

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

*August 26, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 33*



We Are Not Made of Atoms

***University study fuels the
stories in all of us***

*Dear Barb
Updates!*

*Cruiscin Lan
Mr. Lonely*

*Plus:
Lost & Found
Dear Barb
Women You Should Know
From Where I Sit
The Good Life
AUSU This Month*

and much more...

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from the readers

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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We love to hear from you! Send your questions and comments to voice@ausu.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter.

Re: AU Convocation, 2005

It was awesome -- I was there too!

I was one of the Nursing program graduates. This was the best experience...better than high school(from what I remember).

I, too, am a mature student and loved the flexibility with the programs and class schedules that were offered. I am now looking to continue my studies.

Marianne deRyber

THE VOICE

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frequent contributions

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We Are Not Made of Atoms

Bill Pollett

Every Saturday morning, soon after the sun comes up, I take my eight-year-old daughter down to our favourite breakfast spot to share a Spanish omelette. It's about a forty-minute walk each way, and we pass the time by telling each other stories from our lives. For instance, I'll tell her about the time her mother and I nearly walked right into a Grizzly bear in Yoho National Park, or about the night before she was born, when the sky was lit up by a meteor shower. In return, she'll tell me about memories she has of roasting marshmallows on our last camping trip, or of playing Yahtzee with Grandma.

The table that we always sit at in the restaurant is the one that's placed right beneath the blackboard where a "Daily Thought" is always written out in white chalk. A few weeks ago, the thought was "We are not made of atoms, we are made of stories," a quote that they attributed to the poet Muriel Rukeyser who stated "The universe is made of stories, not of atoms."

As we go about our daily activities, we are all constantly inundated with stories. They come at us from the clock radio that wakes us up in the morning, the newspaper we read over our morning coffee, the magazine articles we peruse in the dentist's office, the popular novels we read on the commute home at the end of the day, the blockbuster films we watch on the weekend, and the evening newscast we watch before slipping into dreams. These stories present us with information about what is going on in our cities and around the world. They tell us about wars, car bombings, looming financial and environmental crises, trade agreements, labour unrest, scientific research, sports contracts, and the love life of Hollywood stars. It is from these stories that we each construct a sense of ourselves and of the world around us.

Unfortunately, the loudest and most effective storytellers are a homogeneous group. They include large, corporate-owned news agencies, communications networks, advertisers, multinational publishing houses, and movie studios. We get stories about the liberation of Iraq from embedded reporters working for immensely wealthy U.S.-owned conglomerates. We get stories about the latest health information from university research studies funded by pharmaceutical companies, bioengineering firms or chemical manufacturers. Not surprisingly, considering the homogeneity of our storytellers, the picture of the world many of us in Western society have is a fairly uniform one. It's a dog-eat-dog world where our lives and values are perpetually threatened by terrorism and crime. If there is a glimmer of hope, it arises from things such as the possibility of acquiring more money and possessions, of exciting new health research, and of increased security being provided by military and police forces.

As I'm preparing to embark next year on a post-graduate degree, I've been spending quite a lot of time pondering what the process of educating myself really means. Why am I devoting so much of my time to studying the words and ideas of writers and thinkers so far removed from me in time and space? As I see it, post-secondary education has an immediate and vital role to play in our lives. This role is to present us with a more diverse and possibly more hopeful vision of who we are as individuals and as a society. It does this by broadening the circle of our storytellers. By taking courses in fields such as literature, women's studies, musical history, anthropology, native studies and psychology, we gain to a far more vibrant spectrum of voices. We can listen to the voice of an eighty-year-old black jazz musician describe the connection between African tribal drumming and Dixieland jazz. We can hear about what it means to grow up gay on an Indian reservation in Manitoba. We can read the words of a poet describing the wilder aspects of love. From these voices, we can gain a better understanding of the complexity of human life. Only then can we begin to reevaluate the past, to see the large-scale historical patterns that have brought our civilization to where it currently stands, poised between oblivion and salvation.

