

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

September 23, 2005

Volume 13 Issue 37



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### *A Long Cold Winter*

*High gas prices raise the cost of keeping warm*

### *The Monarchy*

*Is it time it be abolished?*

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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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## A Cold Hard Winter

*By Jamie Czerwinski*



Every morning, as your alarm clock beeps and you begin to awake from your deep, relaxing sleep and groggily make your way into the kitchen to look outside, you will find the sun just isn't quite as high in the sky as it was only two short months ago. As you open the window and feel a dense, cold wind push down against your feet, instead of a warm, light breeze on your face, you realize that winter is coming. With every passing evening you feel that growing urge to turn on your furnace and enjoy the warm air once again filling the room around you. But you think twice as you know that now, more than ever, every gasp of air that finds its way through your furnace will cost you an

arm and a leg.

Natural gas production in North America peaked in 2001, yet we continue constructing new single family homes heated by it. Retail gas contracts are already priced at over \$11/GJ (Enmax, 2005), the highest ever recorded. This winter will make the Enron-plagued 2001 heating season look like a tropical vacation. With natural gas inventories at record lows, ever diminishing supply capacity, and demand that just won't stop booming, we need to brace for the most expensive heating season ever and actively search for alternatives.

Enter politics. The Klein government continues to flip-flop on its commitment to deregulate energy and allow the private sector to find solutions to our energy crisis. Worse yet, its natural gas rebates subsidize the very inefficiency that low gas supplies and high prices demand we stop. Paul Martin's Liberals, anticipating a spring election, are contemplating another quick, messy, one-shot heating rebate to further subsidize the grossly extravagant use of resources we Canadians are so accustomed to. "Whether there is an election or not, Canadians would want to know what, if anything, the Government of Canada can do to be of assistance," claims Ralph Goodale (Cordon, 2005). How about spending the amount budgeted for rebate cheques on solar, geothermal, and nuclear energy instead?

Few of us even really know what solutions are available to us. For roughly \$15,000, you can retrofit your house with a geothermal heating system. By using thermal energy from the water table deep into the ground, you can eliminate your natural gas use completely. You would only use electricity to run the pump to bring heat from the ground into your home for merely one quarter the cost of a conventional furnace. We're not even mentioning the increase in value of your home by installing this heating system. Who has \$15,000 kicking around, you ask? Not everyone, perhaps, but who has \$15,000 in home equity lying around? Quite a few people do, and it's infinitely smarter to get a home equity line of credit for a geothermal heating system than it is for a hardwood floor, ceramic tile, or a newly installed gas fireplace!

There's also the issue of transportation. Nearly every one of you reading this is a student of Athabasca University. Congratulations! Without knowing it, you are saving yourself nearly \$500 a year in transportation costs associated with commuting to a regular campus. Eliminate automobiles from your financial portfolio completely, and you can save yourself at least \$3,000 a year in maintenance, fuel, insurance, and financing costs. I did it, and I know how good it feels to watch my bank account grow larger than my credit card debt. Buy yourself a nice bicycle and you can even eliminate trips to the gym from your schedule!

Recycling presents a unique, yet somewhat indirect, way to lower energy prices. By reducing non-organic wastes from our landfills, we decrease decomposition time and consequently make organic potting soil less expensive. This displaces commercial fertilizer use, which is made mostly with scarce, expensive natural gas. By increasing the stock of recycled materials, we decrease wholesale plastic, aluminum, rubber, steel,

paper, glass, and silicon costs to manufacturers, decrease the gas and diesel used to mine and forest those resources, and decrease the cost of a new computer, pop bottle, or bike tire for consumers. Simply calling your local counselor, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), or Member of Parliament (MP) to suggest higher deposits for recyclable materials, or to add deposits to products that previously didn't include them, can save our country millions upon millions of dollars.

There are countless ways to save money, the environment, and even lives, simply by living more efficiently. You may not be aware of it, but every time you fill your car with gas, you are giving the United States just one more reason to forcefully extract oil from Iraq. So who knows when, as Iraq's oil reserves dwindle, Canada's tar sands look larger than ever, and the United States' insatiable appetite for fossil fuels continues to grow, that tank of gas will cost you more than just an arm and a leg.

Now is the time to start making investments in our future. We can't allow our and our parents pensions to dwindle to the point where they can't even pay the heating bill. The stakes are high and opportunities for gain enormous. It's time to buy solar panels and trash that dream for a new SUV. You'll find your cheque-book will thank you.

#### References

Cordon, S. (2005, September 21). Federal government weighs plans to deliver energy rebates before winter. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/cp/business/050917/b091716.html>.

Enmax (2005, September 22). Residential Plans. Retrieved from <http://www.enmax.com>.

#### Source for additional information

Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas (ASPO) - <http://www.peakoil.net>.

## A Woman Died on the Streets This Morning

*El-ahrairah Jones*

Susan: I was late for work that morning, rushing from Starbucks across six lanes of early morning commuter traffic to get to the office. There she was, lying on the sidewalk. I thought perhaps she was passed out from the drink. You get so many of them in this part of town, you see. I stepped over her and almost tripped. The heel of my shoe just sort of grazed her arm, which was stretched out with the hand in the gutter. If I'd had time, I would have stopped to see if she needed help or something. If I hadn't been late, I would have phoned for an ambulance. I would have checked for a pulse. I would have lifted her head up into my lap. The administration assistant hates me because I've got a nose ring and I like to laugh every once in awhile. She's got it in for me, and she watches the reception area all the time. I used to have dreams of being a school teacher, but my grades weren't so good. I hate this goddamn job, but I was really lucky to get it. I can't afford to be late anymore this month, not until my boyfriend gets himself back on his feet. I really wanted to stop to see if that woman was all right, you know.

