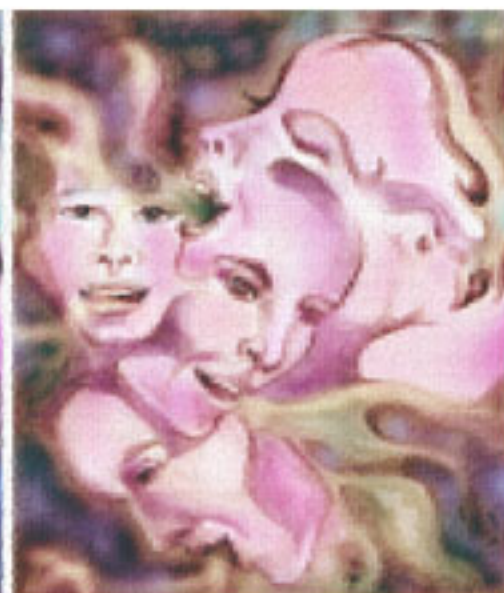
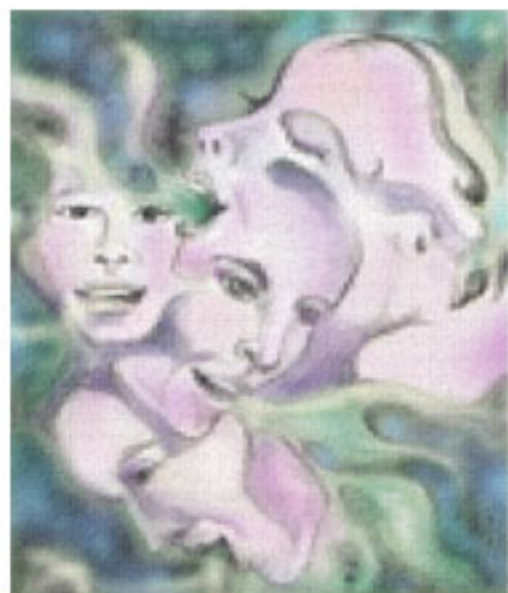


# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*Jun 8, 2005*  
*Volume 13 Issue 23*



## *Gay and Lesbian Update* *Amazing Race runners marry in Canada*

*Taking Notes*  
*A New Online University!*

*Dear Barb returns*  
*Planning a family*

*Plus:*  
*Lost & Found*  
*The Good Life*  
*From Where I Sit*  
*Taking Notes*  
*Canadian Fedwatch*  
*Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan*  
*Dear Barb*  
*Women You Should Know*  
*AUSU This Month*

*and much more...*

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El-ahrairah Jones



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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.

## THE VOICE

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**THE VOICE ONLINE:**  
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*The Voice* is published every  
Wednesday in html and pdf format

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University's *The Insider* for its  
frequent contributions

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

On June 1, 2005, Lynn Warren and Alex Ali of *The Amazing Race 7* fame were married in Ottawa. They were invited to the Capital by local radio station HOT 89.9 FM. Following the announcement, local sponsors such as Ottawa Tourism and the Hudson's Bay Company jumped on board to sponsor the event. Warren and Ali were appreciative of the Capital's celebration of their love, and highly recommended it as a wedding destination. Tourism officials hailed it as advertising you couldn't buy.

- <http://tinyurl.com/a8tqf>
  - <http://tinyurl.com/8vryl>
- 

Pat O'Brien, MP for London-Fanshawe, has left the Liberal Party over his opposition to same-sex marriage. canadaeast.com reported that Prime Minister Paul Martin met with several dissident MPs over the issue so that they would vote for bill C-38. However, many wanted further strengthening of protection for those who do not wish to perform same-sex marriages, and no deal was reached. O'Brien plans to do everything he can to oppose bill C-38.

- <http://tinyurl.com/dfzwm>
  - <http://tinyurl.com/9pvob>
- 

Jason Perrino and Colin Snow wish to be married in the Northwest Territories, so they have filed a law suit to gain this right. None of the governments are opposing the suit against the government, however, it has been delayed to allow Ruby and Laurin Trudel of Yellowknife to intervene in the case. The couple wishes to oppose same-sex marriage and feel this is their moment to speak up.

- <http://tinyurl.com/8kqoa>
  - <http://tinyurl.com/azn5g>
- 

A conservative Christian group has ended its 9-year boycott against Disney. The boycott by the American Family Association had limited to no impact, and the group feels they need to devote more resources to it if it's to continue. They feel the situation will be better resolved with Disney President Michael Eisner's retirement.

- <http://tinyurl.com/b23tb>
- 

Microsoft has severed ties with Ralph Reed, a conservative Republican lobbyist and former head of a notable Christian organization. He served as a political consultant to Microsoft, and was a vocal opponent of LGBT rights. He's now running for lieutenant governor of Georgia, but Microsoft had a

public relations nightmare after it withdrew its support for a Washington civil rights bill. The bill lost by a single vote thanks to Microsoft's anti-gay views. Microsoft later reversed itself to say it did support civil rights.