Does the educational process have limitations? Definitely. Very few people today get a university degree in order to broaden their horizons. They get educated to get a job, to prove to prospective employers that they can organize their thoughts, communicate effectively, regurgitate information efficiently, and nimbly jump through hoops. It is a marks-oriented process, in which students are often afraid to take a chance on a course they are not sure they'll excel in, in case they jeopardize their all-important grade point average. The role that education has come to chiefly play is preparing young people to conform to the expectations of society and to plug easily into the workforce. This is simply wrong. Education should teach people to

challenge the attitudes of society, to tear it down and begin again where necessary, and to radically reconstruct and redesign the workforce.

Nevertheless, the volume of new thoughts assimilated during the course of a university career cannot fail to alter and expand our view of the world. Some of the marginalized and all-but-disappeared storytellers, who have been shunted into the darkness beyond the glow of the television screen and radio dial, will reemerge around the light of the bonfire that we set ablaze when we open our minds to new ideas and experiences. It is from these storytellers that we gain an understanding of the world as a far stranger and more wonderful place than we had been led to believe. These are the voices that I want hear and that I want my daughter to have access to.

Reefer Madness

El-ahrairah Jones



So Marc Emery, leader of the B.C. based Marijuana Party has been arrested by Vancouver RCMP. at the request of U.S. law enforcement. According to the CBC's website (vancouver.cbc.ca), the self-styled "Prince of Pot," a tireless political activist in the cause of reforming North America's draconian marijuana laws, was arrested in Halifax, N.S. Simultaneously, his Vancouver pot seed and accessories store was raided by police "on behalf of the American government."

The U.S. government is now going through the process of requesting extradition, so that Emery will face trial in the U.S. According to a report in the Vancouver Courier (Sunday, August 14th), the articulate spokesman for a more or less benign substance will face three charges: conspiracy to produce marijuana and conspiracy to distribute marijuana seeds, each of

which carries penalties ranging from 10 years to life between bars; and a money-laundering charge that could net him up to another 20 years.

Beautiful. Uncle Sam is taking some proactive steps to curb the insidious, lethal spread of marijuana. Who knows what debauchery might be committed by pot-addled maniacs if Emery and his ilk successfully challenge marijuana prohibition: an epidemic of *Phish* and *Dave Matthews Band* CDs blaring from basement windows; small time entrepreneurs failing to declare their full income from the sale of hand-crafted cedar wood bongos; an ever-increasing percentage of the population suffering from morbid obesity and heart disease caused by over-eating as a result of the munchies. Oh, wait, that phenomenon is already happening down there in the Police States of America, perhaps because of all the toxic fast food shit their corporations are shilling to their citizens.

So why is the American government so hot and horny from our homegrown seed distributor? Simple. One of the most serious side effects of over-consumption of marijuana is the lack of ambition that it generates. This is what really has Uncle Sam worried. Obviously, the apathetic, pot-head layabout is one of the most potent threats to the Western way of life. Studies show that chronic abusers of the nefarious weed are more likely to resist the urges of recruiters to go overseas and annihilate foreigners with high tech gadgetry.

Eventually, these hemp-terrorists may become so passive that it is difficult to get them even to drive to the nearest convenience store to stock up on cigarettes, cases of Pabst Blue Ribbon, and cartons of armour-piercing shells for the automatic weapon they purchased at the mall last Sunday when the old lady pissed them off. Eventually, after heavy and chronic usage, some of them may even become deluded and demented enough to believe, like Emery, that they have a chance of changing things just a little bit for the better. Dream on.

AUSU THIS MONTH



"A Learning Alberta"

Recently, the Alberta Government announced a comprehensive review of the Alberta post-secondary education system. Many discussion documents were placed online, and all stakeholders were invited to respond and make suggestions on how the post-secondary system can be improved. The students of the four universities of Alberta have responded through a document drafted by CAUS -- the Council of Alberta University Students --, which represents the students' unions of all four institutions.

Additionally, AUSU has drafted its own response, specifically addressing the needs of the diverse AU student body. You can read our response by downloading the PDF file from the link on the front page of the AUSU web site

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.

