

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

December 2, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 47



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

RE: *Lost and Found*, November 25, volume 13 issue 46

I would like to comment on the article from Bill Pollett. I thought it was excellent and shows that people are truly not one dimensional beings.

Barb Godin

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NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

The Nature in a New Light: Readings to Inspire

Ah, the lovely winter holidays: finally, the much-needed opportunity to relax, reflect on life and become reinvigorated for times ahead. A time to be with family, to remember that giving and sharing are essential parts of being a good person, not to mention the chance to acknowledge the importance of the return of that all-important fireball, the sun. But somehow the coming holiday season seems for too many to have become associated with pressures and stresses all its own, a time when commercialization of sentiment reaches its peak, and when the boundaries between what is important and what is expected become inextricably blurred. Just ask the grocery check-out girl, who told me last year that she couldn't wait to get back to work: the holidays were just too stressful!

Regaining a sense of peace during a time of year that has for so long and for so many peoples been of great significance can prove a surprisingly difficult task. My solution? I always find that words of the wise can be invaluable for getting me on to a different wavelength, for bringing me back to reality and giving me a chance to think about the basics of life and of different ways of living and seeing the world.

Few people offer such words as well as two authors that, in my mind, everyone should have the chance to read. One, a real gem and the author of countless publications, is Nancy Turner. Her new book, *The Earth's Blanket: Traditional Teachings for Sustainable Living*, provides inspiration for the world-weary reader. When the ring-ding-a-ling-a-lings and flashing lights start getting you down, open the pages of this lovely work and be reminded of what has real value in life: family, a feeling of home and place, and a meaningful connection to the natural world. In this book, Turner brings together ideas and understandings gained from years of learning from First Nations people in Northwestern Canada. With an underlying message of living lightly and respectfully on the earth, and remembering that real wealth comes from real relationships to people and nature, *The Earth's Blanket* provides an especially refreshing antidote to the acquisitive pressures of the coming season.

The second author, connected to the first by his ethnobotanical passions, writes works that bring the mind to new, unexplored places in a similarly inspirational way but in quite a different format. Wade Davis, dubbed "the real Indiana Jones", is an unparalleled adventure storyteller. Each of his books, including *One River* and *Serpent and the Rainbow* (yes, the book that inspired the creepy movie) takes the reader on a rollercoaster ride through different cultures' ways of seeing and interacting with the world. His literary style can almost make you forget that you're reading real-life accounts, making Davis' books a good choice if you're in the mood for a novel over the holidays.

If the thought of reading a full-blown book is too much at this all-too-often busy time of year, it is worth checking out Davis' latest publication, *Light at the Edge of the World: A Journey Through the Realm of Vanishing Cultures*. Filled with photos from his time spent with indigenous cultures around the world, as well as prose to contextualize the visuals, Davis' book is another inspiring testament to the fact that humans can and have lived in step with nature.

So, if the jingles and never-ending demands on you to shop 'til you drop start to take their toll on your sense of meaning at this time of year, take a break and enjoy the grounding messages these authors have to offer.



When I was in Europe last year, I learned of a beautiful family tradition. Every month, family members would congregate at the cemetery to remember their dead ancestors, pray for them, and celebrate the good deeds their ancestors had performed in their lives.

Many oriental cultures do this too, and often take it a bit further in "ancestral worship." The point of such celebration is, generally, to remember that you have a heritage to live up to, a family honour to preserve, and traditions to continue.

I think such traditions are beautiful. They not only remind us of who once lived, but

they remind us of mortality, and the necessity to make the most of our lives as they are. They remind us that one day we too will have great great great great grandchildren, and that if we shame ourselves we will shame them too. It is a greater responsibility to live up to in honouring the past and living well for the future.

There is also a certain degree of comfort derived from knowing that we will be remembered and honoured, and in a sense, immortalized. My grandfather recently passed away, and in mourning I promised myself that his legacy would not die in my family line. He will always live on in my memory, and my memories of the kindest man I've ever met will be passed on to my children and grandchildren. If I knew that, when I died, my memory would be thus preserved, I would consider my life well lived.

Reflecting on these traditions, I always begin to wonder what beauty there is in mortality for people of North America who generally neglect their ancestors, and more importantly, why they do not celebrate their ancestors as much as members of more traditional and older nations do. Perhaps it is for that very reason, that North America is too young, too new, and perhaps, too progressive and focused in the now.

