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is something we all grapple with in one way or another. The U.S. songwriter Howard Dietz (1896-1983) surmised in 1953, "all the world is a stage," to which I would supplement that one or more of life's stock characters - the abusive parent, the backstabbing co-worker, the gossiping friend, the bullying boss or the unfaithful spouse - is bound to be hanging about in the shadowy backstage of each of our minds, waiting to play a part in our own personal tragicomedies. No matter how much we may wish to, we cannot simply write them out of the script.

When we take control of our own thoughts and emotions though, we give ourselves the opportunity to become the directors of our own lives. In this way, we can decide how much of the limelight of our precious days these noxious stereotypes will receive. Perhaps, if we're capable of enough empathy and subtlety of thought, we will even be able to see that they are not really stereotypical villains at all, but characters just as complex, and every bit as heroic and buffoonish as ourselves. Like us, they are often playing parts not of their own choosing. Like Constance Ledbelly, the heroine of Ann-Marie McDonald's (1988) play *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, by seeing things as they really are we can fulfill the role of one of Shakespeare's *wise fools*, able to creatively transform tragedy

into comedy and lead a better life.

In Paul Thomas Anderson's film *Magnolia*, one of the characters, a police officer, talks about the difficulty of making judgements about others. Being a cop, he finds that he necessarily splits the world up into three categories: people who need to be given a helping hand, people who need to be forgiven, and people who need to be put in jail. Deciding who should be forgiven, he says, is the hardest part of the job and in fact, "the hardest part of walking down the street."

But what if we choose *not* to make those judgements? What if we choose to grant a general emotional amnesty to everyone that we feel has ever wronged us? Surely, that would simplify things and let us direct our energies into more valuable pursuits. After all, most of us don't have to carry a badge, a gun and a pair of handcuffs, even metaphorically. Everybody ultimately creates his or her own destiny in this life. Just as the good will be rewarded without our intervention, the truly destructive and malevolent will build and inhabit their own cages without us having to act as enforcers and prison guards.

Forgiving does not mean forgetting, and it certainly doesn't mean that we have to maintain a relationship with those who have done us wrong. It just means that we need to free those individuals from our consciousness, set them loose to look after themselves, so that we can concentrate on what really does matter, and those who are worth the energy and effort.

## References

- Anderson, Paul Thomas (Director) (1999) *Magnolia* [Film]. New Line Cinema.
- Dietz, Howard (Songwriter) and Arthur Schwartz (Composer) (1953). *That's Entertainment* [Song]. The Band Wagon. Chappell and Company.
- MacDonald, Ann-Marie (1988). *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* [Play].

## AUSU THIS MONTH



### AU SPORTS CLUB SEEKS NEW EXECUTIVE

The AU Sports Club is looking for AU students who are interested in serving on the AUSA executive. All that is required is a few hours a week to respond to emails, add new members to the discussion forum, and locate information to update the website or forum sections. Being on a club executive is a great way to meet other AU students!

### The AUSU Office is Moving this May

The Edmonton Learning Center, which not only houses a number of AU services such as invigilation rooms and student advisors, but also the corporate offices of AUSU and The Voice, will be moving to a new location in downtown Edmonton in early May, 2005. The current location will close its doors at 4:30 pm on Thursday May 5, and the new location will open at 8:30 am on Tuesday, May 10. The phone numbers and email addresses at the ELC will remain the same, but phone service may be interrupted during the move. To contact AU during this time, please call the main campus at 1-800-788-9041, and to contact AUSU, use our main email address, [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org). Our new mailing address will be:

Peace Hills Trust Tower  
1200, 10011 109 St.  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

### 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>



## Backroads

Finding myself without wheels one year, and being desperately afraid of flying, I took the Greyhound *red eye* trip from Vancouver to Calgary in the middle of winter. Anyone who has ever taken one of these classic overnight milk-runs knows that a trip like this feels like it takes roughly the same amount of time as travelling from Paris to Istanbul via the Orient Express. However, instead of quail eggs stuffed with caviar, you chow down on stale cheese sandwiches from the vending machine in the cafeteria.

Fortunately for her, my travelling companion managed to fall asleep about three minutes after the bus left the terminal, and uncannily woke up just as it pulled into Calgary, thereby missing the fifteen hundred or so stops at every small town in between. Despite my cool, calm and collected exterior, I am a bit of a nervous traveller and have never had the lucky knack of falling asleep in moving vehicles. Put me behind the wheel and I think nothing of doing donuts on the edge of a precipice or driving backwards from Elbow to Saskatoon whilst rolling a cigarette and steering with my knees. Put someone

else in charge, though, and I routinely scream and yell out things like *ohfuckmegentlyjohnny* every time a taxicab or trolley bus turns a corner too fast or comes to a sudden stop.

So, no chance of sleep on this trip. Wired on endless cups of greasy diesel-flavoured coffee, I remember staring out of the window of the bus, watching a seemingly endless parade of anonymous towns roll by. After a few hours of sleep-deprived silence, when it feels as though every other creature in the country is peacefully asleep, the mostly empty highways connecting these places take on a spooky, somewhat surrealistic, and peculiarly Canadian, feeling. Call it *Northern Gothic*.

