

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

October 28, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 42



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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.

THE VOICE

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The language school on Colonnaden Street

The second instalment of John's series about his experiences studying abroad in Germany with his wife. Watch The Voice for more instalments of this series over the coming months. For part one, see v13 140 of The Voice.

Already, we are seeing a lot of the city and finding that we really like Hamburg, but in my last column did I really suggest that our new accommodations are "heaven"? Perhaps our heaven has a few problems. Every corner has a cobweb harbouring at least one spider. This might have something to do with the fact that Germans do not seem to put screens on their windows, yet keep the windows open through most kinds of weather. We have encountered so many spiders here that I'm starting to wonder if they are Germany's national animal. The presence of these spiders is something of a problem in light of my wife's arachnophobia. In any case, we have adopted a no-kill policy, so everyday I find myself removing countless spiders from our apartment. The rose bushes outside of our window provide a sanctuary for our unwelcome roommates, and Angeles can rest a little more easily at night.

We also learned that our building is not soundproof. The lady in the apartment above us is very fond of high-heeled shoes. Click, click. Click, click. We can hear her walking overhead, day and night. Click, click. Click, click. It starts very, very early in the morning and is louder than one might expect. Angeles wonders if this lady even wears the high-heels to bed, as we hear her at the oddest hours of the night. Click, click. Click, click.

We know when the people above us have breakfast. We can tell because it sounds as if they are moving furniture as in very heavy furniture moved from one end of their apartment to the other.



One of Hamburg's famous canals



Another canal in Hamburg

Every morning it's click, click. Click, click. And then they rearrange furniture.

The fact that we have a (semi-) permanent residence in Germany brings about our first encounter with the German bureaucracy. Everyone living in Germany must register his or her address with the authorities. If you change addresses, move to another city, or leave the country, you also have to let the authorities know. A few days after arriving in Hamburg we went to the Bezirksamt Altona (Altona district administration office) to register our address. We pay

for this service. The process takes about fifteen minutes.

As we will be living in Germany for more than three months, Angeles and I will need to register ourselves as foreigners. We make an appointment to meet with an official. We will be able to apply for our visas in six weeks.

Within days of arriving in Hamburg, we find that we have settled into life here. Every day during the week, Angeles does her research at the State Archives and from morning until early afternoon I attend German classes. And of course we get to know our surroundings.

Although Hamburg suffered tremendous damage during the Second World War, this fact is not obvious given the quality of the restoration work. It is impossible to imagine that the majority of Hamburg was once flattened, the streets were impassable and that in certain areas dead bodies were the only sign that people had once lived there. As a visitor to modern Hamburg, I would not be able to believe this had I not seen the photographs and read the accounts that recorded these events. I still cannot get my head around the effort that is required to rebuild a large city destroyed by war. That Hamburg was able to rebuild so many of its grand and historic buildings only increases my fascination with this city.

Like most tourists, we go to the harbour, stroll along the Elbe River and the city's canals (Hamburg is known as the Venice of the North), and we take a walk through the colourful Reeperbahn, Hamburg's famous and historic red-light district. There, the mostly male proprietors try to draw passers-by into the sex shows and porn shops that the area is famous for. It hardly matters if you are with your wife. Everyone is welcome! The district is lively and memorable, to say the least.

We find many aspects of German life strike us as amusing or odd. For example, people take their dogs everywhere. You find dogs in shops and restaurants. You also find many of them at the local shopping centre in spite of the signs indicating that this is forbidden. Indeed, given the large number of dogs in the mall, and the security guards' complete indifference to this, the signs are

totally superfluous. The situation does not lead to calamity. This experience calls into question the prohibition of dogs in Edmonton's shopping centres.

In Germany, furthermore, it is not forbidden to drink your beer while you ride the subway or streetcar. By early afternoon on Fridays you may encounter someone who has already started his weekend festivities on the streetcar. A German friend of ours here says that, "the party always starts on the train."



Hamburg Harbour

One thing that we do miss here is Edmonton's strict smoking ban. People here seem to smoke everywhere. Cigarettes are advertised everywhere. Forget about banning the sale of tobacco products to minors as cigarettes can be purchased from machines on street corners.

Nevertheless, in spite of these liberal attitudes there are unusual restrictions on some aspects of life here. For example, German citizens must register their televisions and their radios with the authorities. I am told that for this privilege, a German household must pay about 150 Euros (over \$200 Canadian). Fortunately, as visitors we won't be required to do this.

Hamburg is very different from other European cities that we are familiar with. First of all, the landscape here is very flat. Perhaps that is the reason that most of the bicycles here are very basic. I see very few of the expensive multi-geared bikes that I am used to seeing at home. The bicycles here are well used, practical, rugged and sturdy. They are first and foremost a means of transportation rather than an expensive piece of sports equipment.

We do not have a car here and we really do not miss it. Instead, we find that the streetcar, the underground, and bus system get us to wherever we want to go. Traffic is very heavy, so private vehicles are often no quicker than public transit.

We have already travelled throughout much of the city by streetcar (the S-Bahn) and underground (the U-Bahn). Yet our knowledge of the city has so far been limited to the world that we can see from the rail lines. Clearly, in the weeks and months ahead, there is much more to Hamburg than we have been able to experience thus far.

MSCHE - Accreditation pays off...

Brian Pinto

I am sure most Voice readers are aware of Athabasca University's recent institutional accreditation in the U.S. under the governing body of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). It is a milestone and an achievement that has not been attained by any other Canadian university currently under the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). We, as Athabasca University students, should enthusiastically observe this triumph as a chance to seek avenues that in the past were not easily accessible for future studies. Athabasca University prides itself in breaking down barriers to education and I strongly urge future grads to take advantage of opportunities such as these to reach their goals.

I am currently enrolled in Athabasca University's Bachelor of Management Three-Year Post Diploma Program, which I will complete next month. I was also recently accepted into the Master of Science in Education Program at Niagara University in New York, and I am scheduled to begin in January of 2006. My teachables are marketing and information processing. Since Athabasca University and Niagara University fall under the same accreditation body, the MSCHE, I was able to reap the benefits of AU's recent official recognition to gain acceptance into NU's teacher certification program. Other factors were necessary, but I still believe that AU's new status played some part in my acceptance, for several reasons.

Earlier on in 2005 I was supply teaching and did class observations at my old high school, which really increased my desire to pursue a career in teaching, although, my options were very limited in Ontario. Moreover, I was at a slight disadvantage having a three-year undergraduate degree, as most institutions require you to have a four-year degree to pursue graduate studies. Many of the universities here in Canada do not offer marketing and information processing as teachables, and general business studies is not a common teachable. Also, if I were to apply to any College of Education in Canada, I would have to do so nearly a year in advance. With my other family obligations, I could not wait that long and wanted to begin as soon as possible. By researching several of university websites, I realized that Niagara University, along with other universities under the MSCHE, have three start dates for their programs: Spring (January), Summer (May) and Fall (September). Many of these universities have rolling admissions, which means that you can apply even a few weeks before the semester commences and gain acceptance (pending your meeting admission requirements). Niagara University even offers distance education courses, though I will be attending on campus and living in residence while I study.