This brings me to the question of what do people live for? If not for family, if not for pre-determined moral standards, if not according to what is directed by others and considered acceptable and honourable -- what is it that gives people joy and colour to their lives, knowing that it will inevitably end? And perhaps more interestingly, for the people who don't reflect on mortality, what do they live for?

These reasons, I imagine, are as varied as the stars. Some people have a personal set of moral codes to live by, a personal sense of honour. Some people do believe in setting a good example for their children and their children's children. Sometimes, people live by the rules of religion. One way or another, the question of "what do I live for?" is probably the most important one we will ever encounter in our lives.

I just hope it won't be too late once I figure out the answer.

'Tis the Season to Be Paranoid

El-ahrairah Jones



With barely a handful of twenty-four-hour shopping days remaining until the big Extravaganza of Greed arrives on December 25th, the pressure to go out and spend unimaginable amounts of money in order to stave off vague feelings of advertiser-induced guilt is mounting on an hourly basis. From the celestial electronic ether, the angelic chorus is singing their hymns of spiritual redemption through massive credit card expenditure. The messages are barely concealed: *Show her that you are not going through a mid-life crisis and thinking of dumping her for a younger woman by buying her a diamond ring. Make up for the fact that you are too lazy and apathetic to spend time with your kid by distracting him with an MP3 player. Recover from your maniacal shopping frenzy, and make believe that your pathetic subservience to the corporate value system is justified, by treating yourself to having coconut butter rubbed into your ass at a day spa. It's what Jesus would have done.*

Well, I think we're all on side with the idea that there is no getting around buying a shit-load of stuff at this time of year to fill up the gaping holes in our lives. It's just a given. But the really thorny problems remain: *What*, exactly, do we buy? What do we give to those people we care about so much that we might actually have had the energy to interact

with them, if it weren't for the fact that we are so emotionally beaten down by the circumstances of our lives?

Fortunately, waves of paranoia and panic surrounding recent news reports have opened up some interesting and novel shopping options for us. For instance, what about a year's supply of bird flu vaccine for the immuno-compromised on your list? Hell, come to think of it, who wouldn't light up with joy on receiving a few vials of that stuff in their Xmas stockings? Imagine being able to eat an egg for breakfast, or shake hands with a total stranger on the street, without fear of bleeding from every orifice an hour later. And speaking of personal protection, what about bulletproof vests for the whole family? Or a bomb-sniffing dog? It's kinda yesterday's news, but you still never know when some crazed terrorist is lurking just around the corner.

Perhaps the most difficult loved ones to buy for are the teenagers on the list. Jaded and cynical beyond belief due to their lifelong exposure to Nirvana recordings and the hypocrisy of their parents, these dear souls are likely to sneer right in your face if you are foolish enough to try and buy them something you think they'd like. And let's face it, the hundred dollars inside the envelope is getting more than a bit stale. Well, have you thought about a weeklong enforced stay at a private drug treatment clinic? If your kids, nieces, nephews, etc. are above elementary school age, chances are they are heavily addicted to either crack cocaine or crystal meth. Anyway, why take a chance? Just sign them up for an introductory treatment package, and let the doctors sort 'em out!

Just a few things to keep in mind this Yuletide season. Happy shopping!



Sensation and Perception (PSYC 333)

Athabasca University's Centre for Psychology has been hard at work again! Update your AU course catalogue to include another new psychology course entitled, Sensation and Perception (PSYC 333). Scheduled to open in mid-December, Sensation and Perception focuses on the human brain and explores how the brain is involved in "receiving and processing information from the environment." After completing Sensation and Perception (PSYC 333), you will have gained new insights on taken-for-granted sensations like smell, taste, hearing, vision, and others.

A three-credit course in the Social Sciences, Sensation and Perception (PSYC 333) consists of 16 units, each of which is guaranteed to amaze you (in my opinion)! In the first unit, you will be introduced to the concepts of sensation and perception and how they differ. You will also realize the "importance of perception and the perceptual process," indicates course professor Dr. Gilbert. Over the next two units, you will discuss brain structures that are responsible for perceptual processes. You will also "describe receptors and neural processing," as well as the importance of brain structures in perception (like the lateral geniculate nucleus and the striate cortex). Dr. Gilbert mentioned that Unit 4 involves learning about visual processing and the "significance of the binding problem." Over the next two units, you will learn how you perceive objects and colour, focusing on the "perceptual organization of objects," according to Dr. Gilbert, as well as the current theories of colour vision.