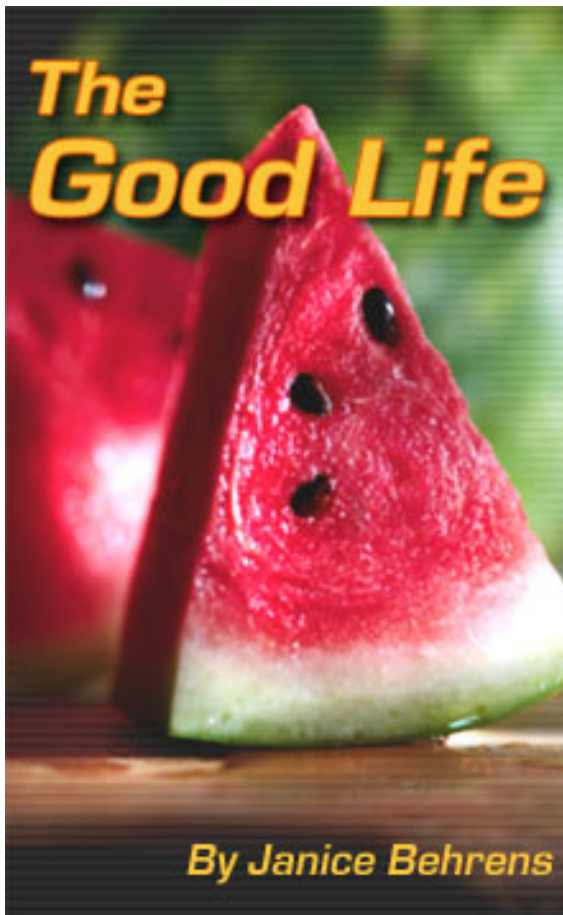
AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

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 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>

AUSU 2005/06
student
Handbook/Planner

18 months of planner pages!

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A Grain of Truth

Like many of the women I know, I went through a couple of phases when I was younger during which I decided that I would be a lifelong confirmed vegetarian. Once or twice, I became fairly militant about it, and stopped eating cheese and eggs. Growing up in Alberta, surrounded by cattle farmers and hunters, this put me somewhat at odds with my community. The concern on the part of my mother was mostly centred on the possibility of malnutrition. During my meat-free months, my mom fretted that I would keel over from lack of red meat protein.

It's been many years since I've had any desire to give up the pleasures of veal osso bucco and baby back ribs, but there are still several nights a week when our family eats meatless meals. We also have several vegetarian and vegan friends, so we're constantly developing a repertoire of tasty, flavourful, and animal-friendly foods.

There is no cure for the carnivorous craving some of us have for succulent red meat and fresh seafood, but as most vegetarians are very well aware, there is no reason to worry about suffering from any nutritional deficiencies

from going without animal products. High quality proteins can easily be obtained by combining grains and legumes.

One of my favourite grains is barley, a perfect component of the low fat and high fibre diet that doctors and nutritionists insist will have us living healthy, lengthy lives. According to my friend Sheila, a dietician, Barley is packed full of B-vitamins (including thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin), is a source of antioxidants, and is a great source of dietary fibre. As I understand it, there are two types of dietary fibre: soluble and insoluble. Barley contains both of these, and is especially rich in soluble fibre. As an added bonus, Sheila assures me that soluble fibre is effective in lowering LDL blood cholesterol levels in people with high cholesterol, so at the very least it makes a pretty sensible side dish to go along with that roasted lamb and glass of red wine. Plus, it's a carbohydrate, which makes it a great source of energy. Oh, did I mention that it's low in fat?

Cooking barley is a process as simple as boiling water. You simply add one cup of raw barley slowly to three cups of boiling water, reduce the heat to low, cover and slowly simmer until tender but still slightly chewy (we don't want something that resembles over-cooked porridge). This process takes roughly an hour.

My favourite barley dish is Tabouleh, a Lebanese salad. It involves combining three cups of cooled, cooked barley with a chopped long English cucumber, a couple of chopped tomatoes, several chopped green onions, and plenty of fresh mint and parsley. Make a dressing using a quarter to a half cup of lemon juice, a quarter cup of good olive oil, two or three cloves of crushed or minced garlic, and some freshly ground black pepper. Then start looking for your picnic hamper.



Dear Readers, this week's column will include responses to previous columns. Thank you to all who wrote in. I look forward to hearing from more of you. Barb

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

This letter is a very personal response from a reader who has struggled with bulimia and its lasting affects. Thanks so much for being so candid.