As you can imagine, I was very excited when I received my acceptance letter and that is why I decided to channel my excitement by sharing my experience with other AU students in similar circumstances who may wonder whether they will be able to pursue the "possible career options" found in the "program learning outcomes" on the AU website.

If you look at the Athabasca University Website under "Possible Further Education Options" for every program, you will see that there are several graduate programs that students can pursue at AU, but those who feel limited should explore opportunities available at other institutions and even consider the American institutions that fall under the MSCHE governing body as an option. In some cases, the provincial government (depending on the program) will provide financial assistance. For my particular program, OSAP is available as it leads to *Canadian Teacher Certification*.

I hope my experience will give others in my situation some encouragement and optimism that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you AU for pursuing the MSCHE accreditation because, *it sure paid off for me!* I hope others will follow suit to pursue their aspirations.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) and about the other member institutions alongside AU that are part of this membership association, please check out <http://www.msche.org>. For information on Niagara University's online courses, visit <http://www.ed2go.com/niagara>.

There is No Joy in Mouseville

Sandra Livingston



Poor Mickey. You've got to feel sorry for the guy, even a little. I know, I know. He's rich, he's famous, and, like certain supermodels, is recognized worldwide by his first name alone. But even a mouse has an ego, and last week's UNESCO decision must surely have been a blow to his.

On October 20, a whopping 96% of member states approved a new Convention aimed at not only promoting, but also protecting, cultural diversity. Hooray, you shout. Good news. Especially if you believe, like UNESCO (2001), that "as a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature."

And it is good news. Absolutely. But as I raise a toast and shake the confetti from my hair, I have to wonder -- who were the other 4%? Who were those dissenting voices calling from below the landslide of approval? And why didn't they think this was a good idea? A quick look at the numbers tells an interesting tale. Four countries abstained (Australia, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Liberia). That leaves two who clearly

landed on the 'nay' side of the fence: Israel and the United States.

The loudest objections came from U.S. Ambassador Louise Oliver. In her comments to the 33rd General Conference, she reiterated her position that the Convention was "deeply flawed," and that governments might use the text's "ambiguities" to promote policies that would hurt minority cultures. Valid concerns, until you realize that one of the biggest bees in her bonnet is Article 20, the part of the Convention that outlines its relationship with other international agreements. It seems Louise is worried that, in theory, countries could "try to assert a right to erect trade barriers to goods or services that are deemed to be cultural expressions" (CBC Arts, October 20, 2005). Ouch! I think we just got down to brass tacks. Could it be that this is more about the money than the art? Is the real issue the protection of all societies' unique contributions, or is it about the perceived threat to the spread of American culture?

The UNESCO Convention reaffirms the rights of Member States to take action "for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions on their territory" (Ibid.). Basically, it lets them protect their unique gifts, things like art and music, especially if they "may be threatened by the possibility of extinction or serious impairment" (UNESCO, 2005). Sounds like a good thing. Especially for those minority cultures the U.S. Ambassador is so keen to protect, so why vote against such a policy? The clue might be in just who stands to lose in this deal. The U.S. film industry is a major one. In 2001, more than 80% of the UK film industry belonged to American movies. In Spain, they monopolized 67% of the market, and nearly 60% of offerings in Italian theatres were imports from Uncle Sam (International Networks Archive, 2001). A pretty lucrative market, and one that could see a slump in profits if countries have UNESCO's support to insist on a minimum level of local content.

American television exports could also be in danger. Even though many countries are hooked on their own long-running soap operas, the popular U.S. show *Law and Order* is shown in over 70 countries. In fact, of all the fiction programs (both film and television) aired by European Union networks in 2000, over 68% originated in the United States. Along with imports of clothes, music, magazines, and food, it's easy to see how American influence might be viewed as an overwhelming force that could threaten local culture.

Which brings us back to the Mouse. The Disney empire spans the globe, providing films, parks and resorts, consumer products, and media outlets. Three continents boast a total of 11 theme parks, including Tokyo, Paris, and now Hong Kong. Easy to see how those pesky trade barriers on cultural products could throw a wrench in the works.

But I say to Louise, relax. Accept the outcome gracefully. The American cultural juggernaut isn't about to pull up stakes and abandon the fairgrounds overnight. We still love Mickey, and the *Survivor* franchise is going strong. Besides, there might be unexpected benefits. Your own culture might just become a little richer if the other guys' lights are allowed to step out from behind your shadow and shine. After all, that painting of a soup can was interesting, but artistic genius was really off and running with those crazy Renaissance fellows (you know, da Vinci and his pals).

Still, I can't help shedding a tear for the cheerful little guy with the tail. For today, there is no joy in Mouseville. Mighty Dubya has struck out.

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SWF Seeking...

Lonita Fraser

By leaps and bounds dating and mating websites are losing their print equivalent and afternoon playmate taint, taking on a whole new level of seriousness and acceptance. They are no longer avenues for the desperate, hangouts for the habitually single and chronically loveless--today, dating sites are becoming a first choice for the busy person, the person whose friends are all paired up, the person who just isn't certain where the heck to get a decent companion anymore. The bar scene was never it, and it can be a little dicey to date someone from the workplace. So where do you go?

Enter the digital matchmaker.

Rather than restricting you to a tiny, unobtrusive square box which affords you no more embellishment than a hundred words or less in which you're to entice a prospective mate, online dating sites offer a wealth of ways for you to highlight yourself as a prospective

partner. These sites range from offering only a few, preset stock questions and answers that you choose from a multiple-choice quiz-like atmosphere, to lengthy question and answer responses that require you to put some thought (hopefully) into what you're advertising about yourself. These sites offer space for photos, your personal stats, and the stats of the sort of mate you're after. Prepared questions range from what your favourite pets are, to what you find sexy and what sort of items you can't do without in life. Some offer enough blank space to let you be individually creative.

I've noticed a trend away from cliché responses to those that have a ring of humour, and truth. Gone are the dating game refrains about pina colodas, getting caught in the rain, fireplaces, bearskin rugs, and walks on the beach at midnight, and hello to the days of "I like eating spaghetti in bed", "I can pick things up with my toes", and "I'll be your devoted slave if you can do an impression of Carol Channing." Men, and women, are branching out of what they think people want to hear, and heading off into the unknown, and much more interesting, land of individual truth, quirks, and the kind of brazen honesty that will catch you a companion, playmate, or spouse.

I've seen some beautiful effort put into profiles, effort that results in something that is completely captivating. Then you hit the profiles that make you wonder how serious the people really are about finding someone; like the guy whose profile picture is his lower half, and all he's wearing is a no-sleeve t-shirt and tighty whities; or the guy who's almost completely naked except for purple, plastic buckets covering his tender parts. Pictures aside, though, the most telling aspect of a person's profile, for me at least, is the language. I'm not talking about vulgarities or crudities, I'm talking about basic spelling and grammar. I know there are some that will see it as a sign of snobbery, but this is something I cannot apologise for: poor language skills are a real turn-off. If you're trying to catch the attention of someone who's put some effort into their profile, it's likely not so good an idea to "rite 2 them using spelling lik this, bcuz ur not likely 2 get much attention" -- especially not if you're a grown man claiming to have a Ph.D. Oh, and if you're trying to catch someone's attention, you might also want to avoid posting photos of yourself in dirty clothes, in compromising positions, coupled with members of the opposite sex, or looking like you've just rolled out of bed and not showered for the past week. Trust me, these aren't turn-ons, and will not make me h0t 4 u!