Once you have mastered these concepts, you will proceed to understanding how the brain detects depth and size, as well as movement and action. You will discuss depth cues (such as monocular and binocular), and have fun experimenting with illusions. Additionally, Dr. Gilbert indicates that you will become familiar with "neural feature detectors" in the brain, as well as the "visual control of action and neural pathways for perception and action." The next several units focus on auditory principles and how the brain translates the spoken word into meaningful messages. You will learn the physiology of the body's auditory system, the "characteristics of sound localization" and the "dimensions of speech perception," according to Dr. Gilbert. Units 13 and 14 detail the cutaneous and chemical senses. In the last two units, Dr. Gilbert indicates that the "development of the perceptual system" is discussed, with special emphasis on the "consequences of damage to the visual and auditory systems."

Your evaluation in PSYC 333 consists of five quizzes (worth 5 percent each), a term paper (worth 35 percent), and a final exam (worth 40 percent). Dr. Gilbert indicates that the term paper is about 10-13 pages (up to 4000 words) long and deals with a topic related to sensation or perception. Suggested topics include plasticity, changes in perception associated with brain damage, how the brain develops perceptions, and topics surrounding pain. However, you also have the option of choosing a different topic for your term paper that is still related to the course material.

Start off the New Year with a resolution to learn about how your brain enables you to hear, see, smell, and taste. Enroll in Sensation and Perception (PSYC 333)! For more information, visit the course syllabus at www.athabascau.ca/html/syllabi/psyc/psyc333.htm



TURNING THE PAGES

Elizabeth Cousar

Oddly enough, I read a bestseller recently. This almost never happens, due in large part to the number of courses I'm taking at any given time. But a good friend lent me her copy of *Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith and Love* by Dava Sobel (1999), and I just couldn't pass it up. Mostly, this is because I'm such a science buff, that anything related to a famous scientific historical figure is a must-see for me. Some of my response also has to do with trusting my friend's judgement.

More a biography of Galileo Galilei than of his daughter, Virginia (who was known for all of her adult life as Suor Maria Celeste), this book is based on actual letters from a daughter to her father. The author mentions that S. Maria Celeste's collected letters from her father were disposed of by her Mother Superior, a tragic loss to history.

While this biography explores Galileo's life, describing his publication history, his ideas, and his deep beliefs in science, the scientific method, religion and the Church, it also describes the homely details one would expect in letters from a daughter to her father. The biography includes how many collars she had starched for him, admonitions to return a basket he'd been lent, and pleas for money from the nun (a member of the Poor Claires).

Primarily, this book reminds us that Galileo was not always lauded as the father of modern science. First, he was a man. It reminds us that Galileo's supposed statement after his guilty verdict at his heresy trial, "But still, it moves!" is apocryphal, and would have been a very, very bad idea (especially with the judges, who could have had him killed, standing right there). It also reminds us that Galileo was not killed for his revolutionary scientific ideas. Instead, he was imprisoned for them, mostly in a very comfortable embassy, though he was charged for at least part of his upkeep.

Galileo's daughter loved her father very much. It is obvious in the excerpts from her letters printed in the book that she was very fond of him and likewise he of her. Despite the fact that Galileo never married his children's mother, he clearly cared deeply for all three of the children. He had the Pope legitimize his son when the young man reached adulthood. He also did his best to help the children financially and politically.

Sobel writes in a fairly dry voice, but it's worth plugging through to see the love and affection between one of the foremost thinkers of the Renaissance and his beloved eldest daughter. The book is also an interesting peek into life in the 17th century: communications technologies, travel, economics, religion and politics. The figures, diagrams and illustrations, including scanned copies of some parts of the original letters, add a great deal to the impact of this historical memoir. The timeline at the end of the book enhances the experience, letting the reader better place certain events in their historical context. Did you know, for example, that Galileo died on January 8th, 1642 and that Isaac Newton was born on December 25 of that same year?

Galileo's Daughter is definitely worth a look, but I'd borrow a copy, rather than shelling out for the book.

Sobel, D. (1999). *Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith and Love*. New York: Penguin Putnam.

The Motorcycle

Wanda Bakker

We hope you enjoy The Motorcycle, a runner up in last year's Voice writing contest. This year's contest is now open, and the deadline has been extended to the end of January, 2006. Send in your fiction and/or non-fiction submission today!