Tom: Yeah, I heard about it. We could see her from the office window. I saw some woman walk right over her body. I guess that's what things are like in the city. Just like New York, now. She was probably homeless or living in one of those hotels they pay for by the night. The dead woman, I mean. It's creepy seeing something like that right in the broad daylight, you know. Right where people are going about their business. It reminded me of a scene from the television show *CSI*. It took the cops forever to get there and put a sheet over her. It's not really decent, having to watch something like that. They need to move those people out of the neighbourhood, somehow. Find a better place for them.

Susan: I had a dream last night. That woman was in it. I was six years old and wearing that dress with the yellow flowers. I was walking down the street and I saw the woman lying there. She was alive and moaning in her dreams, the way that my Dad says I used to do when I was really young. It was the strangest thing, but I stopped right in front of her. I bent down and I lifted her up. Lifted her right up in my arms. She must have weighed two hundred pounds, but I lifted her right up from the sidewalk and carried her to her home. The strangest thing. Imagine.





She's on our money. She's at our national celebrations. Her image adorns stamps and government offices and at every public assembly we sing a half-hearted ode to her health and longevity. But what does the Queen and her family actually do for Canada? For years and years, it seems the same argument has raged on. Should we abolish the monarchy or is it actually beneficial for us to keep it? As taxpayers, many of us dread the fact that any of our cash is supporting the Queen and her extravagant lifestyle (see note below) not to mention that of the entire royal family, but all the same there are some strong ideological reasons to keep on doing as we're doing. I think it's time we take full stock of our relationship with the monarchy and make a decision that's based on all of the facts instead of the usual rhetoric.

Since 1982, under the government of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Canada has been a sovereign nation thanks to the *Canada Act*. We adopted our own flag, changed our national anthem from "God Save the Queen" to "Oh Canada," and finally drafted our own version of the Constitution. Following these bold moves, the position of the reigning monarch in Canada remains vague at best. We all know what the Queen can't do in our country. She can't personally get involved in politics and government actions, and she can't dictate law. She does however take great pleasure in presiding over our national affairs, bestowing Honours and taking Royal Tours. Essentially, we really aren't getting a lot in return for our loyalty, materially speaking.

But here is where the arguments move past mere historical conservatism and physicality, becoming more philosophical. Accepting the fact that Canada is a constitutional monarchy whose monarch is all but obsolete, we are beginning to adapt the idea of the Crown to suit pressing contemporary needs--namely, the need to deal with our ever-oppressive neighbour to the south. Many Canadian monarchists advocate the Queen as a means to keep this country from being assimilated by the United States. As long as we continue to be a willing member of the Commonwealth, we retain an identity apart from the U.S. and are instilled with the theoretical backbone to say "no" to the President of the strongest economy in the world.

I guess the question is, is that enough of a reason to keep singing "God Save the Queen"? I say it is.

Note: You will be glad to know that your tax money does not pay for the Queen's upkeep in Buckingham Palace. The lucky Brits get that privilege. We pay for her only when she's in our country.

### Sources for additional information

Monarchy in Canada - <http://www.answers.com/topic/monarchy-in-canada>

The Canadian Monarchy: The Legal Nuts and Bolts - <http://www.monarchist.ca/new/nutsbolts.html>

Canada Act 1982 -

[http://www.answers.com/main/ntquery?method=4&dsid=2040&dekey=CanadaAc&gwp=8&curtab=2040\\_1&linktext=Canada%20Act](http://www.answers.com/main/ntquery?method=4&dsid=2040&dekey=CanadaAc&gwp=8&curtab=2040_1&linktext=Canada%20Act)



I never wanted to save no one except everybody and then myself when I was stuck behind that thick plastic parents taped over leaky windows in winter to keep expensive heat from spillin' out. All this poorness in my house and in the old front yard with no grass and the dirt on the bottom of the door and then my shoes, 'being told by girls with clean hands and ankles that I was probably called "the poor." And I was... Clean girls with hair the colour of the sun laughing like they were all good and pretty, and me, I just kept stuffin my awful tongue to the back of my throat while I watched them act like they were nothing at all like me and my kind. Bitter tasting teeth rotting in their heads cause they didn't have the money to get them pulled out. Other kids poor like me, I mean, and all I wanted to own was the other girls' yellow hair. Acted like

they had permission to rule the world and believe in the tooth fairy all at the same time cause they had yellow hair. Those other ones. I just stayed inside my house and looked outside a lot.

I was a good behaving child, and I still am the same colour of white but probably not one of the poor because now I go to school so I have learned. Nobody's gonna laugh out loud at me. I still don't wanna save no one except myself and then my sisters. Maybe my mother too--god damn mind scrambled up like runny eggs with the stress of not knowing where's the food coming from?... Trusting god to keep his end of the bargain concerning her babies and all that, but he never did. She stayed on her knees for him, anyway, 'cause she loves men more than anybody. She didn't know Jesus was a Jew. She thought he was just the son of another white man and I think that's mainly why she trusted him.

Were't no favours being done me or my sisters on the welfare so I turned my back on these things and I got up from my dirty knees knowing, for sure, that you just can't eat the marble staircase in the pope's mansion cause he's gonna order you straight to jail before he's ever gonna take you into his fine kitchen and feed you warm gingerbread.