I've yet to decide what's worse: People who obviously put no effort into their own profiles, or the ones that put no effort into paying attention to yours before they contact you. No, in fact I am in no way interested in dating someone twenty-five years my senior (or ten years my junior), who lives several thousand miles away in a country not known for fair practices toward women; nor am I interested in someone who looks like he's just got free of the judicial system, and I don't mean someone who's just left the law offices of Dewey, Cheatum, and Howe. For all the good that is finally creeping into the online dating world, there are still some things that can make it all a real... adventure.

So far I most like the personals site that allows me to put into my profile things like the last book I've read, the five things I can't live without, details about spirituality, music, and art, my opinions on sports, more information on what I want in a man that extends beyond what most sites offer, since many sites don't go much beyond eye colour, height, income, and whether or not he's got children and wants more. Those are about the last things that I consider when contemplating whether or not I want to date someone. I need more pith, less patina. I want some meat, substance, information that -- when I look into a person's eyes -- I can see ticking around in there, like the books he's read, the music he likes, and whether or not he likes to eat toast in bed and wear silly hats when gardening. You'd be surprised how appealing a good grasp of hat wearing can be.

Of course the digital dating system is not foolproof, nothing is, but it does provide a somewhat safer environment to introduce yourself to strangers than picking them up in a booze-laden bar that's too dim to really let you get a look at them, and too loud to let you hear the nuances of their speech. I don't want to get stuck going out with some man because I thought he said he wanted to have port with me, not "pork" me. Oh, you think I'm kidding about that, I bet. Sadly, it's true -- I know a man who refers to having sex with women as "porking" them. He's still single, by the way.



Bush's Stem Cell Policy Faces Home-grown Opposition

Mandy Gardner

In 2001, President Bush declared it illegal to spend federal funds on stem cell research, a blow that the American scientific community had been dreading for some time. Stem cells are reputed to have the ability to grow into any bodily tissue, therefore making possible the successful treatment of numerous diseases and disabilities. Bush, however, deemed the research unethical as it involves the creation of an embryo through a process known as therapeutic cloning.

Therapeutic cloning, while controversial, is not the same as reproductive cloning, although it involves some of the same procedures. The process is essentially very simple. First, a normal egg cell (donated by a woman) has its nucleus, or centre, removed. The egg nucleus is replaced by a normal nucleus, that is the center of another normal body cell, such as a skin cell. The modified cell, called a blastocyst, produces the stem cells necessary for tissue regeneration.

So what did the ban on federal funding for this method mean for American researchers? The result was no more tax money to expand stem cell research. Scientists could only gain funding to study what had already been discovered prior to 2001. Robert Lanza of Advanced Cell Technology in Massachusetts has quite possibly changed all of that. His work with mice has revealed the ability of a naturally produced embryo to fully develop into a healthy foetus after one cell was removed and cultured into various stem cells. The discovery has eliminated the need for therapeutic cloning, and means that stem cell researchers no longer need to create or destroy unnatural embryos for their studies.

Perhaps the ban will be lifted from federal funding. President Bush has yet to respond.

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One and Other

b.e. hydromako

Hello again folks. Sorry I wasn't around last issue, but there were some unexpected complications that have been, I think, cleared up. I'm now aiming to do my best in providing a weekly something or Other to read. Yeah, it might not always be pretty, but hey, neither is life, and writers, I guess, better write about what they know -- about life as they've experienced it -- than write about things they don't know. I mean, that is often what gets said, anyway.

So I'm shooting for a weekly column to share some of the things I think I might know, but perhaps there will be difficulties in communicating these things to readers of *The Voice*. Communication is merely the "middle-man" of language use, or more refined--the messages and the language they are expressed in are simply the interim and vehicle of any communication, but the meaning is found in the "I" of the interpreter via the language

of the One who generates. This is to say that a signal containing meaningful information is first formulated by a sender -- One who intends to mean something -- but that something is found within the act of interpretation that the receiver engages in to decode the signal.

As an aging pop song goes, "it takes two to make things go right," and I tend to agree. With this in mind, I figured it'd be good, if One is interested in interpreting some of my own language use and abuse, to offer readers an explanation on why the heck I capitalize the 'o' in the words 'One' and 'Other' regardless of whether or not these words are used at the beginning of a sentence or not. This little eccentricity certainly flies in the face of conventional standards regarding use of the English language. Hey, if there's One thing I might have a reputation for, at least with some, it's flying in the face of convention, and it's often a turbulent flight! But not today, I hope. So, as it is sometimes said, "let's get buiz-zay!"

Now One is the first thing, the beginning. Sure, sure, zero comes before One, but zero is literally "nothing," and so we cannot really count it as a beginning, but that which is transcendent of any sort of initial thing. As mentioned above, a communication begins with One -- the One formulating the message to be broadcast! One may also signify a singular self -- the One who is "I". This *I* could be any One -- you, me, her, etc. As Hegel (1979) took some pains to illustrate in his *Phenomenology of Spirit*, there is, interestingly enough, no singular One who is *I* over a series of time. Thus, even in its singularity as One, *I* is multifaceted, complex, and is able to refer to a plethora of beings, but all in turn.

However, relative to One, there must be an Other. If One comes into being from nothing, then zero is an Other relative to One. And, as far as numbers go, there comes from One and infinity of Others: 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on, ad infinitum. When we are talking numbers, we can see that the Others all standing together in contrast to One are incredibly rich and complex, but each of these Others would have no existence if it weren't for the One that stands as the first thing in the series. But let's get away from numbers for the time being, let's get back to people.

The reception of a broadcast lies in the Others who have received a signal from the One who sent it. If there were no Others to intercept the messages that One formulates, there wouldn't be any meaningful communication. However, as mentioned previously, the One who receives any communication is the same One who makes it meaningful via his or her interpretation, and so, we see here how the roles reverse in a bit of a Mobius twist: the two-sided band of One and Other wraps around and feeds into itself such that the Other comes to be the One in which meaning arises.

Put differently, each of us is One who sends and receives signals via the Other. It takes two to make the circle of communication complete. Without One and Other, there is no real sense in which communication exists. It's a little cycle, a circle, an "O", within which no One is entirely alone, and no Other is not also One.

So this is a 'quick and dirty' explanation as to why this One capitalizes the letter "o" when it occurs in the words "One" and "Other". To this One it serves as a reminder that, even if my interpretations begin with me, and my world extends outwards from me, the Other is right there with me, and indeed, is not only with me, but within me. I am an Other to countless other Ones, as they are Others relative to me. Every One of us is entirely reliant on this cycle, this rotating circle, this O, and it seems fairly clear that without Others One would have no significance, no meaning, and would collapse back into nothing. One would disappear into the void of zero from which it came. Thus, it is out of respect and appreciation for One and Other that I place a large O at the beginning of these words. It is a reminder that no One is alone, all One, without also being entirely Other.