Aunt Barb had a motorcycle-riding boyfriend the spring I turned thirteen. She bought herself a bright, metallic red helmet so she could go riding with him. I first saw them together on the motorcycle at the annual family gathering for Dad's birthday BBQ early in June. She and Luke roared into the park just as the briquettes were grey enough to start cooking the burgers.

The motorcycle was black and chrome. The whole thing, even the black part, was so shiny it flashed in the sun. Its black leather seat had a high back so Aunt Barb could lean back a little if she wanted to when they went riding. To me the motorcycle looked exciting, but also a little dangerous. I thought Aunt Barb must be very daring to go riding around on it, even if she was just a passenger.

The instant she got off the motorcycle, Aunt Barb was mobbed by kids, all the offspring of the eight-stringer Landsman family. I think there were 19 of us that year, and the family was by no means done. After all, Aunt Barb hadn't married yet. She grinned at me from the middle of that pack of kids, her thin blonde hair all over the place from being inside the helmet.

Between the burgers and the traditional trip to the ice cream shop up the road, Aunt Barb said she'd take the kids for a walk along the stream at the edge of the park. "Come help me, Alice, won't you?" she said. I was pleased she didn't think of me any more as one of the little ones.

After making sure Luke was comfortably in conversation with Uncle Hank, who had driven a motorcycle in Holland, off we went, each with younger ones attached to our fingers. We made a good-looking group in our spotless outfits. Even 4-year old Jennifer's ketchup stain was barely visible, her shirt having been sponged and sponged until it was almost gone. We all knew better than to dirty ourselves at a picnic.

Once underneath the huge elms and willows growing along the creek, Aunt Barb had us all come close in a huddle. We were going to have a mud fight, she told us conspiratorially. She was going to college in the fall, and she didn't want us to forget her. There were scared giggles and snickers. A mud fight! I don't think any of us had ever participated in a mud fight in our whole lives, but if Aunt Barb suggested it, we were game. At first we didn't know what to do, but we learned quickly when Aunt Barb started flinging handfuls of mud at us with little concern for where the mud landed. Soon we had wet mud sliding down our necks, all over our arms and legs, even in our hair. It was deliciously cool after the walk in the hot sun. For awhile we shrieked, my voice as loud as the others, like we'd never shrieked before. During a lull, I experimented with my toes, exploring the mud oozing up between them in little curly patterns. Here I was thirteen, and up until now had missed out on something that struck me as vital to living.

We flung our last gob of mud at last. Aunt Barb sloshed us down with the pail she had brought and made us dry in the sun before going back to the picnic. She knew what her older sister, my mother, was like. Miraculously, she got away with it.

The day held another wonder for me. As the clan made preparations to go to the ice cream shop, Aunt Barb turned to me.

"You've never had a motorcycle ride, have you, Alice?" she asked. Of course I hadn't.

"Barb," cautioned my mother.

"Oh, come on, Catherine, she's not going to get hurt. Luke's had his license a long time."

I looked over at Luke. He was smoking a thin cigar and staring disinterestedly at a distant pavilion. I wasn't sure I wanted to go on a motorcycle with him.

"Come on, Alice," said Aunt Barb. "I'll help you put the helmet on. Luke, give Alice a ride, will you?"

"Oh, sure," said Luke, coming slightly to life. I didn't know if he was glad at any chance to ride his bike, or if he was relieved that the picnic was almost over.

To my surprise, I loved it, even though I clutched Luke's jacket with both hands. Then I relaxed a little and surrendered myself to the experience, feeling the sudden accelerations, the vibrant engine rumblings and the swift changes in direction

with my whole being. It was like a dance. I was completely, totally exhilarated. I was grateful Luke couldn't see my face, because I knew I had the look of rapture that still kept me a child to those who watched for such things.

That night I wrote in my personal diary: "Aunt Barb is so alive!" Then I wrote: "When I'm eighteen, I'm going to have a boyfriend who rides a motorcycle". I clapped my diary shut, then, as if Mom's eyes could somehow see what I'd written if I left it open too long.

Aunt Barb's alive-ness stirred longings in me, yearnings to grow up and be free of the tight restrictions of our rigid, religious community. She had a way of pushing the rules without ever actually breaking them. Like the time she wore her motorcycle helmet to church.

During the personal pastoral interview at the end of catechism classes, Aunt Barb was informed of the rule-for-women: Once she made confession of faith, she was a member, and female members wore hats to services. Aunt Barb jumped at the opportunity.