You think the poor's prayers matter? Keeping our eyes on the heavens beyond while our stomachs ache and our minds go scrambled with the ugliness and hatred of this world? Social Services people putting their clean, organized little fingers in to rearrange our world while they trample us good because they need us to be us so they can be them. Ha! They don't fool me. "Stand here," I wanna say to them." Stand, here, at the end of this food line letting all them 'others' who are hungry, tired and sick of the world's shame go before you... you know what I'm saying to you? Serve something besides yourself."

It was my father who sat on the foot of my bed right beside my window with the thick plastic taped around it the day they took his car away because he used his money all up to feed us. God damn, it was an arrow to my child's heart, and when he said it, he just said it straight as a line to me like I was gonna understand it exactly like he meant it without bursting into crying, myself: He told me, " I'm really gonna miss the old car, Carole" - his eyes burnng with hidden shame I wasn't supposed to see; his skin all parched and pale like he'd done something wrong and that was why it all turned out so bad.

Right then and there I told myself that i was gonna stand up to that god awful pope and to every clean little girl who ever thought she could rule the world, and to every foul mouthed lying social service worker who ever came our way because you don't do that to the poor long as I'm livin' among your dead. If it was the last bloody thing I ever got to do on this earth I told myself I was gonna do it cause you don't do that to the poor long as I'm living among your dead.



## Turing the Pages...

Elizabeth Cousar

I made a foray into a children's book this week, which I highly recommend doing once in a while. If you have kids, it's nice to get ideas for new books for them to try. If you don't, you'll be surprised by some of the quality literature written for kids. We can all learn something from some of these "kids' books".

This week's selection was a Newbery Award winner--usually a good sign! *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry (1994) discusses a utopian community (called "The Community," cleverly enough). It's the story of Jonas, a boy about to become twelve years old.

In *The Community*, everyone is as much the same as they can be. People of *The Community* do not acknowledge people's differences, only the similarities they share. There are Rules to cover every possible situation. From the meals that they eat, delivered by the Food Delivery workers, to the required, nightly Sharing of Feelings, days pass in a routine. The jobs in *The Community* are assigned by the Planning Council, so that everyone does what he or she will do best, from Birthmother to Judge, from Pilot to Recreation Director.

Every year there is a celebration, at which the children's achievements are celebrated. Nines (that is, everyone who would turn nine in the next year if *The Community* celebrated birthdays -- which they don't, because then everyone would have their own special day -- can't have that much difference!) get bicycles, for example, to show their new freedom in *The Community*. The Twelves get their assignments. They are given the jobs that they will hold for the rest of their working lives, until they go to the house of the Old.

Jonas is apprehensive about his Assignment. He has done the required volunteer hours in various places, but has never really focussed on any one thing. He has nurtured the new children, taken care of the Elders, and worked with younger children at the Recreation Centre. When he is chosen as the new Receiver of Memory, he doesn't know what to expect. What he gets from the old Receiver (who calls himself the Giver, to differentiate himself from Jonas) are all the memories of our time. He learns about colour, snow, grandparents, love, war, pain and hunger -- none of which has ever been known in *The Community*.

This book makes us really think about equality. Equality and sameness are not exactly identical; children who read this book can learn that. We celebrate some differences in others (e.g., one person's cheery personality and another's sensitivity). We also (especially as children) tease or hurt those who are different from us. For example, we make fun of one another's difficulty with language. The very sameness of *The Community* is, somehow comforting, and somehow profoundly *wrong*. Those who cannot get along in *The Community* are Released. When Jonas learns what this means for the new child Gabe that his father (a Nurturer) has been allowed to bring home for an additional year, his whole world falls apart.

One of the best features (or worst, depending on your point of view) of this book is its ambiguous ending. We never know exactly what happens. I have read and re-read this book many times, and never really come to a satisfactory understanding of Jonas and little Gabe's fate. Sometimes, I think they live happily ever after, and other times ... well, I'll leave you to come to your own conclusions.

This book is very thought provoking, even for adults. This 180-page novel is a quick read that leaves a lasting impression. If you have the opportunity to share it with a child about twelve years old, take it! Books like this one are a great way to talk about differences, acceptance, and the merits of being "the same," "average," or "normal." It's also a story about courage and doing what's right, even when it's very difficult, and even when it might mean leaving your whole family behind forever.

I highly recommend *The Giver*--As a bonus, my daughters like it too!

Reference - Lowry, L. (1994). *The Giver*. New York: Bantam.



## 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.

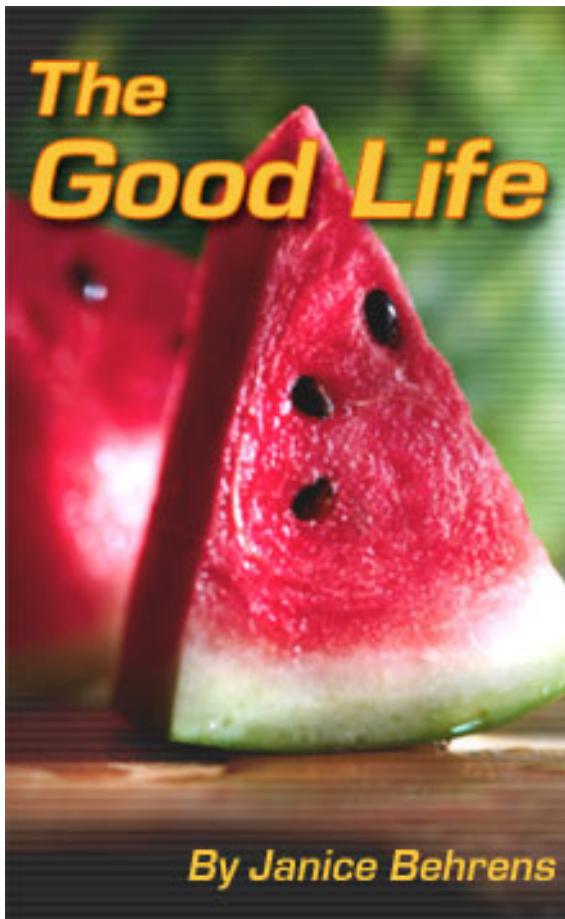
### AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