From a past life as a travelling marketing guy, with all of Canada's western provinces to cover, I am strangely attached to the melancholy nighttime feel of small town Canadiana. These towns, and the backroads emanating from them, are the kind of places where boredom and the unexpected walk hand-in-hand. The kind of places where people are always spotting ghosts and seeing unexplained lights hovering over the treetops. Hitchhikers and campers, it seems to me, have a habit of disappearing in these places. They are always finding bloated corpses in the weeds on the riverbank and partially decomposed bodies buried in the leaves and loose soil. You drive past all these run-down farm houses, crumbling barns and grain elevators. Maybe you know a little bit about the history of these places, so you think "oh, over there is the slough where that hippie girl drowned" and "that big red potato barn, that's where Mabel Hennesy hanged herself from a beam."

Sitting beside me on the Greyhound, early in a bleak new year, my travelling companion has her head on my shoulder. I've got a book of crossword puzzles open on my lap, waiting for the first grey light of dawn of creep across the solitary landscape that has the strangest kind of beauty, all its own.





*Dear Barb:*

*I need help! Every spring I attempt to do "spring cleaning" but I never seem to get anywhere. My closets are a mess and my kitchen cupboards are even worse. Every time I go downstairs to the basement all I can do is look at the boxes and boxes of stuff. I just don't seem to know where to begin. I'm afraid to get rid of something and then realize I should have kept it. People tell me I'm a pack rat. Do you have any tips to help me tackle this seemingly insurmountable job?*

*Amy in Waterloo*

Hi Amy. What you are describing is a very common dilemma for many of us. We keep things just in case we may need them someday and as the years go by we end up collecting more and more *stuff*. Eventually, we have cupboards and basements full of *stuff*. Consequently sorting through these things can be an overwhelming undertaking.

You may find it helpful to look at the situation from a different perspective. For example, rather than looking at the big picture, break it down into chunks. Tackle one closet or cupboard at a time. Decide you are going to do only this one cupboard. Don't even think about the basement and the rest of the house, or you will only become discouraged. Begin your task with a garbage bag close by. As you come across an item you haven't used for the past year, ask yourself if you really need to keep it, if not toss it in the garbage.

Exclude items that have sentimental value. You don't want to throw away pictures, letters or your three-year-old's special paintings. Besides, when your kids are adults, you can lovingly return their stuff to them so they can in turn give the stuff to their children.

Items that have no sentimental value, or for other reasons you decide not to keep them, could possibly be included in a garage sale. This way, you can make some money, clean up the clutter, and provide others with the opportunity to enjoy things that they may not otherwise have been able to.

However, you may still end up with some things that do not fit into any of the above categories. Why not consider donating these to a local charity?

Finally, congratulate yourself for a job well done and remember it is important not to allow yourself to get into this predicament again. Before you shove those papers in that drawer, ask yourself if you really need to keep them. Remember Amy, de-cluttering at the source will prevent a lot of frustration in the long run.

Good luck Amy, I hope I was able to help with your spring-cleaning.

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.



### Alberta Budgets For Post-Secondary

The Alberta Budget is in and one of the top items in the budget release (Government of Alberta, 2005a) is post-secondary education. The Advanced Education ministry has actually warranted its own special release (Ibid., 2005b), detailing what's going to happen over the next three years in post-secondary education.

The special release claims that learning is receiving a 30% increase in funding, but really that's only when you compare the totals from now and those that they plan on spending in about three years.

On the bright side, Alberta's Advanced Education budget promises a 6% operating cost increase each year for the next three years. Athabasca University was budgeting lower than that, so this means that AU will have more money than they were expecting. It's a good thing they're getting this too, because the budget makes it quite clear that the 2005-2006 tuition fee subsidy is only scheduled to be in effect for one year. That means that students need to be prepared for their fees to be increasing by double the normal amount in 2006-2007. For students just starting this year, a large increase like that could come as a nasty shock. Hopefully, the extra percentage points that the government is increasing operating grants will serve to offset tuition increases, at least partially.

Once again, the yearly amount available for student loans has increased. This time, however, it's being accompanied by a much-needed increase in the lifetime student loan limit, from \$40,000 to \$50,000. Of course, being that the yearly amount available is now over \$12,140, it should have been obvious even to the government that the money would have run out before the completion of a four-year degree.

Another piece of good news is that scholarships and grants are increasing by 11.7%, or 7.5 million dollars, so hopefully more opportunities will be opened up to help students afford post-secondary education.

Part of the total increase is \$469 million going toward capital projects (buildings) over the next three years. Athabasca University unfortunately won't be seeing any of this money. Really though, considering that our infrastructure is technology, I'd love to see a few million going toward AU developing a better distance communication ability, such as through streaming video-conferencing on the web, downloadable lectures by our professors, or maybe even strides toward being able to take your exam at home, invigilated via web-cam.