That first Sunday after her confession of faith she wore the helmet to church, without the visor. There she sat, her helmet big, red and metallic against the pale pastel hues of the other hats. She was so tall, and sat so straight, it was impossible to miss it. The ushers didn't know how to handle her. Technically, Aunt Barb was wearing a hat... I felt the deep-down delight that comes when a bully has been put in his place. She wore it just the once, but she made her point. Before I was old enough to make public confession of faith, the rule had changed to a 'suggestion'. I figured Aunt Barb was as brave as Daniel in the lion's den. She wasn't scared of anything or anybody.

A few weeks after the helmet-in-church incident, just after Aunt Barb's high school graduation, Mom told Dad it was all over between Aunt Barb and Luke. She said it grimly. Later that evening, I heard Mom talking to Aunt Barb on the phone.

"I'm making chocolate chip cookies tomorrow," said Mom. "You should come over."

The chocolate chip cookies were about the only thing that kept me from hating my mom. She made them whenever we were feeling particularly blue, the only way she knew how to comfort us. Lately, though, I had been feeling that I was getting too old for chocolate chip cookies, that there had to be more grown-up reasons for liking someone. But maybe not. Aunt Barb seemed to think it was a good enough reason for spending time with Mom, because there she was when I came home from school the next day. There she was in the kitchen, a chocolate chip cookie in her hand, and a large purple bruise over one eye. Standing there with Mom, she could have been my younger sister recovering from a bad spill off her new bicycle.

"Did you fall off the motorcycle?" I asked in my kindest voice.

"Yes," she said, relief on both her and Mom's face. I was almost angry with her then. Certainly I was old enough to know what was going on, wasn't I?

A month later Aunt Barb moved to the States. She had gotten a job in an insurance office in Virginia. College was no longer mentioned. I didn't see her for a whole miserable year. The mud fight seemed years ago.

I saw Luke once, though.

One day that fall I heard the motorcycle come up behind me as I walked the mile home from the Christian school. He stopped beside me. I was delighted, hoping he would offer me a ride.

"Where's your aunt?" he asked harshly. I just stared at him, delight draining out everywhere. He grabbed my arm so hard it hurt.

"Where is she!" he demanded. I had quit breathing. Then I got mad and said the first dumb thing that came into my head.

"Why don't you go stare at a pavilion or something?" I yelled.

He glared a moment, then dropped my arm. With a loud 'nnng' he was gone. My mom never heard about it; I could keep secrets, too.

In the spring we got a call from grandma. Aunt Barb was getting married. She had met someone in Virginia, was bringing him home and they would get married here.

My imagination took flight. Her husband-to-be would have dark eyes with twinkles in them. He would love travelling, and be almost-rich. He would have had lots of adventures and would always be telling stories about them. Most of all, he would adore Aunt Barb. They would have a honeymoon in the Caribbean...

"She's marrying a Presbyterian minister," my mom told my dad.

"What!?" I almost yelled. Mom looked oddly at me.

"What do you mean, 'what'?"

"How can she marry a *minister*?" I said, close to tears.

Mom was perplexed. "What's wrong with that?"

There was nothing wrong with ministers. I even liked our minister. They were just... boring.

Feeling confused and betrayed, I whirled and left the livingroom. Mom didn't understand at all. She didn't understand how I needed an aunt like Aunt Barb.

When I saw Aunt Barb after she came back, she was different. She talked the same—a little irreverently sometimes, even though she was going to be a minister's wife. But the boldness was gone, had been bumped off when she'd had her last motorcycle ride. I couldn't imagine her having a mud fight with anyone.

I had been so sure the wedding would be called off at the last minute that I was out of sorts the whole day. Thankfully, I was too young to be a bridesmaid and too old to be a flower girl. I wasn't too old to burst into tears, though, once I had a moment to myself. That night I wrote in my diary: "Aunt Barb isn't alive anymore." Then, a little defiantly: "When I'm eighteen, I'm going to get my own motorcycle."



Pleasing Results at the Aboriginal Summit *Mandy Gardner*

Paul Martin has promised \$5 billion to various Aboriginal groups following last week's First Ministers Meeting (FMM) in Kelowna. The Summit included representatives from Aboriginal Canadian populations as well as government officials. On the agenda were four major issues: Native housing, education, health care and relationships. After the two-day summit (November 24-25) National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Phil Fontaine, feels the meeting was a success. Native groups have had to deal with intolerable conditions for too long, according to Prime Minister Paul Martin, who said, "They have needs and those needs demand attention. It's as simple as that."