- <http://tinyurl.com/963pd>
- 

Gay weddings have come to TV. Last week Global TV launched *My Fabulous Gay Wedding*, hosted by Scott Thompson, former star of *The Kids in the Hall*. In the series, the team Thompson puts together has two weeks to arrange a wedding, with food, location, decor and the whole nine yards. Producers expect controversy over the show, but for now, couples can happily celebrate their nuptials on national TV... in Canada.

- <http://tinyurl.com/bpr7z>
- 

New Paltz, New York Mayor, Jason West, is going to trial. He faces 24 misdemeanour counts for violating the state's law on domestic relations by marrying couples without a marriage license last February 2004. The state's highest court ruled Friday, May 27 that the village mayor will go to trial. His actions came after San Francisco started issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, despite the fact that it is not legal in California. Mayor West will be leading the upcoming Gay Pride parade, New Paltz's first, this weekend.

- <http://tinyurl.com/8jyq2>
  - <http://tinyurl.com/d8s2h>
- 

Colorado's Governor Bill Owens vetoed a bill to outlaw workplace discrimination against gays and lesbians, but he allowed a protection under the state's hate crimes law to protect gays and lesbians. Many groups are confused by this contradictory decision.

- <http://tinyurl.com/8bp2a>
- 

### *Quote of the Month*

"A straight man knows that if he knocks a woman up, he's on the hook for child-support payments for 18 years. [I propose that if you] infect someone with HIV out of malice or negligence ... the state [should] come after you for half the cost of the meds the person you infected is going to need. (The man you infected is 50 percent responsible for his own infection.) Once a few dozen men in New York City, San Francisco, Toronto, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, and Vancouver are having their wages docked for drug-support payments, other gay men will be a lot more careful about not spreading HIV. Trojan won't be able to make condoms fast enough."

-- Syndicated gay columnist Dan Savage, Feb. 24.



This is a very difficult column for me to write, and one that I'm not sure that I should be writing at all. However, it's been preying on my mind since our latest British Columbia provincial election back on May 17th.

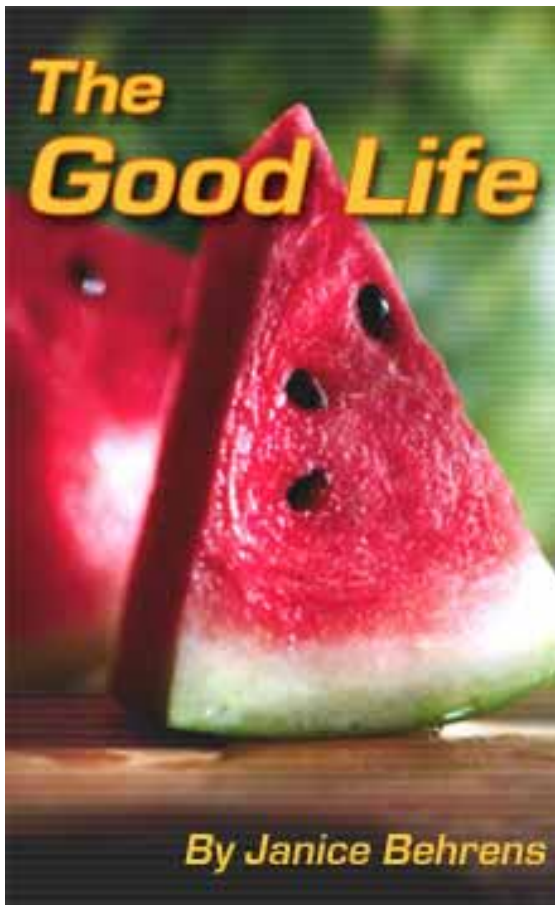
Before I get into it, let me clarify a couple of things for the record. Firstly, I voted in this election, as I have done without exception in every provincial and federal election I've been eligible to vote in since I turned eighteen years old. Casting my ballot is something that I believe, at least in principle, is the right and responsibility of each and every one of us. To not bother spending an hour of my time to make my way to the polls and participate in the democratic process would have caused me too much guilt. Secondly, although some of my friends and acquaintances may disagree, I don't consider myself to be an especially cynical person. On the whole, I believe that humanity may be misguided, but most people are generally well intentioned. Most people I know care about their children. They may disagree on the finer points, but they support the idea of health care and public education. They believe in human rights and are typically caring and honest. I also believe that we are lucky to live in a country as free, as stable, and as multi-culturally vibrant as Canada.