Hi Barb: In response to the reader who wrote to you about her suspicions of her friend having bulimia, I can relate. I too have suffered from bulimia and am proud to say that I have been in remission from this disease for the past year. It started back in the early 1980s when I was attending a boarding school and everyone around me was model thin and I was not. My purging became a compulsion and I thought that by losing the weight I would then be able to stop doing what I was doing. This was not the case. I

continued with this purging and suicidal cycle for the next 19 years. I am currently 35 years old and because of my disease I cannot have children. I just wanted to tell your reader that bulimia is just like alcoholism. The diseased person has to realize and acknowledge their problem and when this happens they can move forward with treatment. Unfortunately, we don't hear our loved ones telling us that we need help, so if the reader's friend is way past the point of no return and still not getting help or admitting her problem, I suggest that the friend get together with other friends and the bulimic's family for an intervention. When a person is bombarded with the love you all show her, I can almost guarantee that something will change.

Dear Barb, my girlfriend and I are avid campers and have been camping for years. However, in the past few years we have been hearing a lot about Lyme disease and West Nile Virus. What precautions can we take to prevent exposure and if we are exposed how serious are these conditions? I realize you are not a doctor, but perhaps you can suggest general things we can do to protect ourselves. Thanks, I'll be watching your column for a reply.
Jeremy in Sudbury

The following two letters offer personal insight and additional information into this devastating condition; I am pleased to include information from which others can benefit. Letter 1 contains the following information.

1. A significant number of people do not get the rash.
2. The rash is not always a bull's eye. It can be solid red.
3. There can be multiple rashes away from the site of the bite.

Letter 2 offers a personal glimpse into the struggle to obtain a diagnosis of Lyme disease.

Barb, I just read your reply to Jeremy about precautions to protect against Lyme disease. I appreciate any information that helps others to prevent the spread of this horrible disease and the other tick-borne co-infections that are spreading.

I did notice you said that there is a rash. Many people do not get a rash or see a tick. Also, the tests that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends are only at best 60 percent accurate, and I may be giving them more credit than they deserve. The tests are for the antibodies to the bacteria and many people do not have enough of an immune reaction, for a variety of reasons, to react to the tests. Doctors must look at

exposure and symptoms and often must rely on a clinical diagnosis. Lyme disease is a horrible disease that is becoming epidemic. My daughter went over six years being misdiagnosed with psychological issues. Now the disease is chronic and has been very difficult to eradicate.

Thanks again to these three insightful individuals.

Spending too much time and money shopping? Watch for next week's column!

E-mail your questions to 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.

A Night on the Mosquito Coast



It's the ungodly hours before dawn, and the vicious vampire mosquitoes are gathered about my head. Despite the fact that it's one of those humidity-drenched Bangkok-like Vancouver nights, my wife and I are completely swathed in bedclothes so that as little of our skin as possible is exposed to the relentless attack of these flesh-frenzied furies. It's no good, though. I am a lightning rod for their demonic hatred. They whine and whine in the darkness about my ears, frantic to infect me with malaria, West Nile virus, Dengue fever, yellow fever, black death, ulcerated scabies, or the scruffulous warblies.

It's my own fault, of course, for not staying on top of cutting the grass. My own fault, also, for giving in to my conscience and purchasing an environmentally-friendly reel lawn mower--a mower that works like a charm, just as long as you don't let the blades of grass grow any higher than an inch and a half between mowings. Anything higher than that, and the grass simply bends and winds around the blades. As it now stands, the grass in our backyard is about a foot and a half high, with swamp-like pockets of moisture. As I'm writing this, I can hear the grating, metallic chirping of carnivorous crickets, and the eerie susurrus of poisonous frogs rising threateningly from its fetid depths. The grass itself, of course, is not really grass at all - more like a nightmarish botanical collection of dozens of different invasive plant species.

And still the mosquitoes gather in the darkness, singing their demented dirges, their creepy hymns to an insectile deity.

It's enough to send the Dalai Lama into a state of frenzied, vengeful blood wrath. Tomorrow, tomorrow I will salt the whole garden. I will initiate a take-no-prisoners, scorched earth policy, and will carry it out with ruthless surgical precision. I will chemically burn every living thing, every worm, every ant, every flower, every leaf. I will pave it all over and turn it into a parking lot, then install large storage tanks of gasoline and pesticides. But first, I will don the biohazard suit I bought at a garage sale during the big post-911 anthrax scare. I will strap tanks of Napalm and Agent Purple onto my back, and will have a little freelance fun, a little *mano a mano* action with my nocturnal tormentors. They will see and understand the kind of terrible retribution that humanity's evolved consciousness and technological advances are capable of. Vengeance will be mine, sayeth the homeowner.