So forget about the New Age's "We are all One," because in actuality, well, it seems we are all O.

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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



PHYSICS PROFESSOR FORCED TO RETIRE

Debbie Jabbour

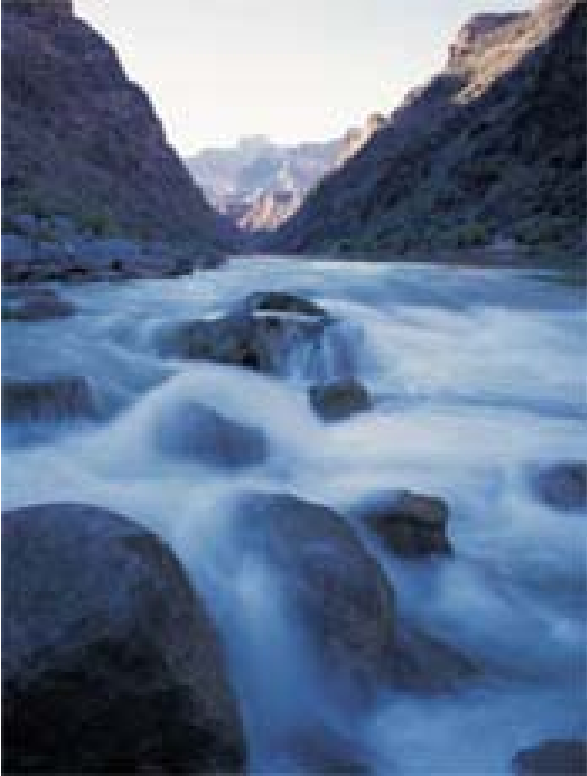
73-year old physics professor Ed Tomchuk has lost his battle against forced retirement, and will have to leave the university teaching job he has held for 44 years. This retirement came about as a consequence of a deal the University of Winnipeg reached in 2002 between the university and its faculty, which forces professors to retire at age 69. Although proponents of the deal argue that keeping senior staff stretches tight budgets and makes it difficult for young professors to get tenure, the University has argued that the forced retirement policy is causing them to lose good scholars as young as 55 to other universities. The University of Toronto faced a similar debate, and last spring, reached a deal with the faculty association that will allow professors and librarians who wish to work past age 65 to phase-in or postpone retirement.

Tomchuk fought the ruling on the basis of age discrimination. Manitoba, Quebec, Alberta, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, and Northwest Territories ban mandatory retirement. Ontario has introduced legislation that will amend the human rights code to extend protection for discrimination based on age. Although mandatory retirement is banned in Manitoba, exceptions are granted to the universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg. In Alberta, the University of Alberta's 1992 case against professor Olive Dickason was fought to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favour of forcing Dickason to retire at age 65 (Canadian Press, 2005, August 31).

Although schools argue that they need to renew their faculty, many suggest that merit, rather than age, should be the deciding factor in choosing faculty. The Tomchuk case will be heard on appeal, but the university has already planned for Tomchuk's departure and says there is no longer funding available for him as a tenured faculty member.

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- Canadian Press (2005, August 31). Professor must leave job, court says: Tenured Manitoba professor loses first round in forced retirement battle. *Edmonton Journal*.
- Whiteside, J. (2005, March 14). End to mandatory retirement in sight for faculty, librarians. University of Toronto - News @UofT. Retrieved from <http://www.news.utoronto.ca/bin6/050314-1116.asp>.



Just so there's no misunderstanding, I'm every bit as committed to preserving the wilderness as the next person. It's just that the wilderness is, well, so large. And untidy. A quick glance at any atlas will quickly confirm the fact that the wilderness takes up huge portions of our planet's total surface area, and yet it generates little or no real value for our species. The Himalayas, for instance, are far more sprawling than they need to be, strictly speaking. And don't even get me started on the Sahara desert.

Even in our own relatively organized North America, it is clear that the wilderness poses a serious impediment to our progress as a species. Take a look, for instance, at the vast stretches of temperate rainforest spread like a blight across the Pacific Northwest. This space, to put it bluntly, is very poorly arranged and under utilized. Many of you will be surprised to hear, for instance, that the majority of it remains unlogged, unpaved and inaccessible right up to the present day, and therefore completely devoid of big box retailers, and even Starbucks outlets.

Besides the fact that so-called pristine wilderness contributes little or nothing to our economy, it presents a very significant health risk. To say that these barren wastelands don't lend themselves to cleaning is putting it mildly and overall conditions tend to be extremely unsanitary. Furthermore, these poorly lit, treacherous stretches are filled with all manner of diseased and potentially violent animals, unsafe walking areas, and a myriad of varieties of poisonous fungi.

Yet, despite all of this, there seems to be an alarming lack of political will to step in and make a real difference. Despite the proliferation of effective and inexpensive defoliants that are available to us, we allow many old growth trees to grow unchecked. Tax dollars that could be used in the funding of public/private partnerships devoted to wilderness pest control services are instead squandered on health care and education. Many rivers and lakes are undammed and undiverted, and tragically remain under government control, instead of being in the hands of multinational corporations owned by people such as you and me. I can tell you that there are quite a few of my good friends south of the border who would be generous enough to help us out financially up here by taking some of this worthless water off our hands, thus giving a real boost to our economy and providing us with the wherewithal to purchase more sanitary bottled water and other refreshing beverages from the Coca Cola Corporation.

So when will things change? When will the wilderness be finally brought into reasonable check? When will irresponsible, subversive enviro-loudmouths, such as David Suzuki and the thugs at Greenpeace, be silenced at long last? It will only happen when all of us, speaking with one determined voice, force our politicians to take action. It is up to each and every one of us to make the world a safer, more convenient, and more profitable place by bringing nature firmly under control.



Turing the Pages...

Elizabeth Cousar

First, an apology: I was sick for a couple of weeks there and left the column in favour of bed rest. I'm sorry. I didn't let you all know where I went. Thanks to both of the readers who inquired about me. You know who you are.

I haven't done a lot of reading in the last short while. An inability to stay conscious for more than a half-hour cramped my reading style. However, this week I finally finished something new.

Survivor in Death, one of the latest "Eve Dallas" novels from renowned author Nora Roberts (who writes this "...in Death" series under the pseudonym J. D. Robb) is a near-future science-fiction whodunnit cop story. So it must be good, right? After all, near-future science-fiction is good, and whodunnits are good, and cop stories are good...so all of them together must be fabulous!

Well...yes and no. I really like Roberts' near-future science fiction elements. She has a much more populous New York, with some subtle futuristic touches. People eat a lot less real meat, for example, and a lot more soy 'simulated' meats. Fashion is futuristic; some of the descriptions of people's outfits are wild and crazy, but not that far off from what kids are wearing today (trust me, I work in a high school!). There are other subtle (and not -so subtle) technological advances that I find interesting to contemplate on a slightly deeper level than she chooses to deal with. What, for example, would be the effect of an AutoChef in most homes? Or the sociological effect of having robots as shopkeepers? I wonder. I'm not sure Roberts does. She seems to include them as part of the "well, it's science fiction, it must have robots" kit.