The summit followed a tense week in Parliament as first the NDP and then the Conservative Party pushed for a no-confidence vote that will undoubtedly lead to a winter election. NDP leader Jack Layton addressed the Aboriginal Leaders in a letter shortly before the Summit, assuring them that "Working together in a spirit of compromise, a proposal to delay the election until January was developed and has now been presented to the government."

The delay lead to a successful FMM in which leaders of all Canadian Aboriginal origins met with Premiers and discussed ways to improve Aboriginal standards of living in four keys areas; health, education, relationships and housing. Each of these important issues was addressed at the FMM with 5 and 10-year plans drawn up for "closing the gap" between Aboriginal society and the rest of Canada. Aboriginal and government leaders are hopeful about the results of the meeting and with any luck, the promises made will hold strong through the looming federal election. Specific budgets are available on the CBC link below.

Paul Martin has also promised to hold a summit for the Native Women's Association to address the rise in violence against native women. A date is not yet set.

References:

CBC Calgary; Ottawa Pledges \$5 billion to Aboriginals - <http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/story/ca-aboriginal-summit20051125.html>

Jack Laytons Letter to Aboriginal Leaders, 16/11/05 - <http://www.ndp.ca/page/1747>

First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders Strengthening Relationships and Closing the Gap; Kelowna, BC, Nov. 24-25 2005 (PDF Document from <http://www.afn.ca/article.asp?id=1826>, link titled News Release)



Alberta Investing in the Future - Forgetting the Now?

The Alberta government recently announced another 750 million dollars will be going into the "Access to the Future Fund" (Alberta Dept. of Advanced Education, 2005). This fund will be fully funded when it reaches a total of three billion dollars, and produce 135 million dollars annually to provide "seed money for innovations in the post-secondary system" (Ibid.).

Of course, what the government fails to mention is that while all that money is being socked away in an investment fund, Alberta post-secondary students still have to deal with tuition that is the second highest in Canada and higher than the national average according to Statistics Canada (2005). What they also fail to note is that the debt from previous generations has been paid off by this one, and now the government is asking us to pay off the debt of future generations. Does anybody know when we will be spending our money on ourselves? Perhaps to give us a leg-up so we have a chance of ending up in a better situation than our parents?

While I certainly am appreciative of the idea of more money being available for post-secondary education in the future, the coming crisis in professors is something that the government needs to start addressing now. The best way to address that shortage is, quite simply, to grow our own professors. The only way we'll be able to do that in sufficient quantities for the future, however, is if our post-secondary institutions start receiving serious funding now. The funding is needed in order to lower tuition and encourage students (not just from Alberta, but from all over the world) to study at our schools and develop ties in our post-secondary education system.

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Alberta Department of Advanced Education (2005, November 16). Investment for the Access to the Future Fund grows to \$750 million. Retrieved from <http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200511/190739A325678-F19D-90E6-2A18BB15EDF4D462.html>

Statistics Canada (2005, September 1). University tuition fees, 2005/06. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050901/d050901a.htm>

International Education Week

From November 14 to 18, 2005, Alberta celebrated International Education Week (Alberta Dept. of Advanced Education, 2005). This was a week where the government provided recognition to the number international students our post-secondary system has enrolled and the benefits these students bring to the province.

Such an occurrence can only be a good thing for Athabasca University, as one of the tight-ropes the university has to walk is being funded provincially but teaching students that are not in Alberta and so do not pay Alberta taxes. However, when Athabasca University can take the government's own words back to the province and say "International students make important economic, social and cultural contributions to Alberta. The presence of international students on campuses enhances Albertans' understanding and appreciation of other cultures," (Ibid.) it becomes much more difficult for the government to refuse funding for these international students, and therefore much more difficult to refuse funding to Athabasca University.

Reference

Alberta Department of Advanced Education (2005, November 16). Alberta celebrates International Education Week. Retrieved from <http://advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/news/2005/November/nr-IntIEdWeek.asp>

Lucky Students Getting Laptops

In New Brunswick, a pilot program is going on that gives junior high school students laptops to help them with their studies (New Brunswick Department of Education, 2005). The program is a project being conducted by researchers at the Université de Moncton and Mount Allison University. While still ongoing, teachers of these students are reporting that the students' work has shown improvement since they received the devices capable of scouring the Internet to look for information. I'm not sure how this research finding is really a surprise to anybody.