All of this takes money to research and implement, but because telecommunications isn't considered a basic infrastructure expense, it's difficult to convince the government to pay for these types of developments.

That aside, for post-secondary institutions, this budget is the best one we've seen in a very long time. Maybe our message has finally started to get through.

### As I was Saying

The last couple of articles have had me making backhanded complaints about the federal government's lack of any sort of plan to handle our obligations under the Kyoto Commitment. It seems I jumped the gun a little bit, as the government actually has been working on a plan (Industry Canada, 2005) for the past six months.

In a nutshell, it seems they are looking at the bulk of our greenhouse gas emission reductions coming from a Climate Fund. Basically, the Climate Fund provides a market mechanism based on purchasing emission credits from other (likely developing) countries that don't need them as much. I suppose it's better than nothing.

There is also, however, substantial incentives to help get renewable and emission-free energy sources up and running. This would include subsidies for developing alternative energy companies, as well as tax incentives and the like to encourage companies to reduce emissions.

It all sounds like it may work, and what's more, it may work without directly harming the oil and gas industry. Change may be in the air after all.

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## Click on This - Oddjects

*Lonita Fraser*

*The human capacity to create, and collect, the bizarre, never ceases to amaze me.*

**Tenna Balls** - <http://www.tennaballs.com/>

One person's private collection of car antenna toppers. The Betty Boop head is kind of creepy.

**Zippo Lighters** - <http://www.zippogallery.com/>

As if collecting antenna toppers weren't enough, this collection features a wide, wide variety of Zippo lighters.

**Ukulele Books** - <http://www.baymoon.com/~ukulelebooks/>

Using old ukuleles, Peter Thomas makes them into books, yet those uke books can still play. "The first time I carried this "ukulele book" on a trip, I found the flaw in my plan; it sounded and played terrible. I determined that every ukulele book after that would have to be able to play. I then got this idea to try to make a series of artists books out of ukuleles. They would incorporate every book structure, every format or concept I could think of, into a uke."

**Designer Creation** - <http://www.designercreation.com/>

Although they can't play, these custom-built tables still do a good job of looking like electric guitars. They also make custom-designed barstools and tables. The work is very nice indeed.

**NAMM Oddities** - <http://www.otheroom.com/namm/default.htm>

A site that certainly lives up to its name, and in-keeping with the musical theme, here's one man's photo gallery of some very bizarre looking guitars and other musical instruments.

**The Top 100 Gadgets of All Time** -

[http://www.mobilepcmag.com/features/2005\\_03/top100gadgets.html](http://www.mobilepcmag.com/features/2005_03/top100gadgets.html)

From oddjects to gadgets, this list features a vast array of human creativity, from the Rubik's Cube, to the Walkman, to the wristwatch, and beyond.

**Be A Bag** - <http://www.anyahindmarch.com/beabag/>

The ultimate in personalisation, this company will custom-print bags for you, featuring any photo or graphic you choose.

**Bag Ladies** - <http://www.bagladies.nl/>

Speaking of bags, here's a photo gallery of what you can find inside women's purses; sometimes an odd enough collection all on its own.

**Claire Hand's Rubber Duckies** - <http://www.hand-family.org/Claire/Duckies/>

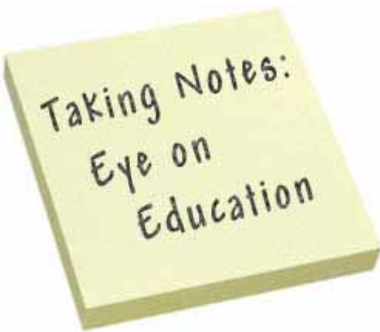
They say every picture tells a story... Well, apparently, every duckie's also got a story, and a photo to boot.

**Big Things** - <http://www.bigthings.ca/>

If bigger is better, this is the place to be, with its huge collection of pointers to very, very large objects. I wonder if I could spend that five-and-a-half metre wide twonie...



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)



## UNIVERSITY GOING TO THE WILD DOGS?

**Debbie Jabbour**

Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton recently had a surprise visit from a very unusual potential student - a coyote! The animal somehow found itself in downtown Edmonton, and eventually ended up inside an elevator at the college. He was finally cornered as he waited patiently outside the elevator doors. Wildlife officers trapped and released him outside the city.

Oddly enough, Edmonton institutions of higher learning have not been alone in coyote sightings. On the same day, the University of Calgary sent an email to all students warning them of several reports of coyotes in the university area, including an incident in which a 9-year old boy was purportedly bitten by a coyote in the south campus area near the volleydome. The U of C has taken the risk so seriously that they've posted an information link, "living with coyotes in Calgary," on the university's main page.