I also enjoy the story itself. Most of the novels in this series are fairly fast-paced. They involve not only solving a crime (or a series of related crimes), but also a lot about the characters. While some of these are fairly flat, cookie-cutter types, some of the characters have actual growth. Even if they are quite static, the characters are lovable (or hateable, as their role dictates). The novels are all extremely plot-driven. That's what I need sometimes.

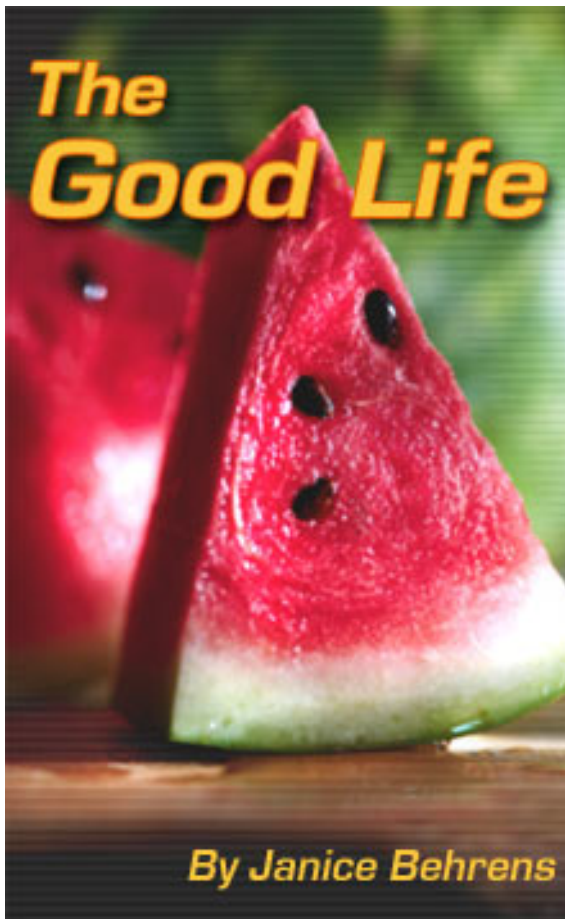
In this particular installment of the series, a family is murdered in their beds, except for the nine-year-old daughter who witnesses the killings from her hiding spot. Eve Dallas, New York Police and Security Department cop, goes after the killers. With her ultra-rich husband, Roarke, whose criminal background is extensive as a civilian consultant on the case (his computer skills are unmatched), Dallas hunts down the bad guys, and takes them away in the end. Sorry to put out a spoiler, there, but you weren't really expecting anything else, were you?

The part of the novel that I really don't like is the sex. Okay, it's a Nora Roberts novel -- what did I expect, right? Maybe I was canalized by the science fiction I read in my youth, but somehow I don't expect characters in an science-fiction novel to be ripping the clothes from each others' backs and indulging in some focused calisthenics, if you know what I mean. If you want a bit of action in your mystery novel, this might be up your alley, however. I guess what bothers me most about the 'action' is that it always has an urgent, angry feel to it, sort of an almost-rape twice per novel like clockwork. Granted, the participants are always a married couple (and it's completely consensual), and the one initiating the almost-rape is usually the woman, but a little variety in the flavour would be nice.

All in all, this series is, to my mind, one step (perhaps a short step) up from a Harlequin "Passions"-type romance novel. It's great brain candy, and because it involves a whodunnit, you can rationalize that you're actually using some critical thinking skills. But, hey—it's fun! I wouldn't run out and buy the whole series in hardcover. But if I happened across one I hadn't read at the library, I'd probably take it home.

Reference

Robb, J. D. (2005). *Survivor in Death*. New York: Putnam.



Accepting Pain

Mental pain and emotional anguish are universal elements of the human condition. The fact that repeated studies have shown depression and suicide rates to be higher in the affluent western world than in third world countries demonstrates that relative material comfort is no insulation from psychological suffering. Financial burdens, family relationships, work and school pressures, and a host of other stressors we are all familiar with can very easily send us into an emotional tail-spin. On top of this, there is the constant stream of bad news and manipulative commercialism that pours forth from our radios and televisions each day.

A remedy that many of us have tried from time to time is to turn to substances such as alcohol and various types of drugs. At best, though, this approach serves only to mask the pain that we are suffering, in the short-term, and very often the long-term results are toxic and destructive to ourselves and those we are closest to.

Other things we use to find temporary relief from our anguish include numbing diversions, such as television and the Internet. We may not think of these things as being in the same category as alcohol and drugs, but ultimately they are not much better for our long-term psychological well-being. Once again, they serve simply to provide a momentary

distraction. As soon as we put them aside, the tension and feelings of unease descend upon us once again.

Another form of pain-numbing addiction, but one that is never considered as such, is our attachment to negative emotions whenever we find ourselves in stressful situations. I'm talking about emotions such as anger and bitterness that tend to raise their ugly heads whenever we find ourselves facing challenges we don't feel equipped to handle. Although an immediate sense of anger can be a powerful and positive force for reacting to injustice and extreme situations, it loses its effectiveness very quickly and becomes merely bitterness, a worthless and destructive emotion. Bitterness is, however, a very addictive emotion; one that allows us to maintain the myth that others, or the general conditions of the universe, are to blame for our perceived ill fortune. It allows us to evade responsibility for our own fate. In that sense, it acts just like any other soothing but destructive narcotic. It gives us a feeling of temporary relief and satisfaction, while simultaneously eroding our free will. It is only by taking full responsibility for whatever befalls us -- living life with our eyes wide open -- that we can truly live our own lives.

Perhaps our desperate attempt to avoid psychological pain has something to do with a fundamental misunderstanding about what being alive really means. After all, isn't pain just a part of all existence? It is one of the vibrant threads that make up the magnificent tapestry of our lives. The feelings we experience when relationships fall apart, loved ones die, we fail at a task or look foolish in front of others, are all there for a reason. They are there to teach us things such as patience, endurance, understanding, compassion, and love -- all the things that we need in order to live fulfilled and well-rounded lives. Feeling these emotions is what keeps us aware of the fact that we are, in fact, alive.

As Sydney Harris once said:

"When I hear somebody sigh, 'Life is hard,' I am always tempted to ask, 'Compared to what?'"



Why it Pays to Know Someone Smart

Over the years, a slightly obsessive curiosity has led me to gather up a store of somewhat esoteric but useless information in a number of obscure areas of human endeavour. For this reason, if I were to find myself on a quiz show, I would be happy to take on my fellow contestants in specific subject areas such as the poetry of W.B. Yeats, edible and hallucinogenic plants, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, the 1970's Montreal Expos, and Sherlock Holmes. On the other hand, the list of subjects apt to very quickly send me to the consolation prize table reserved for "departing contestants" would be much lengthier and more comprehensive. Basic accounting, television sitcoms, auto mechanics, current events, stain removal, electrical circuits, knot-tying, fashion sense, the table of elements, heating, venting and air conditioning systems, maps of the world, popular music from the 1980s, woodworking, Hollywood personalities, and lacrosse are just a few of the subjects I know pretty much diddly squat about. In short, then, if knowledge were real estate, there are gaps in mine that you could build some major condominium developments in.