In the meantime, I listen to the drone in the stale darkness, and I notice that my wife sleeps smugly on, completely untroubled and unaware of the assault that is being committed on us. I wonder if she has even been bitten at all. Careful not to wake her, I peel the sheet away from her back, exposing a large portion of tasty flesh. Within moments, the sounds of insectile feeding move slightly further away, and I drift into blissful, oblivious sleep.



From Where I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Things I Know For Sure

Every columnist is, when all is said and done, a collector--a collector of images, words, phrases, cartoons, books, clippings, memories. If this conjures up a picture of chaos and clutter, you're probably right. I know I keep trying to set up systems and processes to make retrieval of this stuff easier. It doesn't help that some of us are visual and need to see stuff in order to remember we have it and had a plan for it.

This brings me to the oft started list of things I know for sure--tidbits of trivia and truth (as I see it) that will never grow up to be full-fledged columns but deserve a line or two in the annals of column-dom. Sadly, I'm better at articulating these truths than living them.

- Oprah ends every issue of O magazine with a piece called What I Know for Sure. Other than being female, born the same year, loving books and looking for life purpose, similarities between us likely end there. Despite our considerable differences, each of us has views, opinions, experiences and truths borne of our own purposeful living. Oprah just has a bigger audience.
- It is false economy to try saving money on paint. When we were young and foolish, we bought cheap paint for our first, fixer-upper house. It had an awful, chalky finish. Save your precious effort by using quality materials.
- The tongue-in-cheek quote "If I would have known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself" is true. The attitude of immortality and behaviour of recklessness and abuse by the young and vibrant does in fact catch up with all of us--either sooner or later. Smoking, drinking, over-eating, under-exercising, over (or under)-working, wearing bad shoes, engaging in dangerous behaviours take their toll. Success guru, Jim Rohn warns of the dangers of switching the old saw "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" to "a Mars bar a day..." "Just because you

don't fall down ill after the first day, doesn't mean it won't happen over time," he says. Treat your body like a temple not a woodshed.

- In the world of work, I've always told my kids that it doesn't so much matter what they pay you per hour, as what they expect you to do in that hour. If you lose a bit of your soul every day, if you come home with your whole body clenched in stress, if you've become jaded, is there really enough money in the world to compensate you?
- Life is a numbers game. For long-term success, we need to pay as much attention to our cholesterol numbers as our bank balance. We need to re-examine the ratio of time spent with family and in service to others with time spent with TV or at happy hour.

The truth as I see it, from where I sit.

This column focuses on issues affecting post-secondary students. Readers are encouraged to submit suggestions for topics they are concerned about, or personal experiences with courses or university situations other students should know about. Contact voice@ausu.org, attn: Debbie Jabbour



UNIVERSITY STUDENTS & SOFTWARE PIRACY *Debbie Jabbour*

The Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft (CAAST) has released results of an online survey of software piracy, conducted July 3-13, 2005 by Uthink. Of the 3,000 college and university students across Canada who were surveyed (including 500 computer science majors), 47% admitted to pirating software. Although 87% of the students consider plagiarism of their work a very serious matter, only 40 percent considered software piracy to be a serious problem. This was true of computer science students as well, with 83% objecting to theft of their work, yet nearly 64% admitting to downloading commercial software without paying for it. CAAST calls these statistics alarming, particularly among computer science students, whose "future livelihood could be directly hurt by pirating activities" (Bomar, 2005). CAAST suggests more education is needed so students can understand the implications of their actions.