Having said all that, though, I am troubled by the strong feeling I have that all of the best things about our country and about our lives as citizens are in grave danger of being eroded and lost. In the area of human rights, every week I see battles being fought in the fields of women's equality, poverty, education, childcare, mental health and gay rights that should have been settled decades ago. Anyone who hasn't spent the last couple of decades living in a cave knows that our environment is in grave danger. From the forests to the ozone layer we, along with the rest of the world, are systematically destroying the planet we live on in the name of convenience and cold, hard cash. Our food sources are being contaminated, our resources are being depleted, and our air and water are slowly being poisoned. Throughout the world, a power elite of corporate interests is manipulating government policies. All the while, we concerned, caring and supposedly well-educated citizens are burying our heads firmly up our rear-ends. We are driving bigger and more toxic vehicles, buying more useless products, and consuming more and more pesticide-laden and genetically modified organisms (GMO)-laced foods. We are repeatedly voting for regressive political leadership as long as it means we can pay a few dollars less in taxation.

All of this brings me back to the most recent B.C. provincial election in which our neo-conservative Liberals were reinstalled for another four years of gleeful *poor bashing* and *corporate kowtowing*. Once again, there was the predictable cry of outrage that only about fifty per cent of eligible voters bothered to show up at the polls. "You can't complain if you don't vote," goes the typical refrain from the responsible democratic participants. It's something I've said myself on many occasions.

This year, though, I can't help but feel a little differently. This year, I can't help but think about the fact that most of us rely on the mainstream media for our information about what is going on in the world. Media owned and controlled by the same power elite, the same vested corporate interests that are digging our global graves are also our primary information source. To boot, most of us are so creepily self-absorbed and self-interested that we couldn't give a shit about the more marginalized elements of society. This year, I can't help but think that the political process has become a tyranny of the self-interested majority. I can't help but wonder if the fact that half of all eligible voters stayed home on election night is a reflection of the feelings of disgust and powerlessness that such a political system generates.

If we are soon headed for another federal election, as it looks very likely, I will once again take my place in the queue of voters. To be honest, though, I will be voting with a sense of resignation and duty, rather than a feeling of joy at participating in the democratic process.



## Summer is Vegetable Barbecuing Season

I have a firmly held belief that life is too short for fast food. It is too short, in fact, to bother with treating meals as simply a source of energy -- something to be boiled in a bag for five minutes before rushing out of the door, or something ordered by speaking into an intercom and then quickly gobbling it down in the car between appointments. The preparation and enjoyment of meals is a time to open up the senses and relish the company of family and good friends.

And at no time of the year is the enjoyment of food more intense than during the summer barbecue season, when the sizzle of meat on an outdoor grill is as prevalent as the hiss of sprinklers on grass. I have a special section of my recipe folder for my favourite barbecue dishes: skewers of fat tiger prawns alternated with ruby-red bell peppers; thick lamb burgers stuffed with feta cheese, seasoned with pepper, and studded with capers and chopped sun-dried tomatoes; and slow-grilled baby back pork ribs that have been marinated in peanut oil and hoisin sauce.

Barbecue season, though, needn't be something that is looked forward to only by meat eaters. My friend Allison, a vegetarian for twenty years, is one of the most enthusiastic backyard grillers that I know. With the artful use of paper lanterns, fairy lights, and plenty of potted trees, she has transformed the large patio of her smallish condominium into a jewelled, bower-like sanctum. Taking pride of place in this refuge is a stainless-steel outdoor grill that she uses for preparing a host of colourful and absolutely delicious vegetarian dishes.

Amongst my favourite of these dishes are her grilled eggplant and mozzarella *burgers* served on whole wheat, sesame seed buns that she buys fresh from the bakery next door. The key, she tells me, is to buy the best quality mozzarella and freshest eggplant that you can lay your hands on. As for preparation, it's simplicity itself. Just drizzle some olive oil on both sides of thick slices of ripe eggplant, then generously season with sea salt and fresh ground pepper. The cooking time for the eggplant is roughly ten to twelve minutes, depending on the thickness of the slices, and involves the occasional turning between sips of white wine or Mojitos. Another two or three minutes on the grill will melt the cheese. Last night, she served these burgers with a side dish of vegetables (i.e., peppers, asparagus, and cherry tomatoes) cooked on the grill in tin foil packages.

Can you think of a simpler or better tasting way to load up on all of the anti-oxidants that vegetables have to offer?

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## CANADIAN FED WATCH!

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### NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

*By Karl Low*



#### Research Receives More Money

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada has announced funding for almost 1000 research projects, to the tune of \$81.2 million dollars. If you'd care to know what that buys, you can take a look at the list of projects. While I don't like to denigrate research projects, I wonder why the University of British Columbia is receiving \$35,000 for "Imagining the Victorian Mind." After all, PBS's "1900 House" is only \$35. Even given the exchange rate, the funding seems a bit excessive, perhaps because I don't have enough imagination to see how imagining a Victorian mind is worth \$35,000. Of course, the list is huge, so I'm sure everybody can find at least one thing that makes them scratch their head.