### References

- A not so wily coyote: Edmonton Journal, April 12, 2005, B1.
- University of Calgary coyote news: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/news/april05/coyotes.html>

## Women you should know

*Compiled by Barbara Godin*

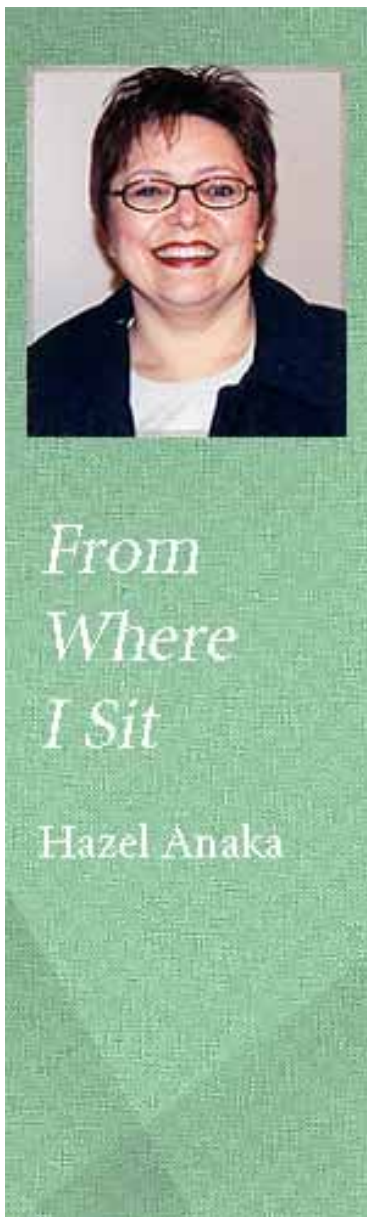
### *Jeanne-Marie (Bouvier) Guyon, (1648-1717)*

Jeanne-Marie (Bouvier) Guyon was born on April 13, 1648 at Montargis, in the Orleanais. Jeanne was a sickly child who was raised in a convent from the age of two. She had wanted to become a nun, but her parents would not allow it. At 16 years old, Jeanne married an older man who left her a wealthy widow with three children at the age of 28. Her 12-year marriage was fraught with misery and abuse. Following the death of her husband, Jeanne devoted her life to God. She actively shared her spiritual experiences, while also helping the poor and needy. However, the Catholic Church did not appreciate her preaching, stating that only priests were able to pray and spread the word of God. Madame Guyon was not deterred and continued her mission. Ultimately, the Catholic Church had her arrested and she spent seven years in prison. During her incarceration, she wrote a 20-volume commentary on the Bible, as well as an autobiography and many other shorter works. Madame Guyon, died June 9, 1717 and remains a controversial figure today.

### Sources for additional information:

Degert, A. (2003). Jeanne-Marie Bouvier de la Motte-Guyon. *Catholic Encyclopedia*. Retrieved April 18, 2005, from <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07092b.htm>

Other Women's Voices (2005). Jeanne Marie Bouvier de La Motte Guyon /Madame Guyon (1648-1717). Retrieved April 18, 2005, from <http://home.infionline.net/~ddisse/guyon.html>



## Purses, Bags and Totes

Every woman has known the challenge of buying just the right purse. It can't be too big and heavy or the chiropractor is upset. It can't be too small or it becomes useless. Just like Baby Bear's chair, bed and porridge -- it has to be *just right*.

I am the self-confessed mother of a girl with a purse fetish. Hilary's purse collection is the subject of a strange mixture of awe, disbelief and envy. She advises the purse-challenged. She gives purses as gifts. She is a connoisseur who also loves a bargain.

Through a lifetime of using purses I've had all kinds. Big ones and little ones, clutches and shoulder bags, expensive ones and cheap ones. I used to be a bit of a snob. If it wasn't leather I didn't want it. That's plain crazy. Who would want to rule out micro-fibres, straw, faux leather, and fabric? Or the latest fashion colors and finishes?

Purses and totes are utilitarian, fashion statements that most women can't do without. The ones with multiple pockets and sections help me organize my life, planner, receipts, ID, keys, business cards, coupons and lipstick. It becomes a portable, mini command centre. In it is a little notebook with the titles of books I have. This keeps me from buying duplicates. Paint and fabric swatches and key measurements of furniture or rooms help keep renovation projects on track. Maintaining a list of replacement ink/roller cartridge numbers for the fax and printer saves time and prevents buying mistakes.

In purses with just one cavernous space everything ends up at the bottom. It ain't pretty finding anything in one of those. And if you do, it's probably damaged.

In an effort to lighten the hold on my shoulder, I've moved to smaller purses. Because I still need all my stuff, I also carry a tote bag. It may never get out of my vehicle but it's got reading material, cell phone, shoes, makeup bag and any other specifics I may need that particular day. I've also got totes dedicated to particular projects: work, art card portfolio, painting portfolio,

university course work, and an Edmonton day trip.

If I can buy on sale a bag I love -- yeehaw! If I can buy a bag while on holiday, great memento! If I can buy used tote bags at a garage sale or second-hand store to transport paintings, I feel righteous!

Perhaps the only person who rivals me in my love and use of bags and totes is an instructor I had many moons ago at Lakeland College's summer program in Vermilion. Betty was a calligraphy master and a very generous teacher. She carried a huge selection of paper, quote books, paint and calligraphy supplies in a variety of bags, totes, and wheeled cases. The vanity licence plate on her van was "Bag Lady."