References: Bomar (2005, Aug 12). Half of Canadian university students engage in software piracy. marketnews.ca/news_detail.asp?nid=959; CAAST (2005, Aug 8). News release: Software piracy runs rampant on Canadian university campuses. www.caast.com

Women You Should Know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888) was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania on November 29, 1832. Her father, a teacher, was well-known for his controversial teaching methods. Louisa's first poem "Sunlight" was published in 1852 under a pseudonym, Flora Fairfield. This would prove to be the first step in a successful career that would put an end to the longstanding financial problems suffered by the Alcott family. Louisa's highly acclaimed book *Little Women*, published in 1868, was based on Louisa's experience growing up with three sisters. A second volume was published in 1869 and was also an immediate success. While continuing to write, Louisa became involved in the women's suffrage movement and wrote for *The Women's Journal*. During her life, Louisa published some 270 works, including poems, thrillers and children's stories. She wrote her last novel in 1886, two years before her death. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1996.

Source for more information:

Literature Network: Louisa May Alcott - <http://www.online-literature.com/alcott/>





Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

To list events in your area, e-mail voice@ausu.org with the word "events" in the subject line.

alberta

FRINGE A-GO-GO

Edmonton, Alberta - 18-28 August 2005

For information: 780 448 9000

fta@fringetheatreadventures.ca

<http://www.fringetheatreadventures.ca/index.php/fta>

ONE VISION - MANY VOICES: A CROSS-CULTURAL / ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION CONFERENCE

University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Nov. 17-19, 2005

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/edpolicystudies/>

INTRODUCING: ECOTREK - A RACE FOR A GREENER FUTURE!

September 10-11, 2005 - www.albertaecotrek.com

Alberta Ecotrek will be hosted at the YMCA's Rocky Mountain YMCA/Camp Chief Hector and will utilize the existing trail system in Bow Valley Provincial Park. The participants will pass through the Sibbald Creek region, Barrier Lake, and around the base of Mt. Yamnuska in picturesque Kananaskis Country.

SYNAPSE: THE SPARK THAT CONNECTS!

Edmonton, Alberta, August 27th 2005

Remedy Café 8631, 109 Street, 9:00 p.m.

Admission is free, but donations to iHuman Society are welcome. SYNAPSE will have readings by Edmonton's Poet Laureate Alice Major, a number of talented iHuman youth and Writers Guild poet, Dawn Carter. It will feature, Kirsten Sikora, who will be reading from her new book "Sundry: a book of poems." For more information, please contact: Kendra Lane Sherick - Phone: (780) 420-0505 - e-mail: admin@cambridgestrategies.com

quebec

INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FESTIVAL OF SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU

Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec - Aug 13-21

For information: 450 347 9555

festival@ballooncanada.com

<http://www.montgolfieres.com/>

maritimes

ATLANTIC THEATRE FESTIVAL

Wolfville, Nova Scotia - 27 June - 1 Sept 2005

For information: 902 542 4242

<http://www.atf.ns.ca/>

international

THE SUSTAINABLE MUSEUM

Sept 25, 2005 - Sept 30, 2005 - Oxford, England

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/seminars-arts-0567.htm>

CHALLENGING ORTHODOXY: THE PUBLIC FUNCTION OF SOCIOLOGY?

Sept 8, 2005 - Sept 9, 2005 - Liverpool, England

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/sspsw/conference/Conference%20front%20page.htm>

To list events in your area, e-mail voice@ausu.org with "events" in the subject line.



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer and Spanish Study - Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

<http://www.celasmaya.edu.gt/>

Duration of Program: 9-12 weeks - Dates: Throughout the year Volunteer and Spanish Study
We provide Volunteer Work Projects for students to complement their language study. We work with a network of organizations in Quetzaltenango and throughout the region dedicated to activities that improve the lives of Guatemalans. Most organizations require a minimum commitment of three months. Compensation varies according to the organization, although housing is usually provided. While it is easier to offer a space for volunteer work to people with a defined specialty (agriculture, computers, research, English as a second/foreign language, audiovisuals), it is by no means a requirement.

Objectives

- Provide visitors with high-quality Spanish and Quich' language instruction, as well as the opportunity and means to learn more about Latin American history, society, politics and culture.
- Promote education among rural highlands Maya through a scholarship program.
- Make computer technology and other educational resources accessible to Mayan students.
- Promote and house a research center for Guatemalans and visitors to explore fields of human knowledge.
- Promote participatory education that is respectful of different cultures and ways of thinking.