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](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>

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## Getting the most benefit from your organic food dollar

When I was a child, except for a few bouts of ideologically inspired vegetarianism in my teen years, I never gave too much thought to the food that I put in my stomach. Going to McDonald's after swimming or basketball practice seemed like the ideal, tasty way to get my blood sugar levels back to normal. Those were more innocent times, food-wise, when questions relating to the nutritional value of what I was consuming, where the food was coming from, the environmental costs of filling my stomach, and ethical questions about the practices and processes that brought the food to me were secondary or non-existent.

These days, most of us are a whole lot more savvy about what we hold up on the ends of our forks. Many of us have read countless articles about the environmental costs of eating factory-produced Frankenfoods. We have absorbed endless dire warnings about the herbicide and pesticides toxins lurking on our tomatoes and lettuces and the effects they may be having on our bodies. Whenever possible, I try to buy organic pork, free-range, hormone-free chicken and organic ground beef. Almost invariably I buy organic or specialty locally grown fruits and vegetables (okay, I admit it, there have been the odd mid-winter packages of California asparagus).

Up until last week, I believed that I was using my food dollars in the most health-conscious way, putting the least harmful products I could find on my family's table. Then, as I was browsing through the recycled magazine bin at my local library, I came across a thought-provoking article in a magazine called *Whole Earth* (Weed, 2002). The article was written by Susun Weed, an American herbalist and biodynamic farmer. What really caught my attention in the article was a section entitled "The Organic Pyramid," in which she provides a description of a class of oil-based chemicals called "organochlorines" and another class of water-based chemicals known as "organophosphates". The difference between the two, according to Ms. Weed, is that the organophosphates, being water-based, are very easily eliminated from our systems. Unfortunately, the same can't be said of the oil-based organochlorines, which have a tendency to be retained by our bodies, and the bodies of the animals we eat, and stored indefinitely in our fat cells. The upshot is that whenever we consume the fat cells of animals, by way of meat, eggs, or dairy products, we are absorbing these largely inexcusable products into our systems.

What this means, essentially, is that when it comes to buying the healthiest possible choices for our table, we may be investing some of our money in the wrong places. "In a rough estimate", the author argues, "you would have to eat nonorganic produce for ten years to get the amount of chemicals that you will get in one pound of nonorganic butter." An eye-catching statement, no? So where should our organic food dollars be most profitably spent? On meat, of course, and dairy products. But also on grains and beans, all of which "have a germ which is fatty." "If you have all the money in the world," says Ms. Weed, "buy everything organic. If you don't, fruits and vegetables come last." Food for thought.

### Reference

Weed, S. (2002). Spring "Organic:" Is it healthier? Soybeans pollute, tofu causes dementia, capsuled herbs are poisonous ... comments on herbs, plants, and health. *Whole Earth*. Retrieved from [http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0GER/is\\_2002\\_Spring/ai\\_84866376](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0GER/is_2002_Spring/ai_84866376)



## The Way Things Are

I've carefully planned it all out. In university laboratories across this great country, teams of scientists are working around the clock researching ways to bring our love back to life. Working on my behalf, Stephen Hawking and Madame X are comparing quantum mechanics and star charts, searching for a loophole in the way things are.

In the place where things once were, I'm on the shore beneath the cliffs. You remember, the place where we saw the seals playing in the bay and you wrapped my jacket about your shoulders. I've got a packet of cigarettes in my shirt pocket, and all the things I should have said are going around and around in my head, waiting to be shared with you. I've arranged for the fog to roll in from the north and the sea planes to land by the dock. I've engineered the tide to sweep in on command, and I've paid the ferryboat captain to motor back and forth across the bay. On my command, the wind rises and falls, and all the wild geese fly in formation overhead. At a word from me, the jellyfish you used to scoop up in the cupped palms of your hands wash around my waterlogged work boots. I've got all my regrets carefully organized. Obedient to my gesture, darkness seeps slowly into the sky, the clouds part, the clockwork moon moves about the earth and the constellations are lit just as they were the night you first lifted your shirt for me. The obedient cedars release

their dark scent, and pine cones fall in predetermined patterns on the forest floor. The woman at the Harbourside Pub checks her watch and drops a quarter into the jukebox. The sound of your favourite country song drifts out faintly across the waves, interrupted at precisely the right time by a single foghorn blast. Like dogs that have been whistled for, all the thoughts of things that might have been come rushing at me out of the blackness.

At home, night after night, the stage is set. I've got beer and oysters chilling in the fridge and a chunk of wood burning in the pot bellied stove. My dreams about the way things are going to be different when you come home this time are sorted and ready.

I guess the only thing missing from this pretty little scene is you riding up the road on your red motorcycle to meet me. The one thing I will never be able to make happen.





### CATCHING ON IN ONTARIO

The provincial government in Ontario seems to be catching on that education for the neediest is a good thing, and actually recognizing that a post-secondary education today is very different from the days when the politicians attended (Ontario, 2005).