The next time you find a purse or tote calling your name, answer the call by buying a new one for your collection. You'll be glad you did, 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.

## british columbia

### VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL Vancouver, BC - 16-23 May 2005

The Vancouver International Children's Festival provides an exciting treat for all the family and features the finest in children's entertainment from across Canada and around the world. Vanier Park springs to life during this popular annual extravaganza.

Children are educated, entertained and inspired through a varied programme of theatre, dance, storytelling, puppetry and music. Jugglers, clowns, acrobats and trapeze artists blur the boundaries between reality and fantasy while singalong concerts, puppet shows and comedy performers entertain the crowds.

Venue: Vanier Park, 1100, Chestnut St, Vancouver

## ontario

### DU MAURIER WORLD STAGE FESTIVAL Toronto, ON - On now until April 27th, 2005

North America's largest international theatre festival, the Du Maurier World Stage Festival takes place at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

For 18 days, stages across Toronto bring the city alive. Many performances are free, and there are hundreds of additional events to be enjoyed. These include exhibitions of stage sets and designs, late-night cabarets, one-person shows, directors' workshops led by some of the world's finest theatre directors, playwrights' readings, discussion panels, on-stage interviews and tribute performances. There's something for all ages here in this vibrant theatrical experience. Don't miss out.  
Harbourfront Centre, 235, Queens Quay West,

Toronto, ON - 416 973 4000 -  
[info@harbourfront.com](mailto:info@harbourfront.com)

### ESP PSYCHIC EXPO & PSYCHIC, MYSTIC'S AND SEER'S FAIR - Toronto, Ontario

22-24 April 2005  
Fri 4pm-11pm ; Sat 11am-10pm ; Sun 11am-7pm

Cost \$10, seniors C\$7, under 12s free with an adult

Toronto's Exhibition Place feeds the soul with the ESP Psychic Expo and Psychic, Mystic's and Seer's Fair. For three days, visitors can consult scores of gurus who believe that they know the answer to all those disquieting questions like "why are we here?" and "where is the soul?" Along with the speakers and lectures there are purveyors of palmistry, numerology, astrological predictions tailored to your individual details and even the paranormal.

Exhibition Place - 416 263 3600  
Contact - 416 461 5306 - [dn@caribphoto.com](mailto:dn@caribphoto.com)

## quebec

### AFRICAN AND CREOLE FILM FESTIVAL Montreal, Quebec 14-24 April 2005

This annual film festival in Montreal devotes nine days to African and Creole films, shown in the Cinéma Beaubien and the NFB Cinema. The screenings of fiction and documentary, full-length and short films are followed by discussions with the filmmakers.

Cost - \$7  
Venues - Cinéma Beaubien - NFB Cinema  
Contact - 514 284 3322 - [info@vuesdafrique.org](mailto:info@vuesdafrique.org)

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**

## EXPORT AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONSULTANTS.

Placements Impact Canada Ltd, 1250 University Street (B.1073)  
Montreal, Quebec H3B 3K5 fax: (450) 6567116

**Internship types:** Accounting, Admin (Hospitality, Sports), Communications, Counselling, Economics, Engineering (Mechanical), Finance, International Relations, Labor & Industrial Relations, Liberal Arts, Marketing, Ad, PR, Political Science/Politics, Public Admin, Public Pol, Govt, Social Sciences, Social Work, Sociology, Urban & Regional Planning, Hotel/Restaurant/Hospitality, Tourism and Development

Qualifications / skills needed:

- Multilingual and strong multi-cultural management style are important.
- Strong process orientation to sales and sales management is critical.
- Export customer service and/or shipping experience helpful.
- Commercial courses and courses in export shipping and documentation helpful.
- Interacting as required with International Sales management team to insure their needs are met.
- Exposure to international credit and collections.
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and consistently deliver results
- Must have good word and excel skills.
- Candidates must be ready to travel overseas if required.
- Candidates must have some English skills (other languages a must).
- A College or University degree could be required by employers.
- Ability to work independently and in team situation.

**Description:** As an International Recruiting Firm based in Montreal (Business Partners in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Chicago and New-York city), we are presently looking for motivated candidates in Export and International Business area (Permanent and Contract Positions available in 2004-2005): International Business Consultants and Export Consultants. You will be calling on North American prospects who need to know about international markets. You may, however, have some opportunities to travel to meet face-to-face with your prospects and clients in the course of your work. Attractive salaries and packages (including life insurance, paid vacation,..). We will provide the work placement/work permit (Visa if necessary) with our Corporate clients in Canada and in USA.

**Highlights:** If you are interested by a high-level career/trainee position in Export/International trade, please, send us a resume thru email, mail or fax (ref. 024GA).

**Company Address:** Placements Impact Canada Ltd, 1250 University Street, (B.1073), H3B 3K5, Montreal, QC  
Attn.: Mr Peter Hamond, MBA, Associate and HR Manager; Fax: (450) 6567116

Language required: English.

This internship is a paid position.

Application process involves: Resume, Written Application.

Post services include: Job and Internship Network.