The same day the list was released, the Prime Minister said "We need to continue to invest in research in Canada," in a speech in Montreal. So it seems that part of his vision is at least happening. Now if only he could be convinced that helping people to get a post-secondary education is the first basic step to encouraging research and innovation.

#### Tax Cuts for Tuition

The provincial government of New Brunswick has implemented the tax cut for tuition program that I wrote about a few issues ago. There are no changes from what was proposed, so there's not really any news here. While this may seem like a big step to the government, depriving themselves of up to \$10,000 in total tax revenue from each student, for those who are struggling to get their post-secondary education, it's no support at all. After all, if you're having trouble making ends meet so you can afford tuition, the odds are good that you're not paying tax to begin with.

Who this does help, however, are those families that can afford to send their students to college but find themselves with a high tax bill. In other words, those who are already fairly well-off and having little trouble affording education in the first place. If this is their idea of "investing in education", they need to go back to school. This is investing in a tax break. While I like tax breaks as much as the next guy, we should be honest about what is being done.

#### PEI Promotes Services from Students

It's an interesting program that the province of Prince Edward Island has in place. Students in grade eleven or twelve can earn a tuition credit by completing between 30 and 100 hours of community service. This credit is then awarded as a bursary for when they go forward with their education. Not only does it give students a way to help earn their education, it also serves to promote volunteerism, and this in turn helps other disadvantaged people. It seems like a triple win program, and over five years it has cost less than half a million dollars. For those keeping score, that's only 14 of UBC's "imaginings." Imagine that.

#### Environmental Enforcement

As a side note, because I thought it was interesting, An Alberta man was recently caught and fined \$18,000 for trafficking in eagles. Meanwhile, in Newfoundland and Labrador, nine people have recently been charged, some convicted, for poaching salmon.

Of course, the guys in Newfoundland calling themselves "The Untouchables" probably didn't help their case. What is it with people not understanding why there are restrictions on hunting animals? The government generally doesn't restrict people from hunting these things on a whim -- there's no money in it for them, after all. Enforcement probably costs a lot more than any fine that's been applied, to say nothing of court costs. Could we just leave protected animals alone until they get their numbers back up and the restrictions come off. Not only is it the law, it means there'll be something to hunt next year.



## Click on This CREEPY CRAWLIES

Lonita Fraser

### Eyelash Creatures

<http://www.geocities.com/thesciencefiles/eyelash/creatures.html>

We know, logically, that the world is full of tiny things we cannot see, yet sometimes we're not so comfortable with being reminded of that fact - like when we look at this site which shows us what's creeping about on our eyelashes.

### Bug Bytes

<http://cmave.usda.ufl.edu/~rmankin/soundlibrary.html>

If you're not comfortable with looking, how about listening? Perhaps to a rice weevil larva eating inside a wheat kernel?

### Spider Myths

<http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/spidermyth/index.html>

Myths, mysteries, and misconceptions about everyone's favourite eight-legged creepy groove machine.

### Trapped in Amber

<http://www.uky.edu/ArtsSciences/Geology/webdogs/amber/thumbs/critterthumbs.html>

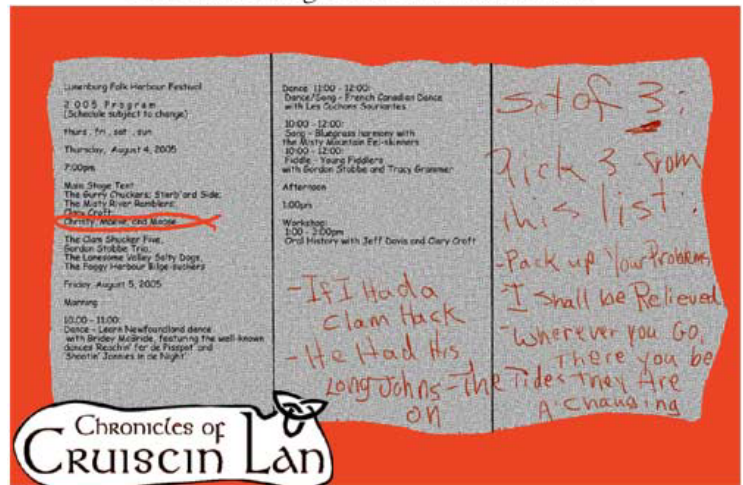
Amber is a precious gem, but sometimes it carries a little more than beauty - like these fossilised creepy crawlies.

### Glass Beetles

[http://mostlyglass.com/Artists/costantini/costantini\\_beetles.htm](http://mostlyglass.com/Artists/costantini/costantini_beetles.htm)

If the real thing is a bit too much to take, how about these gorgeous glass versions? Very pretty and amazing work.