Fortunately, despite these cognitive shortcomings, I've managed to keep myself more or less functional and employable by using a variety of clever tactics. One of these is to know when to fake it. Let's face it, there are times in situations, such as first dates and job interviews, when the most important skill you have is the ability to

smile and nod with a "knowing" look on your face, even when you are completely bewildered. More often, though, I've been completely upfront about my shocking ignorance. Utterances such as "So...you're saying that I shouldn't stand in a basin of water while I'm attempting to replace that dimmer switch?" or "What? Madonna and Sean Penn are divorced?" are types of questions commonly heard around my house.

Another effective strategy (a rare stroke of genius on my part, if I may be so immodest) has been to make up for my general lack of competence by choosing a partner who is adept in all the areas wherein I'm particularly vague and scatterbrained. Besides having the drop on me in the looks department, my wife has proven herself to be pretty capable of handling most of the challenges that come her way. Although she's rarely been called upon her to do so, she is mechanically inclined enough to take apart a carburetor in the dark and put it back together again. She has also somehow been able to master the occult complexities of paying our bills on time, feeding the cat and watering the plants once in awhile, as well as jotting down important events on the calendar so as not to forget them (brilliant, that).

In sum, my point is (I'm sure, Dear Reader, that you had faith in the fact I have one), if you are, like me, not the most well-rounded of individuals, not necessarily shall we say, one of those renaissance men or women that I personally take great solace in despising, then it may be a wise move to cozy up to someone who is. Trust me, when your car breaks down during a total eclipse of the sun on your way to a celebrities' lacrosse game, you're going to need her or him!

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
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THE THIRD ANNUAL VOICE MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST!

**\$1000 in scholarships to be awarded
\$500 each in the fiction and non-fiction
categories**

**Write for *The Voice* and win money for
your education.**

The Voice is launching its third annual writing contest, with categories for both **fiction** and **non-fiction**.

Non-Fiction: In 1500 words or less, write about any issue affecting the environment. You may write about issues in your local area, or global ones. You may focus on the human aspects of environmental change, or the impact on the earth. Feel free to use research or statistics in your article [with proper citations], or write a creative opinion piece.

Fiction: Free form - write a 1500 word or less fiction submission in any genre or any format. Short stories, poetry, a scene from a play, even a comic. Be creative!

Please read the contest rules and regulations and submission guidelines very carefully to ensure you are not disqualified. It's free to enter. **The length limits are firm and all entries that go beyond these limits will be disqualified.** Good luck!

Rules and Regulations:

- Entrants must be AU students. Student status will be confirmed with the AU registrar. Please ensure that the registrar has your current address and contact information.
- Winning entries will be published in The Voice. The Voice reserves the right to print non-winning entries at a rate of remuneration in accordance with current Voice freelance submission rates. The Voice may use portions of non winning non-fiction entries in a composite about students perspectives on the environment. No remuneration will be provided for such use.
- All decisions regarding this contest and the selection of winners remain with the judging panel and are final.
- AU, AUSU, and Voice staff and AUSU Council members are not eligible for the contest.
- Entries will be judged by a panel to be selected by the Voice Editor, and this panel may include: AU students, AU tutors, and/or AUSU council members. The panel will include at least 3 members.
- The Voice Editor will collect articles and oversee the judging, but will not be a judge.
- Entries must be original works which have not been printed or published elsewhere, and must not be course assignment papers or derivatives of.
- Entries must not contain any information that would make the identity of the author evident to judges. To ensure fairness, all entries will be forwarded to the judging panel with a reference number attached, but no personally identifying information will be forwarded. The Voice Editor will keep the identity of the authors private until the contest closes. The Voice editor will keep a record of the authors of submissions, and will be the sole owner of this list.
- Entries will not be edited for grammar, spelling, or content, although The Voice Editor may black out any personally identifying information contained within the submission. Otherwise, entries will be forwarded to the judging panel, as is, with the exception that all entries will be converted to use the same file format, margins, font size and font style to ensure that all entries are equally readable.
- **The deadline for submissions in both categories will be December 20, 2005. The winner will be announced by February 15, 2006. The Voice reserves the right to extend either deadline if necessary.**
- One grand prize winner will be selected in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. If no entries are received in one of the categories, the prize money will be returned to the Voice scholarship budget. Prizes will be awarded in the form of a cheque, payable in Canadian funds.

- The Voice reserves the right to add additional, secondary prizes.
- The Voice is not responsible for lost emails. The Voice editor will confirm receipt of all entries by email. Please follow up if you do not receive a reply in two business days.
- All entrants agree to allow their name and city of residence to be printed, along with their submission, should it be selected as a winning entry. No further remuneration - beyond the contest prize - will be paid to the contest winner when their entry is printed.
- Entrants will be asked to sign a standard Release and Indemnity form; each prize winner agrees to release the Sponsor and its agents from any liability in connection with the prizes awarded in this contest.
- Any entrant found to be tampering with the contest results, or attempting to influence any of the judging members, or using any forums or other public communications media to advise others of which entry is theirs will be disqualified; or if The Voice editor determines, at her sole discretion, that any other form of tampering has been attempted, that entrant will be disqualified.
- No preference will be given to regular Voice writers. Entries will not identify the writer as a regular Voice contributor when sent to the judging panel.
- Where applicable, this contest is subject to all federal, provincial and municipal laws. Contest void where prohibited.

Submission Guidelines:

- Your submission must be an electronic file attached to an email. Submissions sent as the body of an email will not be accepted. Contact voice@ausu.org if you require instructions on how to attach a file to an email.
- Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format [.doc], rich text format [.rtf] or plain text format [.txt]. If you use a Word Processor other than Word or work on a Mac computer, you can save a file in one of these alternate formats using the 'save as' function and selecting the desired format on the save menu. Contact The Voice editor if you require assistance in formatting your submission. Users of older Macs may have to send entries in HTML format.
- All entries must be under 1500 words due to judging time constraints. Length will be determined by the Word Count feature in Microsoft Word. Your References and Citations section will not be included in the word count. References should be formatted consistently according to a standardized publishing style guide, such as the American Psychological Association (APA) or the MLA press style.
- Entries should not include unnecessary formatting such as drop caps, graphics [unless the graphic is integral to the work], or unusual fonts. Entries must be text - scans of hand written or typed documents will not be accepted.
- The email should include the following information: Your full name, AU student ID number, email address, telephone number, mailing address, the title of your entry, and whether you are submitting to the fiction or non-fiction category. Make sure non-fiction entries are based on the topic question detailed above. Fiction entries can be on any topic you like. Do not include your contact information within your article - but be sure to include a title.
- Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - **Non Fiction entries:** will be judged on originality, creativity, accuracy, and how well you support your assertions with data or argument. You will also be judged on the presentation of your article, including professionalism, proper spelling, grammar and syntax, and readability. You may write in journalistic style or essay format.
 - **Fiction entries:** will be judged on creativity, entertainment value, and the originality of your writing style. Regardless of the genre you choose, you will be judged on the effectiveness of your piece and your technical writing skills.