Dates: Immediately and year January 2005.



## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi*

### ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY AND STUDENTAWARDS.COM \$500 BURSARY

Value: \$500

Application Deadline: May 30, 2005

**Description:** Athabasca University has an international reputation for excellence and innovation in online and distance education. It is a publicly funded university located in the province of Alberta, and is a full member of the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada. To be eligible for the chance to win a \$500 bursary from Athabasca University and Studentawards, students must be a member of Studentawards.com and have registered for at least one online or distance education course at Athabasca University.

web site: [http://www.studentawards.com/campaign/Athabasca/docroot/b\\_rules.asp?](http://www.studentawards.com/campaign/Athabasca/docroot/b_rules.asp?)

### PARKLAND ESSAY CONTEST

Deadline: May 31, 2005

The Parkland Institute and Alberta Views magazine have launched their annual essay writing contest for 2005. The contest is open to students registered in any high school, undergrad, and graduate program within Alberta. The essay should be approximately 1000 words in length and written about the following topic:

"Now that the Provincial government has declared Alberta 'debt free,' and with windfall resource revenues making anything possible, what does the Alberta you want to live in look like?"

The student with the best essay in each of the three categories will win \$500 and one of the winning essays will be published in the Alberta Views magazine.

Include your name, address, phone number, school, and category (high school, undergraduate, and graduate) on the first page of your essay.

Submit essays to:

Parkland Institute, 11045 Saskatchewan Drive, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E1

Phone: (780) 492-8558. Fax: (780) 492-8738

e-mail: [parkland@ualberta.ca](mailto:parkland@ualberta.ca)

### CANADIAN SANITATION SUPPLY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Value: \$2,000

Number of Awards: 8

Application Deadline: June 1

**Description:** For Canadian students attending college or university in Canada. High school applicants must be in their graduating year. Applicants must demonstrate academic and social achievements. Must submit 500 word essay on: Why Go Green?

**Instructions:** Employment history, activity and leadership record, evaluation form, photograph, and transcripts are required. For more information, please visit the website posted below

**Contact Information:** Canadian Sanitation Supply Association (CSSA) / L'Association canadienne des fournisseurs de produits sanitaires (L'ACFPS)

Web Site: <http://www.cssa.com>



#### 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - PERSON. COLOR. NATURE. MUSIC

May 18, 2005 - May 21, 2005 - Daugavpils Latvia

- Psychology for Sustainable Education: challenge or illusion?
- Sustainable Education for All.
- Innovation in Teachers Professional Development - Changes in Education.
- Problems of Art and Art Education.
- Generative Art.
- Tendencies of Development of Music Pedagogy.
- Multi Media Technology and Computer Design.

#### ASSOCIATION, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT CONFERENCE

May 24, 2005 - Oakland, California, USA - <http://nposector.us>

The Association, Government, and NonProfit Symposium will be held on May 24, 2005, at the Jack London Inn, Oakland. Join professionals and colleagues for dynamic presentations in this collaborative environment:

- Fundraising for Non-Profits
- Starting Your Own Non-Profit
- Quickbooks for Associations and Non-Profits
- Legal Issues for Associations and Non-Profits
- Protect Your Employees with Medical Benefits
- Networking and Increasing Your Sphere of Influence
- Capacity Assessment for Non-Profit Organizations
- Marketing Techniques for Associations and Non-Profits
- Peer Consulting Roundtable

#### THE ART OF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

May 25, 2005 - May 26, 2005 - London, UK - <http://www.caol.info/conference05.htm>

Reservations Hotline - 0845 331 3402

Previous models for leadership training are no longer appropriate for the 21st Century. The Centre for Arts & Organisational Leadership recognises that we are all more business literate and aware than at any time in the past and, even at local level, are faced with ever increasing competition. We have instant access to more information than previous generations could have dreamed of, that wealth of data can create confusion. It is time for a new paradigm, for new models and new approaches to leadership and leadership practices, to ensure that you remain at the cutting edge of your sector.

The Conference will showcase expert international speakers who are all leaders in their fields of expertise. However, you will not just listen to a sage on a stage. You will be offered demonstrations, workshops and showcases. You will be challenged to adjust your vision to the way that the arts are perceived ... no longer as entertainment or relaxation but, as dynamic tools for change, for education and for success. You will discover how to convert that new vision into a set of powerful, practical strategies to create qualified and quantified improvements within your organisation. Delegates will come from the broadest spectrum of enterprise, including Government Agencies, Local Authorities, The National Health Service, Global Corporations and Entrepreneurial Manufacturing and Service Businesses and academic institutions. You will have ample opportunities to network with them all - from CEOs and Chairmen to innovators, academics and individuals in private practice.

You can meet and speak with our celebrity speakers, some of whom normally command large sums for their 'one-on-one' consultancy and coaching. In addition, you are offered the confidential services of an executive coach (either during or after the conference) to embed your new experience, sustain your learning and then introduce this knowledge into your own organisation. The exclusive Executive Coaching component of the Conference offers you a unique opportunity to test the effectiveness of coaching for yourself and will show how you can introduce coaching within all levels of your enterprise.