Christy, Maeve and Belliveau in:  
~ The Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival ~





*Dear Barb,*

*My wife and I are in our early thirties. We have been married for 10 years and we both have successful careers. Throughout our marriage we have frequently discussed when would be the right time to start a family. We finally decided that this is the year. I really felt I was ready to be a father, but now that my wife is pregnant I'm having second thoughts. I don't feel that I can discuss my feelings with my wife since we both agreed this is what we wanted to do. I wonder what kind of a father I will be and if I can handle it. Also, I'm not sure I want to share my wife. Is there something wrong with me, or are these just "normal" fears? I'll be watching your column for your reply.*

*Don in Moose Jaw*

Congratulations Don, what an exciting, yet scary time for you and your wife.

First, I'd like to say that many other expectant fathers also experience the feelings of doubt and fear that you describe. Becoming a father is a monumental event that should not be taken lightly. You are going to become the *keeper* of a new life, which will bring you years of joy and tears. Your fears are justified, as you will have new and unfamiliar obligations and responsibilities to undertake. I bet that your wife is feeling a lot of the same concerns as you are.

It is very important that you share your feelings with your wife. Do not assume that she isn't going to understand, she most likely will feel relieved that she isn't the only one feeling a little overwhelmed with her soon-to-be new role. You may feel more comfortable if you discuss your new roles together and how to fulfill these obligations. For example, have you discussed what role grandparents will play in your child's life? Will they be secondary caregivers, or do they want to just occasionally be grandma and grandpa? Also discuss your religious expectations for your child. Who will be the godparents? Do you have siblings, or friends you want to be godparents? Discussing these items will help you to include others in your child's life. Thereby you will feel you have others to turn to *when* and *if* your new roles become too overwhelming or demanding. I am sure that grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends will look forward to becoming a part of this new life.

Attending your wife's doctor's appointments will also help you to feel a part of the pregnancy. Many men are left out of the pregnancy, yet they are expected to abruptly step into the role of parent once the child is born. This is unreasonable; fathers need an adjustment period as well. Pregnancy provides both parents an opportunity to gradually adapt to their new roles as mom and dad.

After discussing your feelings with your wife, if you still feel overwhelmed, consider seeing a professional counselor. Perhaps you can be referred to a group with other expectant fathers. This will help you to see that you are not alone; your fears are common to many expectant fathers.

Finally Don, I know becoming a new parent can be an overwhelming experience; however, for some things in life there is nothing you can do but take your time and gradually find your own way.

Good luck, I'm sure you and your wife will make wonderful parents.

*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.*

# AUSU THIS MONTH



## AUSU Course Evaluations

Would you like to know what your fellow students have thought of an AU course? If so, you are not alone. Many students find the input of their peers invaluable when selecting courses or a program of study. AU students may not have cafeterias and hallways in which to share this knowledge, but AUSU has provided an alternative: AUSU Course and Program Evaluation surveys.

Accessible through the "Course Evaluations" link on the right side of the top bar of AUSU.org, these surveys ask a series of questions about AUSU courses and programs. Each student may rate each course or program only once, to ensure the validity of the results, so you must be logged in to access a survey form. Anyone, however, may view the results. If you haven't already, please rate some courses you have taken so that others may benefit from your experience. Note: these surveys are not the same as the ones that AU distributes with their course manuals. No AU staff or faculty member has access to the AUSU website, nor can they determine who has filled out a survey. Your anonymity is assured.

## AUSU Discussion Forums and Chat

Looking for a way to interact with fellow students? Check out the AUSU discussion forums and chatroom, accessible through the top menu bar of AUSU.org. The forums contain many sections to address a wide variety of student interests. You'll find the most students in the General Student Chat section, but you may also wish to use one of the province or city-specific forums to speak with AU students in your local area.

## The AUSU Office has Moved

The Edmonton Learning Centre, 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, has moved to a new location in downtown Edmonton. The phone numbers and email addresses at the ELC remain the same. Watch AUSU.org for some photos of our new office once we get everything unpacked! Our new mailing address is: Athabasca University Students' Union, Peace Hills Trust Tower, 1200, 10011 109 St., Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

## AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

AUSU needs volunteer mentors to help new students adjust to AU and distance education. If you're an experienced AU student 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 help new students succeed with 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>





## Some of the Women Who Haunt Me (Unconfirmed Sightings of the Goddess)

I'm holding cotton candy in the circus tent. The fire-eater is standing in the middle of a garden of flame, her body covered with tattoos.

Two years before her drowning, the German exchange student is on the roof of the cathedral in Normandy, balanced between gargoyles, staring out into eternity.

Fifty feet below the surface, a girl in a wetsuit is picking a sea cucumber from the ocean floor off the coast of Gambier Island.

On a field of red dust beside a dry creek bed, a dark-skinned woman gathers sticks for an evening fire.

The dream ghost of my mother waves from the window of a passing train carriage.