Qualifications: To apply for volunteer work, a minimum of one week of study in the school is required, during which your work plan will be made. Languages: English and Spanish - Cost in US\$ - \$125 / week. This Program Is Open to Families and Couples. Participants Travel to Guatemala Independently or in Groups.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Mexican Marine Conservation - scuba beginners - Oaxaca, Mexico

<http://www.gvi.co.uk/>

Length of Position: Two to Twenty Weeks. Durations of Program: 5-8 weeks, 9-12 weeks and 3-6 months
Dates: Monthly departures Mexican Marine Conservation - scuba beginners

"Learn to Scuba dive, participate in marine conservation and experience the rugged beauty of Mexico's first biosphere reserve. GVI's longest running Marine Conservation expedition in Mexico offers an array of marine research projects combined with local community interaction and breathtaking scenery. The expedition base at Pez Maya is ideal for expedition members with no previous scuba diving experience. As well as receiving dive training, expedition members will learn about marine conservation, participate in a variety of marine conservation initiatives and enjoy the experience of scuba diving on the second largest barrier reef in the world. Activities may include; coral reef and fish monitoring, turtle nesting surveys, crocodile surveys, community education and sustainable development of local tourism. By participating for 10 weeks or more you will qualify for a FREE Placement as part of the GVI Career Opportunities program. Contact GVI for more information.

Qualifications: No previous experience or qualifications necessary as comprehensive training will be given.

Cost in US\$: From US\$3055 for 5 weeks

Cost Includes: The Volunteer contribution includes all your food, accommodation, training materials and project equipment.

This Program Is Open to Couples. Participants Travel to Mexico Independently Or in Groups

Typically Participants Work in Groups of 10-20. Typically The Application Process Time Is 1-2 weeks.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

W. H. (Howie) McClennan Scholarship

Administrator: International Association of Fire Fighters

Award Amount: \$2,500.00

Award Deadline: Wednesday, February 01, 2006

Notes: Awarded annually to the sons, daughters or legally adopted children of fire fighters who have died in the line of duty to attend a university, accredited college or school of higher learning in the United States or Canada. Based on financial need, aptitude promise and demonstrated academic achievement. See Web site for more information.

Contact Information: David Neun, Director of Education, 1750 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., USA, 20006-5395

Phone: (202) 737-8484 - Fax: (202) 737-8418

Web Site: <http://www.iaff.org>

E-mail: dneun@iaff.org

John Gyles Education Awards

Award Amount: \$3,000.00

Filing dates for mailing applications, November 15th.

Notes: Available each year to students in both Canada and the United States. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required. Criteria other than strictly academic ability and financial need are considered in the selection process. Contact for more information.

Contact Information: Attention: The Secretary, John Gyles Education Awards, P.O. Box 4808, 712 Riverside Drive, Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3B 5G4

Phone: (506) 459-7460

Web Site: <http://gorams.wssu.edu/soe/scholarship/gyles.htm>

2005 Summer MamasHealth.com Scholarship Award

Administrator: MamasHealth.com

Award Amount: \$500.00

Award Deadline: Wednesday, August 31, 2005

Citizenship: Canadian, American.

Notes: You must submit an essay, maximum of 750 words, which addresses the following question: "Should the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) regulate herbal supplements like kava kava, ginseng and echinacea?" Please see the Web site for more details and application information.

Contact Information: Scholarship Chair, Address: PO Box 67, Lakewood, California, USA, 90714

Application Address: <http://www.mamashealth.com/aboutus/scholarship3.asp>



WIPCE 2005

Nov 27-Dec 1, 2005 - Hamilton, New Zealand

<http://www.wipce2005.com/>

Te Wananga o Aotearoa is dedicated to promoting inspirational ideas and practices from Indigenous communities that can be applied on an international scale. It is pleased to host this world renowned gathering of indigenous educators, researchers and students. The 2005 conference is an opportunity for honouring all previous hui (gatherings.) It also creates an occasion for bringing interesting and innovative ideas that evoke inspiration and pride as indigenous peoples.

2005 Government & Health Technologies Forum

August 30-31, 2005 - Ottawa, ON

<http://gov.wowgao.com>

2005 Government & Health Technologies Forum

August 30 to 31, 2005 - Ottawa, Ont.

<http://gov.wowgao.com/>

National Student Government Summit

September 8 to 11, 2005 - Washington, DC, USA

<http://www.asgaonline.com/conferences/national>

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 with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

classifieds

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact 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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