Changes to the Ontario Student Finance program will see the eligibility requirements for student financing loosened, the parental contribution reduced, and even an amount allotted for the purchase of computer equipment each year for post-secondary students. In addition to these changes, the government is also increasing the income relief program cut-off by 5 percent, meaning that more graduate students will be able to qualify for income relief.

Of course, while all this is good, one issue it still does not address is the lifetime cap that is applied to student loans. This is federal matter and hasn't increased in years. Today, it still sits at \$40,000. Considering that the average tuition alone will cost you over \$16,000 (Statistics Canada, 2004). That leaves a student about \$6,000 per year to live on. This is nearly \$2,000 lower than the lowest figure cited as a poverty line by The Fraser Institute, a conservative think-tank, and less than half of what Statistics Canada considers the Low Income Cut-Off amount (Canadian Centre for Cyber Citizenship, 2005).

If, as a post-secondary student, you decided to go hog-wild and live at the "basic needs" level according to the Fraser Institute, you would be unable to complete your third year of post-secondary education, have \$40,000 worth of student finance debt to repay, and no degree to get the job that would let you earn enough to pay it back.

So Ontario's move to boost student finance may be a first step to a more sensible education funding system, but only a baby step.

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### FEDERAL COPYRIGHT BILL HURTS EDUCATION

In Nova Scotia, it's not only music down-loaders who are against the Federal Government's proposed copyright legislation, Bill C-60, it's the provincial government as well (Nova Scotia, 2005).

They cite concerns for what this new bill would do to the use of the Internet in the classrooms. According to the legislation, schools and educational institutes would be forced to licence any and all materials they get from the Internet. While this does not sound like such a far-fetched thing to request, the bill grants no exceptions for materials that are currently free.

For schools, this means a large expenditure not only in licensing the materials themselves, but having to take the time and effort to actually find the owners of any materials in order to acquire a licence before they can proceed. Unfortunately, the record industry of Canada is lobbying hard on this issue, as they

desperately want to make it a criminal offence rather than a civil offence to violate copyright. That way they do not have to rely on their own lawyers and investigations to catch people doing it, they can instead rely on the Canadian citizens and taxpayers to pay for prosecuting themselves.

This is the same copyright bill that makes private copying completely illegal if there are any digital rights management schemes built-in. In other words, you can't legally put your music from your CDs on to your computer or on to another CD to take in your car.

The wunderkind responsible for this legislation right now is the Honourable Liza Frulla, who you can reach at [liza\\_frulla@pch.gc.ca](mailto:liza_frulla@pch.gc.ca) if you want to let her know how you feel about this type of thing.

#### Reference

Nova Scotia. Department of Education (2005, September 16). Students and teachers need access to Internet education. News Release. Retrieved from <http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20050916004>

## NEW BRUNSWICK SEES STUDENTS RIGHT

Meanwhile, in New Brunswick (2005), the provincial government is trying to promote itself to China, not just as a place of business, but as a place of education. Unlike much of Canada, it seems New Brunswick has taken the attitude that post-secondary students should not be seen as a cost to the government, but rather as an investment that encourages a better, more economically sound citizenry at home and creates stronger ties abroad.

Other provinces, in comparison, do not seem to understand that people retain a loyalty to their alma mater. They tend to view out-of-province students as a drain on their public resources, rather than as a likely point-of-entry for their goods and services.

It is well past the time that governments lost the attitude of post-secondary education being a necessary expense, like health-care and social assistance, and instead realized that post-secondary education is the key to a prosperous future for all parties involved.

#### Reference

New Brunswick. Training and Employment Development (2005, September 16). Minister to promote education links on trade mission in China. News Release. Retrieved from <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/ted/2005e1190te.htm>

## "A LEARNING ALBERTA" WANTS YOU

If you didn't already know, the Alberta Government is conducting an investigation into post-secondary education in the hopes of creating a whole new framework that will serve to make post-secondary education a stand-out feature of the province.

The initial consultation with stakeholders is now complete and they've opened the next stage up to the public at large.

To provide your feedback on how you think they should shape post-secondary education in Alberta, go to this link: <http://www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/> and take the online survey. If you ever thought you had all the answers, now is as good a time as any to let the people in charge know it.





*Dear Barb and Women You Should Know are on hiatus this week.*

*Look for new columns next week.*

## CLICK ON THIS

*Lonita Fraser*

### *A Little Bit Nuts*

#### **William Safire's Rules for Writers**

<http://www.chem.gla.ac.uk/protein/pert/safire.rules.html>

Remember to take the bull by the hand and avoid mixing metaphors!

#### **Altered Dimensions**

<http://www.altereddimensions.net/>

Prepare to immerse yourself in the mysteries of popular paranormal research.

#### **Strange New Products**

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

It's been evident for years that we'll make and buy just about anything.

#### **Experiment: Cardboard Boat**

<http://www.lakeviewford.com/boat/>

What I said above about us making just about anything? Yep.