The real thing that needs to be researched is how we can ensure that all students, including post-secondary students, have the access they need to adequate information resources and the ability to find appropriate information resources. Once we have that, we can then concentrate on how to apply the information in new ways rather than the current education system that often emphasizes memorization over intelligence.

Reference

New Brunswick Department of Education (2005, November 15). Almost 500 N.B. students are learning with laptops. Retrieved from <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/edu/2005e1553ed.htm>

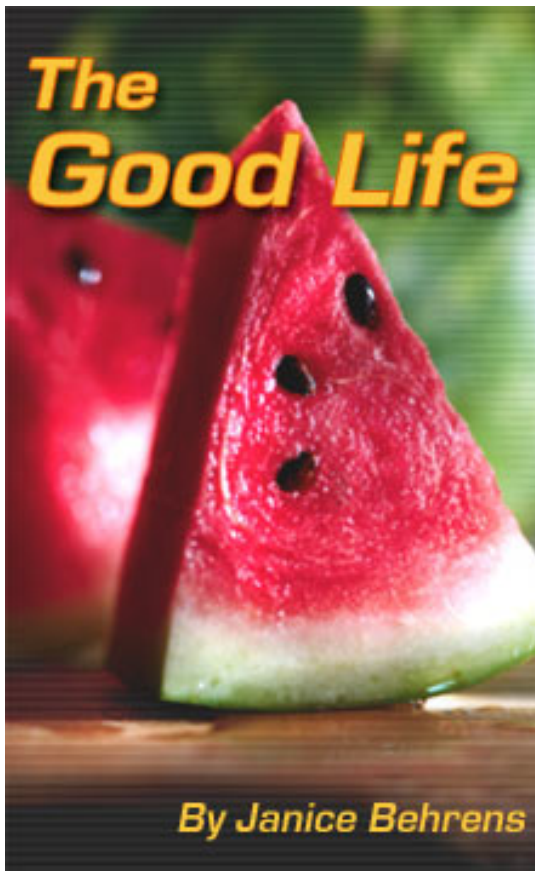
Fed-Watch!

More of the hurry-up and wait game has just finished playing out in the House of Commons. The Conservatives have put-forward a motion of non-confidence, after the NDP put forward their motion of compromise on the timing of an election. The non-confidence motion doesn't come up for a vote until the 28th of November, but if the Liberals have not agreed to the NDP compromise, it's expected that all of the opposition parties will vote for the motion, causing the government to immediately cease activities and move us into an election campaign.

As I mentioned last-week, the Liberal party has indicated that it will not accept the NDP compromise, thus forcing the opposition parties to choose an all or nothing strategy. The Liberal party are unleashing a wide range of spending incentives to try to make toppling the government an expensive political move.

Personally, I was more charitable toward the Liberals before they started this series of initiatives, and I'm hoping many people agree with me. While I like the spending and taxation plans the Liberals are trying to put forward now, I find myself asking why these programs (that Canadians really need) only come forward with the threat of an election. Perhaps its time to send a message to all the political parties that this constant gamesmanship about who gets the seats is no longer acceptable. I'll be closely examining alternative parties to the standard three (four in Quebec), in hopes that perhaps I can find something that appeals to me more.

With the new laws in place that ensure your vote translates to federal money for the party you vote for, I can't think of a better time.



Bill and Janice's Suggested Christmas Book List

All the other presents beneath the Christmas tree may change each year, but one thing that remains constant is that there will always be books there. For this week's column of *The Good Life*, my husband and I have put our heads together to come up with a list of suggested books, for the most part old favourites of ours that we humbly suggest would be suitable as gifts for the younger readers on your list.

Madlenka, by Peter Sis. For the youngest readers (and listeners) in the family, this is a magical tale that uses the simple device of a girl losing her first tooth as a springboard for exploring, by means of Sis's surreal and decorative illustrations, a variety of world folktales and the cultures they come from. Sis may well be one of the most talented artists working in the field of children's illustrations today, so every page of this book is a visual feast.

Princess Prunella and the Purple Peanut, by Margaret Atwood. This is a delightful dose of artful alliteration and wacky wordplay by Canada's finest living writer. What more could you ask for?