Contact voice@ausu.org if you have any questions.



Dear Barb: HELP! For some reason I always become involved in relationships with women that I have to take care of and I don't mean that in the traditional sense. Most of the women I become involved with end up having serious emotional, mental or addiction problems. My intent is always to make things right, or to help them get over a rough time. However, it seems that when I help them through one crisis, another one erupts. Then, I feel obligated to help them through that crisis. My last two relationships ended when the women didn't seem to need me anymore. I'm beginning to wonder if there is something wrong with me or am I just an easy target? Is it possible that there is something in my personality that attracts these types of women? I'll be looking forward to your advice, hopefully before I meet my next needy girlfriend.

William in Cornwall

Hi William, thanks for writing. You may be right; there may be something in your personality that is attracting a certain type of individual. Think about your other relationships with friends and family, are they similar, in that you often seem to be helping someone through a bad time? Have you always been the kid in school that seemed to be drawn to the underdog or were they drawn to you? My guess is that your answer will be 'yes'.

You may be suffering from a codependent personality. You seem to have reached a point where you feel a need to make some changes.

Some of the following characteristics are associated with codependency: a need to be needed, deriving your happiness through someone else, having a fear of rejection or failure, constantly trying to make things right for others and trying to "fix" them, and taking on others' responsibilities while neglecting your own. If you can identify with these characteristics you probably are codependent. The term codependent is more often used when describing women, for men the term is "rescuer."

Don't despair William, there are things you can do to overcome this behavior and you have taken the first step by realizing there is something unhealthy in your present relationships. As well, you need to begin to focus on yourself and your needs. Learn to love yourself and don't feel guilty when you do things for yourself. Setting boundaries is imperative if you are to be successful in overcoming codependency. Learn to say "NO." You don't have to fix everyone. Their problems are their own, not yours.

A visit to your local library would be beneficial, as several books are available on codependency. In addition, consider the help of a counselor to perhaps get you into group therapy.

Below is an excellent definition of a rescuer that I found:

"The Rescuer gets their needs met by taking care of others. They rush in to try and solve others problems and look after them. This keeps them from looking at their own problems. They do things for the other person rather than show the person how to do them for themselves. This keeps the other person stuck so they can keep looking after them. The rescuer is actually a victim in disguise" (Whitehouse, 2003).

Good Luck William, please keep me updated on your progress.

Reference

Whitehouse, D. (2003). From Hollywood to Here. In press. Retrieved from http://www.vibrantuniverse.com/the_inner_child.html.

E-mail your questions to advice.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.

Women You Should Know

Compiled by Barbara Godin

October's women of note:

October 1, 1883 - Dr. Emily Stowe's tireless work resulted in the opening of Canada's first medical school for women.

October 18, 1929 - As a result of the determination of five Alberta women, Canadian women were legally recognized as "persons." Therefore, women could no longer be excluded from the Senate because of their sex.

October 20, 1873 - Nellie Letitia Mooney (McClung), born in Ontario, became a notable activist, author and politician.

October 22, 1692 - Madeleine de Vercheres gained notoriety when, at the age of 16, she defended her family fort from an attack by a band of Iroquois, for eight days while her parents were away.

October 24, 1901 - Ann Taylor was age 63 when she became the first person in Canada to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

October 27, 1893 - The National Council of Women of Canada was formed by a group of 1,500 women in Toronto.

October 31, 1982 - Marguerite Bourgeoys, the founder of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, was canonized by Pope John Paul II.

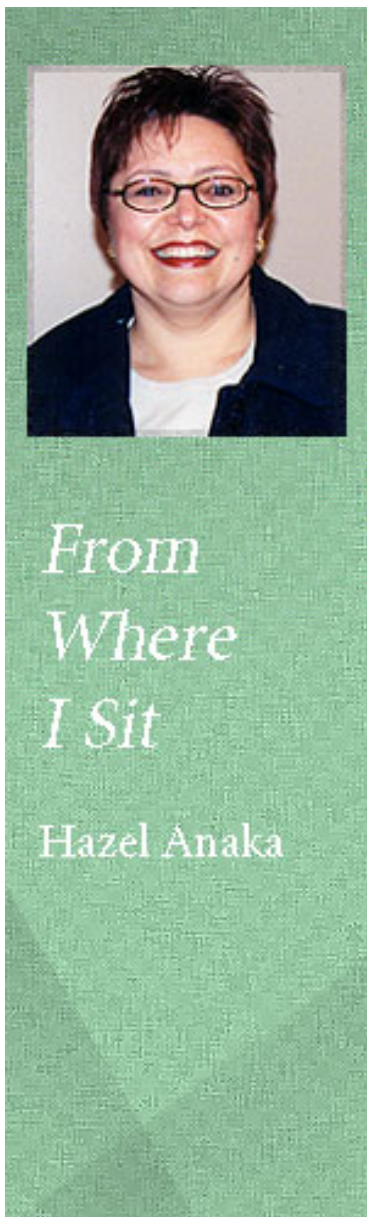
Source for additional information

This Month in Canadian Herstory: October - <http://www.heroines.ca/history/thismonth.html>

Starting next month, Women You Should Know will become a full length column that will run once at the end of each month. Watch for the next edition at the end of November.



Dear Journal— Sometimes the best part of labour organising is the time you waste.



Back to the Drawing Board

What do you do when you have an important decision to make? Do you contact JoJo's psychic alliance for advice from a clairvoyant? Do you talk to the ones nearest and dearest to you because it will undoubtedly impact them as well? Do you research trends and probabilities? Do you weigh pros and cons, risks and benefits? Or do you fly by the seat of your pants, go with your instinct? Do you hope for an iron-clad guarantee or say 'que sera sera'? Do you pray for divine guidance or want the facts, just the facts, ma'am?

I find myself on the horns of a dilemma. I've got an important decision to make and have begun doubting my usual process of weighing options and listening to my gut. My track record for decision-making isn't particularly bad. Or exceptionally brilliant for that matter. I don't allow myself regrets because I believe, in each case, I did the best I could with the information and life experience I had at the time. I see no benefit to beating myself up or second-guessing past choices. I do, however, try to learn from them.

So what's different this time? For one thing, I'm not getting any younger. That little news flash is both freeing and paralyzing. If my life were to end prematurely, I'd like to think I went out doing what I love. On the other hand, shouldn't I get serious about amassing some serious coin for a more secure, albeit perhaps more miserable old age? Why does it seem doing what you love and earning big money are mutually exclusive?

Why did an admittedly spiritual career counsellor advise me to make the leap based on a foundation of faith? Why is my new favourite saying "choose authenticity not approval"? Why does it seem that since I picked a course of action not one, not two, but half a dozen possible career choices all cropped up at once?