#### **Message In A Bottle Server**

<http://www.conwasa.demon.co.uk/miabix.htm>

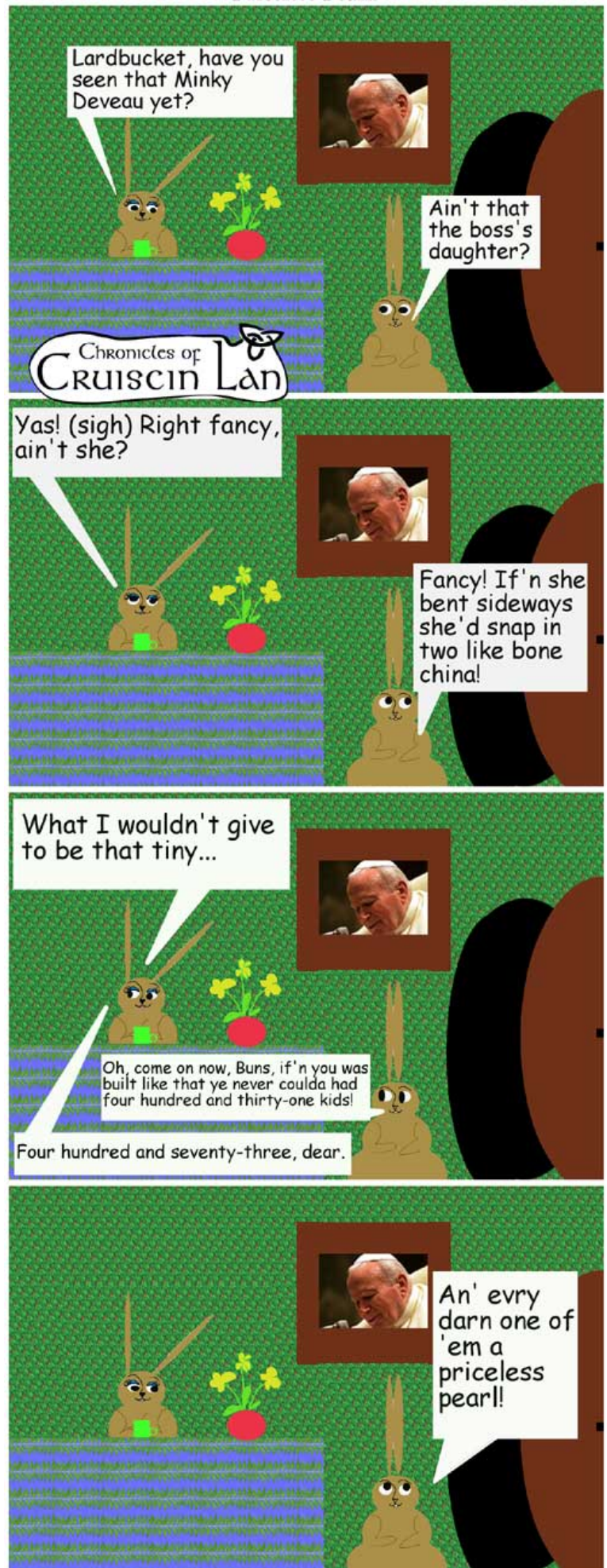
If you've ever wanted to put a message in a bottle, but never got around to it yourself, there are people who will do it for you.

#### **365 Days of Stuffed Animals**

<http://www.fujichia.com/stuffed/>

One stuffy a day, every day, for a year. Some of them are painfully cute. Many images so it may take some time to load.

~ Priceless Pearls ~



## Martha's Back



From  
Where  
I Sit

Hazel Anaka

Martha Stewart is back. Only someone reawakening from a coma would question what all the fuss is about. All the rest of us know she has just finished serving five months of house arrest following a stint at a woman's prison for lying to a grand jury. The sheer number of words and images this woman has generated before, during, and after her incarceration is mind-boggling. Stand-up comics, columnists, TV critics, and cartoonists have had a field day with the trials and tribulations, the rise and fall of Martha Stewart. Everyone from legal experts to homemakers have an opinion on her guilt or innocence, her role as rich entrepreneur, and her over-the-top perfectionism.

September 12th marked the launch of one of her two new television shows. *Martha* is a live, daily talk show. The goal is to humanize and warm-up a woman who comes across as icy, tyrannical, and aloof.

The first episode was filled with humour. Watching Marcia Cross (aka Bree from the television show *Desperate Housewives*) try to fold a t-shirt and make scrambled eggs with Martha Stewart was funny and sad. Who among us hasn't felt klutzy trying to follow someone's directions? Add a live studio audience and millions of viewers and you've got the jitters. At times Martha herself appeared nervous and a bit tongue-tied, sometimes talking too much and trying too hard.

She opened the show with a spoof on the ankle bracelet she wore during her house arrest and announced that all of her staff are now wearing them.

A video montage of past trips to New Orleans and Mississippi highlighting the food and architecture was shown. She expressed her belief that the area and the people will triumph as she promised to announce an initiative soon.

As someone who regards cooking and baking a necessary chore, and often does it under duress, I found there was a little too much cooking and kitchen action. An unannounced visit to Italian sisters Gerry and Nina's kitchen was full of laughter and good food. These tiny cooks gushed and giggled and appeared in studio to recreate their meatballs and spaghetti sauce recipes.

We saw a behind-the-scenes look at the design and construction of the 10,000 square foot studio. It replicates the look of Martha's homes. There is a huge kitchen, a craft room and a greenhouse. Martha insists there is no couch, because guests will always be doing something.

In another departure from the old way of always taking credit herself, Martha assembled all the carpenters and trades people who were responsible for creating the set so they could receive credit.

Martha Stewart has proven yet again just how resilient and savvy she is. How much is genuine and how much is orchestrated remains to be seen. I do think there is a lesson here for each of us. We can pick ourselves up after any sort of setback. We can ignore our critics and naysayers. We can re-invent ourselves as long as we're willing to. Not bad, from where I sit.





# Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

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

## alberta

### BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT EXPO

23-25 September 2005 - Calgary, Alberta

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

Cost C\$10; weekend pass C\$25

Fri 3pm-10pm; Sat 10am-9pm; Sun 11am-6pm

If you are seeking options to improve your life, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, expand your consciousness, or improve your health, there are a lot of choices to consider. The Body Soul & Spirit is a holistic & spiritual lifestyle expo, which showcases over 110 categories of products, services and resources that fosters the individual quest for a greater self-understanding, improved well being, and includes everything from acupuncture, aromatherapy and astrology to Yoga and Zen Buddhism.

### 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/>

## british columbia

### VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

20-24 September 2005 - Vancouver, BC

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

## quebec

### CHILDREN'S CARROUSEL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

25 September - 2 October 2005 - Rimouski, Quebec

<http://www.carrousel.qc.ca/>

### BLACK & BLUE FESTIVAL

5-11 October 2005 - Montreal, Quebec

<http://www.bbcm.org/>

## ontario

### EINSTEINFEST

Waterloo, ON - Sep 30, 2005 to Oct 23, 2005

For event & ticket information:

(519) 883-4480 - [einsteinfest@rogers.com](mailto:einsteinfest@rogers.com)

Fax: (519) 569-7611 - <http://www.einsteinfest.ca>

Join us for a spectacular celebration of the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's annus mirabilis miracle

year of 1905 when at the age of twenty-six, he published his four most important papers that have since influenced physics and the modern world. EinsteinFest explores the rapidly changing world at the turn of the century and pays homage to Einstein's prolific output of 1905 through a series of exhibitions, performances and lectures on physics, music, visual art, politics, history, philosophy, psychology, literature and science and technology; exploring the rich culture, notable discoveries and brilliant minds of this amazing period in history.

### ALL CANADIAN JAZZ FESTIVAL

Port Hope, Ontario - Sep 23, 2005 to Sep 25, 2005

For event & ticket information:

(905) 885-1938 - [admin@allcanadianjazz.ca](mailto:admin@allcanadianjazz.ca)

<http://www.allcanadianjazz.ca>

### PSYCHIC FAIR

Port Hope, ON - Sep 23, 2005 to Sep 25, 2005

For event & ticket information: (905) 885-1522

[apatterson@porthope.ca](mailto:apatterson@porthope.ca) - <http://www.porthope.ca>

### MARKHAM FAIR

29 September - 2 October 2005 - Markham, Ontario

<http://www.markhamfair.ca/>

### OWEN SOUND CELTIC FESTIVAL

Owen Sound, Ontario - Sept 16 - 18, 2005

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

### TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

8-17 September 2005 - Toronto, Ontario

<http://www.bell.ca/filmfest/>

## international

### THE SUSTAINABLE MUSEUM

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

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

### TASTE OF ATLANTA

Atlanta, Georgia, USA - September 23 - 25, 2005


<http://www.tasteofatlanta.org/>

### EPCOT INTERNATIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Lake Buena Vista, Florida - Sept 30 - Nov 13, 2005

<http://disneyworld.com/>

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***

## **INTERNSHIP**

### **Professional Internships in Vancouver and Toronto Canada**

**Term:** Throughout the year

**Length of Position:** 12-24 weeks

**Experience Required:** no

Participants Travel to Canada Independently

Typically Participants Work Independently

Typically The Application Process Time Is 6 weeks

The InterNeX internship exchange is a program managed by WAYNE communications that arranges tailored internship placements for international candidates in accordance with the requirements of partner educational institutions in Canada and abroad. WAYNE communications combines 25 years of Human Resources and educational consulting and has placed over 200 candidates into over 100 positions in Canada over the last 6 years.

#### **Who is this program for**

- University students requiring a practicum for graduation
- Professionals seeking to upgrade their marketable skills
- Executives looking for a North American experience
- High School graduates looking for practical experience

#### **Highlights**

- Highly specialized placements dependent upon language ability, industry sector, candidate expectations, educational and professional background.
- Placements in all sectors and for all majors
- Most placements accredited with universities and professional associations
- Guaranteed placement in industry sector
- Program includes preparatory orientation program in city of placement of a minimum of 4 weeks
- Package includes accommodation, full-board, tuition, full support and placement guarantee

#### **Qualifications / Requirements**

See internship website, listed below

#### **Application Process Involves**

- Letters of Reference
- Other
- Phone Interview
- Resume
- Transcript
- Written Application

Go to the following URL to contact the appropriate party about this internship

<http://www.internabroad.com/sendmail.cfm?clientID=10829&listingID=21964>

This information was gathered from Intern Abroad <http://www.internabroad.com/>

# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

*Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi*

## The Next Great Prime Minister

Over \$100,000 in prizes for Canadian Students.

DO YOU HAVE A VISION FOR CANADA'S FUTURE?

"The Next Great Prime Minister" is looking for Canada's future leaders and has been launched to engage young Canadians in the political process. If you are between the ages of 18 and 29, send us a 3 to 5 minute videotaped speech telling us what you would do if you were prime Minister. Tell us how you would make Canada better, stronger, and more prosperous. Be compelling. Be original. And above all, be inspirational. A primetime special airing later this fall on Canadian network television will feature the top 5 contestants completing in a one-hour televised final. The winner will be chosen as Canada's "Next Great Prime Minister" and will receive a \$50,000 cash prize and a six month internship with our sponsors with maximum compensation of \$30,000. Each of the four remaining contenders featured on the television program will receive \$10,000 and a three month internship with our sponsors with maximum compensation of \$15,000.