Their faces hidden behind masks, a group of women disappear down a New Orleans alley, leaving behind laughter bright as trumpets.

At nine-years-old, I'm riding my blue bicycle past the backyard where Mrs. Ogilvie is tanning face down and topless on the fresh cut grass.

On Canada Day, when the rain is bouncing knee-high off the pavement, the motorcycle women are smoking cigarettes and eating oyster burgers at the *Fanny Bay Inn*.

Chagall's trapeze artist floats in a frozen downward arc past the fiddle-playing moon.

On the art gallery steps, the red-haired woman with the baby on her back stops to adjust her fishnet stockings.

The blues singer spits into the bucket on the stage of the smoke-filled club, runs the empty coke bottle across the strings of her steel guitar.

The eighty-seven-year-old grandmother of twelve finishes her degree in philosophy and wonders what she will do next.

Amelia Earhart disappears into a cloudless sky.

Night after night, the opera singer dies of tuberculosis and a broken heart in front of an appreciative audience.

In the mouldy basement suite, the single mother helps her son cut out construction-paper planets.

Holding back tears, a woman stands in front of a microphone reads and out the names of the engineering students who were murdered at *L'Ecole Polytechnique*.

On the wallpaper of Aunt Caroline's kitchen, red birds are sitting in the branches of green trees. She's standing over her gas stove stirring pots of jam, strawberry and damson.

In the morning newspaper, there are photographs of some of the women -- mothers, sisters, and daughters - who have disappeared from the streets of the downtown eastside.

On an August night, my wife is six months pregnant, riding a bicycle on a trail to the beach. A cloud passes from the face of the very ancient moon.



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 [voice@ausu.org](mailto:voice@ausu.org), attn: Debbie Jabbour



### A NEW ONLINE UNIVERSITY!

Debbie Jabbour

The most recent incarnation of Donald Trump's reality show, *The Apprentice*, featured a battle between a *street smarts* team and a *book smarts* team. Members of the former team had become successful with little more than a high school education, while members of the latter team all had university education, some holding several prestigious degrees. Overall, both teams performed equally well, although the final winner did come from the *book smarts* team.

Donald Trump himself attended business school and has earned a reputation as an extremely wealthy and highly successful businessman. Mr. Trump has vast prime real estate holdings and interests in entertainment, sports and beauty pageants. He has written several books on the topic of success and through his television show, shares his wisdom and life philosophy every week. In the show, he makes it very clear that, although he respects the street smarts ethic, he is a strong believer in university education as important for professional success. It should therefore not come as a surprise that his next venture is Trump University!

Trump's university does not offer formal degrees or traditional classes. Short, focused lessons are offered through online courses, CD-ROMs, consulting services and seminars in specific subjects that "emphasize practice over theory" (Associated Press, 2005). The first three courses (i.e., introductions to real estate, marketing and entrepreneurship) are offered at \$300 each, with a duration of two to three weeks for completion. The online format does not involve textbooks, lectures, grades or teachers. Instead, each course has cohorts of six to 12 students working through the material and submitting assignments to classmates for peer review. Trump believes there is a need for high quality education in today's "hyper-competitive business climate," (Ibid.) and suggests that his do-it-yourself approach will appeal to people looking "beyond the traditional business education model, which involves hours in the classroom and relies primarily on book learning" (Ibid.). Mr. Trump also suggests Trump University may eventually develop into a full-fledged brick-and-mortar institution.

#### Reference

- Associated Press (2005, May 25). What's next for Apprentice star? Trump University. *Edmonton Journal*.

#### Sources for additional information

- Donald Trump biography. Retrieved May 30, 2005, from <http://www.woopidoo.com/biography/donald-trump.htm>.
- Trump University [web site]. Retrieved May 30, 2005, from <http://www.trumpuniversity.com/>.