I'm reluctant to talk openly with friends or family because I need to make my own decision based on my own heart and head. I don't want to look for consensus or a majority vote. Maybe what I could do is enlist their honest opinions on both my finest qualities and biggest shortcomings. Maybe I'm missing some glaring truth.

It seems the simple act of asking you (or is it me) all these rhetorical questions has opened up a new possibility. I can choose to pursue with my current career coach my initial decision because it feels the most authentic. If the process of research and analysis proves the idea unrealistic or unviable, I can fall back on plan B. I needn't slam the door on the second option.

Hey, hold on, this sounds a lot like having your cake and eating it too. This splitting my focus and energy hasn't really worked so well for me in the past. Now what? It's back to the drawing board, from where I sit.



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

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Typically Participants Work Independently

Typically The Application Process Time Is 6 weeks

Application Process Involves: Letters of Reference, Other, Phone Interview, Resume, Transcript, Written Application. Typically The Application Process Time Is 6 weeks

Post Services Include: Job and Internship Network

Who is this program for:

- University students requiring a practicum for graduation
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- High School graduates looking for practical experience

Highlights:

- 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:

- **Realistic Expectations:** Be very clear that placements will depend on your relevant experience and education, level of language, and industry sector as well as time of the year and other situational factors. Positions are for language acquisition AND experience.
- **Professionalism and Maturity:** All candidates are required to exhibit an appropriate level of commitment to the internship process, InterNeX, their college and Host Company.
- **Good Communication:** Clear and appropriate communication skills, and an ability to assist INTERNeX in understanding your goals for an internship and your relevant experience.
- **Flexibility:** Positions can involve a great variety of tasks, and can be in a variety of related industry sectors. Candidates may intern in any area related to their primary choice of industry and position.
- **Ability to take Initiative:** Host companies do not want to handhold so be prepared to be extremely proactive and to assist the company in finding appropriate tasks for you to undertake.

Please email INTERNeX: <http://www.internabroad.com/listingsp3.cfm/listing/21964>

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Youth Achievement Awards

Number of Awards: 5

Application Deadline: December 31

Description: For Aboriginal youth ages 15 - 29, members of a Provincial/Territorial Organization in good standing with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. Organizations include: Native Council of Nova Scotia, Native Council of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples' Council, Labrador Metis Nation, Federation of Newfoundland Indians, Native Alliance of Quebec, Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association, Aboriginal Council of Manitoba, or United Native Nations (British Columbia). Must demonstrate an overall positive attitude toward life. Five award categories include: leadership, education, community, sports, and culture & heritage. Must be nominated. Submit letters of support, photograph, and resume.

Contact Information:

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP)

<http://www.abo-peoples.org/YouthPages/YouthIndex.htm>

The Dalton Camp Award

Value: \$5,000

Number of Awards: 3

Application Deadline: March 31

Description: Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Submit maximum 2,000 word essay on link between democratic values and quality of media in Canada. Biographical sketch required. For further information, please visit the website posted below

Contact Information:

Friends of Canadian Broadcasting

Web Site: <http://www.friends.ca>

RBC Royal Bank Financial Lifeskills Scholarships

Value: \$2,006

Number of Awards: 10

Application Deadline: May 12

Description: For Canadian citizens and permanent residents graduating final year of high school or Cégep. Must be registered or accepted at a Canadian college or university in the fall on a full-time basis. Minimum average of 65%. Must include a sample of work completed in the last year demonstrating interests and abilities. Outline of career and occupational goals, work experience, and qualifications is required

Contact Information:

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) / Banque royale du Canada

<http://www.rbcroyalbank.com/lifeskills/>

<http://www.rbcbanqueroyale.com/dynamique/>



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.

british columbia

VANCOUVER HEALTH SHOW

29-30 October 2005

Vancouver, BC

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre

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

Sat 10am-6pm Sun 11am-5pm

Cost: C\$9 per day (including all seminars)

seniors C\$8

101 PUMPKIN EVENT

29 October 2005 - Vancouver, BC

Maplewood Farm - 10am-4pm

<http://www.maplewoodfarm.bc.ca/>

Cost C\$5;

children & seniors C\$4.50

family ticket C\$18.25

maritimes

THE 2ND ANNUAL ST. JOHN'S STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

St. John's, Newfoundland

Nov 02 - 06 2005

<http://www.sjfac.nf.net/>

For information: Telephone: (709) 576-8508

Fax: (709) 757-8500 - office@sjfac.nf.net

A five day celebration of the art and tradition of storytelling. Storytellers from around the city, across the Island and the Mainland come together to share stories for listeners of all ages.

ontario

RESFEST TOURING DIGITAL FILM FESTIVAL: TORONTO

27-30 October 2005 - Toronto, Ontario

Royal Cinema - <http://resfest.com/>

quebec

QUEBEC CITY FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC

27 October - 6 November 2005

Quebec City, QC

Saint-Roch Church

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

international

GEORGIA-CAROLINA STATE FAIR

October 28 - November 06, 2005

Augusta, Georgia, USA

Augusta Exchange Club Fair Grounds

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

Mon - Fri, 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Sat, 10:00 am - 11:00 pm

Sundays noon to 11 p.m.

Admission & Parking:

\$5 Parking

\$5 General admission

\$15 Unlimited rides or Individual ride tickets available.

With a pristine midway of new and exciting rides and shows, plus all of the great agricultural exhibits and competitions, this year will be the best ever. Come and see for yourself.

MOBILE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

November 19, 2005 - Mobile, Alabama, USA

Mobile Civic Center

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

Times: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Admission & Parking:

Adults \$7 - Senior Citizens \$6

ages 7 - 15 \$4 - free for children 6 and under

Mobile Civic Center Box Office - (251) 208-7381

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

Conference Connections

43RD ANNUAL TEACHING THE WHOLE CHILD EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE

November 1 - 2, 2005

Framingham Massachusetts USA

<http://www.lesley.edu/centers/childrenandfamilies>

1-day fee \$175.00; 2-day early bird fee \$295
2-day fee \$310; 3 or more from the same institution
\$295 - participants over 50 year old \$279

The 43rd annual Early Childhood Institute will focus on:

- Social/Emotional: Inclusion
- The Arts in Early Childhood
- Health Concerns in Early Childhood Settings
- Literacy/Numeracy

This year's conference offers expert speakers in the field of early childhood. Professor Barbara Bowman of the Erikson Institute and Nancy Carlsson-Paige of Lesley University will deliver the opening and closing keynote addresses on Teaching the Whole Child. Innovative research will be shared. Concrete hands-on teaching strategies will be addressed.

16TH ANNUAL LITERACY FOR ALL NORTHEAST K-6 LITERACY

Conference and Reading Recovery Institute

November 6 - 8, 2005

Providence, RI, USA

<http://www.lesley.edu/literacyforall>

During this year's three-day conference, you will hear from leading experts in the field of literacy education. You will learn about best literacy practices and come away with a better understanding of current beliefs and practices in the field of literacy education.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

THE VOICE

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