For more information, visit <http://www.thenextgreatprimeminister.com>

Deadline: October 7, 2005

## Cal Callahan Memorial Bursaries

Administrator: Grant MacEwan College

Award Amount: \$6,000.00

Award Deadline: Friday, September 30, 2005

Year of Study: Entering or in first year

Notes: Awarded annually to a child or legal ward of persons who derive their principal income from the pipeline industry and whose employers are members of this association.

Danielle Wycott or Barbara Greaves

Student Resource Centre, Room 7-112

10400 - 107 St., Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2

Phone: (780) 497-5063 Fax: (780) 497-4656

Web Site: <http://www.gmcc.ab.ca/web/Prospective/Calendar>

## John Gyles Education Awards

Administrator: John Gyles Education Awards

Award Amount: \$3,000.00

Citizenship: Canadian/American

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.

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>





### **DEVELOPING SUCCESS FOR YOUTH**

October 19 - 21, 2005  
Springfield, MO, USA  
<http://www.drury.edu/dsy>

The thematic conference strands will address the development of the whole child through educational reforms; policy development; collaborative cultures; multi-dimensional educational practices; strategic, visionary planning; innovative curricula and learning experiences; and the interconnectedness of the mind, body, and soul.

### **TEACHING KIDS NOT CURRICULUM**

October 21, 2005 - Winnipeg, Manitoba  
[http://ca.geocities.com/mastars\\_mtssag](http://ca.geocities.com/mastars_mtssag)

This conference will focus on such topic areas as:

#### **Solving the Puzzle of Boys' Under-achievement**

In this session, Dr. Sokal will look at the current academic achievement of boys, discuss some of its potential causes, and explore characteristics of programs that are demonstrating success at helping our boys achieve in school.

#### **Kids Without Choices**

This presentation will focus on those students who experience school failure through no fault of their own. Common undiagnosed psychological disorders such as Mood Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder(ODD) and Conduct Disorder, as well as childhood anxiety will be summarized.

#### **Meanness in the Digital Age**

In this presentation, Jane Tallim will address the challenge of how we can make young people feel accountable online and how we can help them consider the implications of their online behaviour.

### **GIRLS 2005! CHANGING THE CULTURE FOR GIRLS**

October 27 - 28, 2005 - Tampa, Florida, USA  
<http://www.opheliaproject.org/>

This conference is for adults who want to create lasting community change while developing the full potential of all girls; to explore cutting-edge

research in girls' issues and best practices in girls' programming for families, organizations, schools, and communities.

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY OF PANIC ATTACKS**

October 15 - 16, 2005 - Philadelphia, PA, USA  
<http://anxiety-panic.com/conference/next.cfm>

The International Conference on Psychophysiology of Panic Attacks explores the psychological and physiological diversity of panic attacks. Various pathologies, research topics, treatment strategies and patient perspectives are featured. A strong multi-cultural emphasis is created through international, interdisciplinary and patient-professional interaction.

Our proceedings feature a variety of perspectives on the nature and treatment of panic attacks as presented at past conferences. Many presenters have contributed material and presenter pages feature related contact information.

### **THE LAS VEGAS PARANORMAL CONFERENCE**

October 2 - 4, 2005 - Las Vegas, Nevada, USA  
<http://www.tlvpc.com/>

Immerse yourself in 3 days of paranormal experience in exciting Las Vegas! Conference activities include:

- \* the Nevada Institute of Paranormal Studies will conduct a special 3 day class with Certification for people wishing to become paranormal investigators.
- \* 11 exciting lectures featuring the "hottest" names in the paranormal world today
- \* 3 Hands on Workshops on EVP, Ghost Photos and Dowsing techniques
- \* A 3 hour moonlight field investigation of 2 of Las Vegas' most haunted parks. Participation in EVP and psychic experiments
- \* Late-night seance
- \* surprise guest speakers
- \* Ask the Pros - An open forum where you ask the questions
- \* and much more

### **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.

### **NATIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT SUMMIT**

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

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

### **SECOND INTERNATIONAL VERNACULAR COLLOQUIUM**

October 26 - 29, 2005 - Puebla, Mexico

<http://www.ipsonet.org/vernacular/2005>

A conference intended to explore the distinction between formalized reasoning and vernacular reasoning. Topics include areas such as Anthropology, sociology, archaeology, gender, tourism and travel, culture wars, photography, psychology, North American Indigenous Populations, ethno-botany, medicinal practices, ecology, Chicano and Chicana issues, Mexican History, art and architecture, the

drug problem, linguistics, folklore, poetry and literature readings, music and performance, dance, film and television, food, computers, education, urban issues.

### **17TH ANNUAL CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSING ONCOLOGY**

2 to 5 October 2005 - Moncton, New Brunswick

<http://cos.ca/cano>

CANO/ACIO is a national professional association dedicated to the provision of quality nursing care for persons affected by cancer.

### **THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KNOWLEDGE CAPTURE**

2 to 5 October 2005 - Banff, Alberta

<http://www.kcap05.org/>

This conference will focus on:

- \* Knowledge engineering and modeling methodologies
- \* Mixed-initiative planning and decision-support tools
- \* Acquisition of problem-solving knowledge
- \* Programming-by-demonstration systems
- \* Knowledge management environments
- \* Knowledge-based markup techniques
- \* Knowledge extraction systems
- \* Knowledge acquisition tools
- \* Advice taking systems
- \* Learning apprentices

### **Contributed By AU's *The Insider***

- 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.

## THE VOICE

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

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