There is also opportunity to meet the speakers, celebrities and workshop facilitators in a relaxed atmosphere so join us for an early Champagne Breakfast on Day One or and Early Bird Breakfast on Day Two, rub shoulders with the speakers

and facilitators, book these separately but don't delay as we are only able to accept limited numbers for these special events. The Centre is dedicated to exploring research and cutting edge innovations in leadership and effective management. It offers dynamic interactive methodologies and practices that go way beyond the theoretical, to deliver practical and effective tools and support. Hosting this brand new event is just one of many proactive ventures that are undertaken during the year.

#### **ELECTROCOR 2005**

**May 2 - May 4, 2005 - Cadiz, Spain - <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/ecor05/index.html>**

ELECTROCOR 2005 aims to present and discuss the state of the art on the computer simulation of electrochemical processes and the electric fields associated with these processes. Comparison of simulation with experimental measurements is actively encouraged as well as the presentation of case studies.

Modern Industry applies a wide range of electrochemical processes to protect against corrosion, provide surface treatments and to manufacture products. This conference is focused on the computer modelling of these industrial processes and techniques. Engineering uses electrochemical processes to protect structures and systems against corrosion. Cathodic protection is widely used in the Maritime, Defence, Oil & Gas and Utility industries to control corrosion. The electrical and magnetic fields associated with the electrochemical processes is also of significant interest to engineers responsible for the performance of maritime systems, the operators of rail systems and owners of electrical transmission systems. For instance, system interactions between rail and commuter electric light-rail, are of concern to operators. Electrochemical systems are widely used to deposit coatings on the surface of products and structures. The accurate prediction of the performance of the coating and the optimisation of the process is of major importance to manufacturing engineers. Electrochemical techniques are also used to form or fabricate a wide variety of different products. The common theme of this conference is the development of computational models and their application.

#### **LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR SUPERVISORS - HOUSTON**

**May 2, 2005 - May 3, 2005 - Houston, Texas, USA**

**<http://www.peice.com/eventdetails.aspx?event=101545&ref=Allconferences&rfi=16734>**

Fee: \$ 1095 USD - This two-day course presents practical principles to assist supervisors and managers in their efforts to motivate and mobilize team members toward the fulfillment of objectives. Course discussions and case studies will focus on topics which participants have identified as challenges in their current job assignments. The session, designed to help participants bring out the best in their subordinates, is designed for those currently in, or aspiring to, supervisory positions. A complete set of course materials and lunch are included. Due to the highly interactive nature of this course, the session is limited to a maximum of 20 participants.

#### **Course Outline:**

- Introduction - Leadership
- The Uniqueness of Individuals - Basic Human Needs
- Understanding Personality Types and Motivational Differences
- The Requirement for Trust - The Leadership Entry Point
- "Good versus Best" - Prioritizing Activities and Resources
- Achieving Results Through Others - Strategic Delegation
- Significant Achievement Through Teams
- Cultivating Good Decision Making Habits
- Preventing and Resolving Inevitable Conflict
- Effective Negotiation - Building Mutually Beneficial Relationships

Please note that this course, or portions of this course, are also currently available as one or more live, interactive, instructor-led online seminars (typically 1-3 hour sessions) for groups of 6 or more participants from your organization.

#### **TRANSLOCALITY. DISCUSSING CULTURE AND CHANGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**MAY 3-8, 2005 - Merida, Mexico - <http://www.cas-sca.ca/meetings.htm>**

Our increasingly complex world cannot be understood today as a collection of self-contained localities. Anthropology has been quick to respond to the challenges posed by the new forms of hybridity and intensified exchange between localities, nations and world regions. One of the implications of the new approaches is that our perspective itself has changed the way we perceive culture, borders, power and change. The relationships between localities and supralocal or global institutions continue to change according to fluctuations in larger socioeconomic cultural and political processes. It is possible to argue that localities may open or close themselves to the world, according to changes in their larger, socioeconomic and cultural environment. In the meantime, the new movements for aboriginal rights and

other social movements are staking their claims on strong notions of place and locality, which are often conflated with identity and cultural belonging. Furthermore, the idiom of the nation is gaining new strength as it is redefined outside its prior identification with the boundaries of States.

The Canadian Anthropological Society / Societe Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA), the Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA), and the Facultad de Ciencias Antropológicas de la Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY) have joined to hold together their 2005 Conference in the city of Merida, Yucatan, in Mexico. This tri-national and tri-lingual anthropology conference will take place May 3-8, 2005 at the central campus of the Autonomous University of Yucatan. We invite you to explore with us the issues of locality, translocality, nationality and transnationality in what promises to be an exciting transnational gathering, bringing together anthropologists from around the world.

#### **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CONFIDENTIALITY, PRIVACY AND DISCLOSURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY** **May 3, 2005 - Manchester, UK - <http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/capri/symposium/>**

The issues of Confidentiality and Privacy took numerous twists and turns during the second half of the 20th Century, as the media globalisation, computing, the Internet, surveillance technology all emerged and then became more sophisticated, faster, and more efficient. As we have entered the 21st century the notion of the Grid has appeared with its promise of fast distributed analyses over multiple, very large sets of data. The potential for linking data of different types, and from different sources has become more feasible.