## Women You Should Know

### Mary Anderson, (1866-1953)

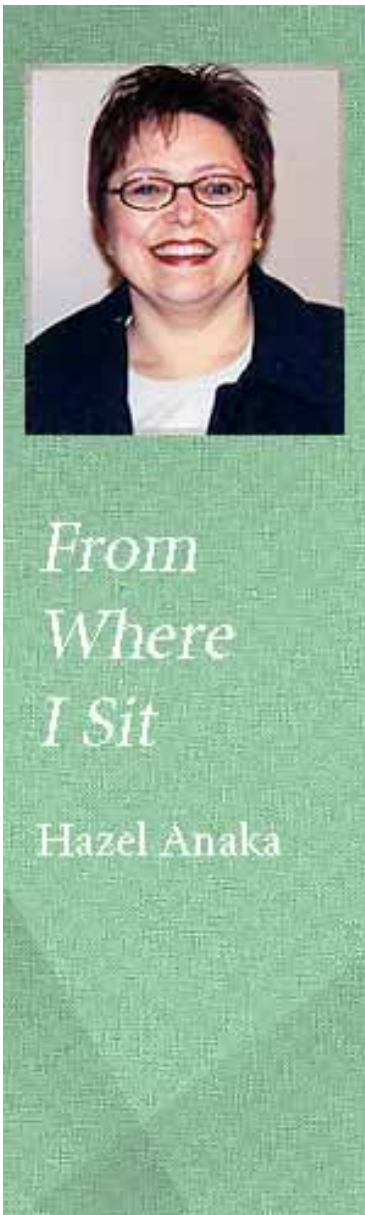
**Mary Anderson** was the Alabama-born inventor of the windshield wiper. Anderson began formulating the idea while on a trip from Alabama to New York City during the winter of 1902. She couldn't help but notice drivers of streetcars struggling to keep their windshields clean. Drivers were continually stopping their vehicles to clear snow and ice off of their windshields. Other drivers would drive with their window open so they could reach around to clear their windshield. Shortly after considering this driving difficulty, Anderson developed a hand-operated wiper that a driver could operate from inside their vehicle. She received a patent for her wiper device in 1905. In spite of Anderson's invention, it would be many years before automatic wipers became standard equipment on North American vehicles. Mary Anderson lived a very private life and died in 1953 at the age of 87.

#### Source for additional information

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## Urban Cowboy

One only needs to watch the music stations on satellite TV for a few hours to notice a certain interchange-ability between the *stars*. It may be the continual shrinking of the world through media and technology. It may be that I've been around the block a time or two. It may be that the spate of entertainment magazines, TV shows, websites, and documentaries have de-mystified the whole aura that used to surround performers. It may be that it's much easier to copy someone else's formula for success than be truly unique.

In a virtual sea of hunky young men in black cowboy hats, skin-tight jeans, t-shirts and boots, it's virtually impossible to distinguish one guy from another. Worse yet, many of them also sound the same. Older readers will remember the distinctive sound, looks and voice of country singers like George Jones, Vince Gill, Don Williams, Charlie Pride, Jim Reeves, and Willie Nelson. There was no mistaking just who you were seeing or listening to.

That's why it was thrilling to see Keith Urban live at Rexall Place on the first day of April. He may be a hunky, young man but his voice and stage presence is anything but commonplace.

The sell-out crowd on the Edmonton stop of his Canadian tour was largely young females, yet my sister and I didn't feel out of place. His set was simple when compared to the likes of Garth Brooks. His music leans more to the rock side of country. He sang non-stop for nearly two hours. He played guitar like a madman. He played keyboard during his encore. He sang several numbers *a cappella* accompanied only by his own guitar sounds and had the crowd eating out of his hands.

Early on in the evening, he read out the messages on the homemade signs audience members brought. He called two girls onstage for hugs and the highlight of their young lives. He half ran around the perimeter of the hockey boards playing guitar, singing, touching and being touched by his adoring public. Without prompting, the Rexall crowd was rocking -- singing along, clapping, dancing, and loving every minute of this man's show. A surprise appearance by the lead singer of Nickleback drove the crowd crazy. Who else would have simply faded into the background to play guitar and let a guest do one of his own numbers? There were no costume changes, no intermissions, no stalling. He was engaged with the crowd, appreciative of their support and enthusiasm, and he was just having a great time playing guitar and singing. Nothing contrived, automatic or stilted in his behaviour. Keith Urban has raised the bar for any act hoping to come in here and take our ticket money. Contrast him with Dwight Yokam who played Edmonton a few years ago. He seemed either drunk or stoned or both and mighty inconvenienced to actually have to put in an appearance and give people what they paid for.

When Keith Urban returns (and he will) you should be there for one of the most talented, genuine, and generous stars. You deserve it, from where I sit.

*\*Reprinted with permission*



## Searching for Internships

**Lonita Fraser**

### PEARSON PEACEKEEPING CENTRE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PO Box 100, Clementsport, Nova Scotia B0S1E0

phone: (902) 638-8611 - fax: (902) 638-3315

**Dates:** all year

**Internship types:** Economics, History, Humanities, International Relations, Library & Info Science, Political Science/Politics and Social Sciences

**Qualifications / skills needed:** Interns must have a university degree (example BA/MA International Relations). Interns will be assigned to assist in various departments and will be exposed to an international network. Peacekeeping and peace operations is a major focus of this internship. Interns are given responsibilities designed to assist other staff in its major departments: Operations, which consists of a Course Development and Training Section, Exercises, Program Implementation, and Research and the Library.

**Description:** The Internship Programme is intended to provide university students and recent graduates, who have an interest in peacekeeping, peace operations and international affairs, with work experience and greater exposure to the activities of the Centre. The Internship is a volunteer position with an honorarium of CDN\$300 per month, and a one-time travel reimbursement valued up to CDN\$300. Internships may be requested and granted for periods lasting from four to eight months. While at the Centre, Interns receive on-site meals and accommodation at no additional cost.

**Highlights:** Interns have a great opportunity to interact with a diversity of people living and working in the field of peace operations around the world, including civilian and military researchers, trainers and practitioners. While every effort will be made to accommodate a candidate's background, specific tasking is based on Pearson Peacekeeping Centre requirements, related skills and mutual interest. Interns are also expected to provide assistance in the areas of general administration and library support.

**Languages required:** English, French and Spanish

**Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ)**  
**Southern California - San Diego, CA, United States**  
**University of San Diego**

Fall 2005 Intern

Research, write, edit, & publish weekly updates on conflicts around the world. Assist with the development of IPJ projects & events.

#### Requirements

- \* Enrollment, with senior status, in an undergraduate program; or enrollment in a graduate program; or a recent degree in a field related to peace studies, human rights, or international relations.
- \* GPA of 2.75 or higher.
- \* Excellent writing skills.
- \* Minimum time commitment of 15 hours per week, up to 20 preferred.

#### To Apply

Visit the "Programs" / "Internship Opportunities" on our website at <http://peace.sandiego.edu> to download an application form and view other requirements. We invite applications from international students who have all the needed visa arrangements in place. If you have additional questions, please contact Elena McCollim at (619) 260-7573 or [emccollim@sandiego.edu](mailto:emccollim@sandiego.edu).

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi*

### Canadian Marketing Association (CMA) Student RSVP Awards

Value: \$500, CMA membership, Strategy Magazine profile and subscription

Application Deadline: Varies

Applicant must be attending any Canadian college or university in business, marketing, commerce, advertising or design.

Applicant must not be currently employed in a marketing-related position. Must submit marketing or creative campaign based on selected case study.

Applicant must be coached by professor / instructor.

Deadlines are June 9, June 30 and July 21

Entrance fees vary depending on time submission

For further information please visit the website posted below

Contact: Canadian Marketing Association (CMA)

Web Site: [www.the-cma.org/awards/welcome.html](http://www.the-cma.org/awards/welcome.html)

### Michael Luchkovich Scholarships for Career Development

Administrator: Alberta Scholarship Programs

Award Amount: \$2,000.00

Must have been working full-time in Alberta for a minimum of three years. Program of study may be up to six months of full-time study or up to one year of part-time study.

Deadlines are December 1st, April 1st and August 1st.

Contact: Alberta Scholarship Program

9940 - 106 Street, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 28000, Station Main, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4R4

Phone: (780) 427-8640

Fax: (780) 422-4516

Web Site: <http://www.alberta-learning.ab.ca/scholarships>

E-mail: [heritage@gov.ab.ca](mailto:heritage@gov.ab.ca)

Application Address: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/forms.asp>





**The 2005 Society for Arts In Healthcare Conference - No Borders: pARTners in HEALTHcare**

June 22, 2005 - June 25, 2005  
Edmonton, Alberta  
<http://www.thesah.org/annual>

**The 4th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences**

June 13, 2005 - June 16, 2005 - Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
<http://www.hicsocial.org>

**8th International Conference on Drug-Drug Interactions**

June 13, 2005 - June 17, 2005 - Seattle, WA, USA  
<http://www.isciencex.com/events.htm>

**Universal Village: Livable Communities in the 21st Century**

June 15, 2005 - Washington, DC, USA  
<http://www.aarp.org/livable>

**2005 Hawaii International Conference on Sciences**

June 18, 2005 - June 20, 2005 - Honolulu  
<http://www.hicsciences.org>

**Cultures of eBay**

August 24, 2005 - August 25, 2005 - Colchester, England  
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/chimera/culturesofebay.html>

**Canadian Science Writers' Assoc. 34th Annual Conference**

18 to 21 June 2005 - Jasper, Alberta, Canada  
<http://www.sciencewriters.ca/>

**Murder In The Grove**

10 to 11 June 2005 - Boise, Idaho, United States  
<http://www.murderinthegrove.com>

**Histories of Print, Manuscript, and Performance in America**

10 to 12 June 2005 - Worcester, Massachusetts, United States  
<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/PHBACcall.htm>

**5th Annual Country Schoolhouse Conference**

20 to 22 June 2005 - Barbourville, Kentucky, United States  
<http://public.unionky.edu/countryschoolconference>

**Sexual Rights and Moral Panics**

21 to 24 June 2005 - San Francisco, California, United States  
<http://iasscs.sfsu.edu>

**Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Conference**

22 June 2005 - College Park, Maryland, United States  
<http://www.shafr.org/cfp.htm>

**10th International D.H. Lawrence Conference**

26 June 2005 - Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States  
<http://www.wsu.edu/~hydev/dhl/dhlsna.htm>

**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/>.

**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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*The Voice* is published every Wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at: [VOICE@AUSU.ORG](mailto:VOICE@AUSU.ORG)

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Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its contributions

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