In the light of these changes the notion of confidentiality has itself been required to change taking into account the new technology, but also using that technology through sophisticated systems of disclosure control and more recently through such ideas as intruder detection and data sentries. This symposium will bring together international experts in confidentiality and privacy research from the fields of law, data protection, statistics, social science and computer science to debate the implications of recent technological advances.

Key questions to be addressed are:

- How is new technology going to affect the way we view privacy, confidentiality and disclosure?
- How can technology be used to enable confidentiality rather than threatening it?
- How is disclosure risk assessed? How is that likely to change over time?

Papers will be given by experts in confidentiality and privacy: describing their research, discussing the relationship between research and policy, together with future gazing - outlining the possibilities, potential threats and opportunities. The day will be structured around eight speakers with plenty of discussion time.

Contributors: The keynote address will be given by Professor George Duncan from Carnegie Mellon University, USA. Other invited speakers include: Professor John Forster (University of Southampton); Professor JJ Salaza (University of Tenerife); Dr Michael Carlson (University of Stockholm); Julian Stander (University of Plymouth); Dr. Dean Judson (US Census Bureau); Prof. Charles Raab (University of Edinburgh) and Dr. Francis Aldhouse (UK, Information Commission).

#### **THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD** **May 6, 2005 - May 8, 2005 - Canterbury, UK**

The Archaeology of Infancy and Childhood Conference 2005 is designed to provide a relaxed forum for postgraduate students and other researchers to explore new ideas concerning the place and worth of young children within the archaeological record. Despite previous attempts by past researchers, children remain largely invisible within modern archaeological reporting and theory formation. The aim of the conference is twofold. It seeks to highlight the social, cultural and symbolic worth of infants and children within period-specific societies, while also emphasising the ability of such individuals to inform archaeology on wider cultural issues.

#### **GLOBALIZATION AND HORIZONS OF FUTURE EDUCATION** **May 10-11, 2005 - Ma'an, Jordan - <http://www.ahu.edu.jo>**

Conference Objectives - The conference aims at presenting scientific papers which contribute to:

- promote learning/teaching processes to comprehend globalization concepts.
- benefit from globalization outputs in higher education institutions with the aims of benefiting from other nations' experience and promoting education.
- introduce concepts of cognitive economy and control quality curricula.
- introduce e-learning into higher education in situations.

Conference Themes

First Theme - Globalization Impact on Teaching and Learning



Second Theme - The Conflict between Localization and Globalization  
Third Theme - Globalization Impact on Higher Education Institutions  
Fourth Theme - Globalization Reality and Aspirations  
Fifth Theme - E-education and Globalization  
Sixth Theme - Cognitive Economy and Quality Control in the light of Globalization

Please address correspondence to the attention of:

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#### **EARLY LITERACY IN A CHANGING WORLD**

**May 7, 2005 - Portland, ME, USA - <http://www.mainehumanities.org/programs/btr-conference.html>**

A conference for exploring the many paths to early literacy, sponsored by Born to Read, a program of the Harriet P. Henry Center for the Book at the Maine Humanities Council. This conference is designed for child care providers, preschool teachers, and others who work with children 0-5. Eight workshops offered in morning and afternoon sessions will promote the many paths to early literacy development-from storytelling to music to book selection and use. Lunch will be included to give conferees an opportunity to meet and discuss their work. The conference will feature keynote presentations from nationally acclaimed children's book writers and illustrators:

Rosemary Wells is the author and illustrator of over 60 picture books and is the creator of such memorable characters as Max and Ruby, Yoko and Emily. Well's picture books are entirely populated by animals. They address universal childhood themes of love, laughter, hope, and heroism in spirited tales, enabling children to confront their fears with confidence and optimism. At the conference, Wells will discuss the many issues relating to early literacy for children in today's changing social environment. Conferees will learn about her Read to Your Bunny initiative and her philosophy and ideas for tackling issues for young children.

Ashley Bryan is an artist, storyteller, poet, folklorist and performer who has traveled all over the world performing and talking about his books that highlight West African tales and the African-American experience. At the conference, Bryan will present a performance on Friday evening that is open to the public; on Saturday, he will present workshops on storytelling and folktales, open to early childhood professionals. This conference will be presented concurrently with "Blueberries and Moose: A Festival of Maine Children's Literature," being held at the Portland Public Market on May 7th. Conferees will have an opportunity to visit the displays and booths of many Maine authors and illustrators of children's books.

#### **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 SPORTS CLUB SEEKS NEW EXECUTIVE** The AU Sports Club is looking for AU students who are interested in serving on the AUSC executive. All that is required is a few hours a week to respond to emails, add new members to the discussion forum, and locate information to update the website or forum sections. Being on a club executive is a great way to meet other AU students!

## THE VOICE

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## THE VOICE ONLINE: [WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE](http://WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE)

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