A Promise is a Promise, by Robert Munsch. Anyone who has ever seen Bob Munsch read his books to a live audience of kids understands the mesmerizing nature of his storytelling when it

comes to the elementary school set. *Promise* is a bit of departure from his other works, because it is a relatively somber tale. A collaboration with storyteller Michael Kusugak, the book is a retelling of an Inuit legend about ice monsters. It derives a certain haunting beauty from the repetition of the words, and from the eerie nature of the monsters themselves.

Airborn, by Kenneth Oppel. A rollicking adventure for the grade five and above crowd by the Canadian author of the terrific *Silverwing Saga*. Oppel is a master yarn spinner, and this book is packed with freewheeling, Indiana Jones-like adventure as well as elaborately conceived fantasy. There are luxury airships, ferocious flying cats, an uncharted desert island, a memorable hero and heroine, and a group of truly malevolent pirates. Wonderful stuff that's capable of engaging even the most reluctant of reader.

His Dark Materials Trilogy (including *The Golden Compass*, *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*), by Phillip Pullman. These works are probably best suited to the 12 and above young adult reader. The trilogy is a dark, richly imagined work set in a Victorian-era parallel dimension thick with political intrigue and filled with talking creatures, dangerous magic, witches, and warfare.

A Child's Christmas in Wales, by Dylan Thomas. Possibly one of the finest Christmas stories ever written, this slim book is an enchanting immersion into the imagination of childhood by a writer transform words into magic. This work is filled with humour, mischief, and life-affirming vitality. Reading it at Christmas time is a tradition right up there with roasted turkey and plum pudding.

Happy Reading!

AUSU THIS MONTH



"A Learning Alberta"

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

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

AUSU Course Evaluations

Would you like to know what your fellow students have thought of an AU course? If so, you are not alone. Many students find the input of their peers invaluable when selecting courses or a program of study. AU students may not have cafeterias and hallways in which to share this knowledge, but AUSU has provided an alternative: AUSU Course and Program Evaluation surveys. Accessible through the "Course Evaluations" link on the right side of the top bar of AUSU.org, these surveys ask a series of questions about AUSU courses and programs. Each student may rate each course or program only once, to ensure the validity of the results, so you must be logged in to access a survey form. Anyone, however, may view the results. If you haven't already, please rate some courses you have taken so that others may benefit from your experience. Note: these surveys are not the same as the ones that AU distributes with their course manuals. No AU staff or faculty member has access to the AUSU website, nor can they determine who has filled out a survey. Your anonymity is assured.

AUSU Discussion Forums and Chat

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

AUSU Needs Volunteer Mentors

AUSU needs volunteer mentors to help new students adjust to AU and distance education. If you're an experienced AU student interested in being matched to a new student, please email ausu@ausu.org for an application form. The mentor program is designed to help new students succeed with distance learning. If you're a new student and would like to be matched to one of our mentors please fill out the application form at this address: <http://www.ausu.org/services/mentorsforms.php>

AUSU 2005/06
student
Handbook/Planner

18 months of planner pages!

Free
and mailed right to your door
Order yours today!



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.
- Each entrant may submit one entry to each of the two categories
- 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: I enjoy reading your column, although I may be a little older than most of your readers. I am a grandmother of two beautiful little girls. My son, who is their father, has just separated from his wife and now I am having a problem seeing the girls. My son has become so frustrated that he is giving up, but I don't feel that is the right thing to do. I just don't know what rights I have as a grandmother to see my grandchildren. I have heard somewhere that grandparents do have some rights. Do you know anything about this, or at least where I can find out more information?

Dinah - Woodstock

Hello Dinah. I am also a grandmother and I'm sure many of my readers are as well. I would be devastated if I were not able to see my grandchildren.

Unfortunately, when adults get caught up in the bitterness of separation and divorce, they often lose sight of the overall picture. They are so consumed with their own anger and pain that they do not take the time to consider the needs of their children. A child whose grandparents have been a regular part of their life prior to their parent's divorce will now suffer a double loss. These children will have lost their home, which consisted of two parents, as well as losing a set of grandparents. Grandparents are an important part of their grandchildren's lives. They not only love and care for their

grandchildren, but also provide wisdom and pass on family history. Children love to hear stories about when their parents were young. These are valuable treasures that only a grandparent can bestow.

In recognition of this injustice, organizations have been formed to protect the rights of grandparents and their grandchildren.

The Grandparents Rights Organization (GRO) was founded in 1984 by attorney Richard S. Victor. GRO began in Oak Park Michigan, but now has members all across the US and Canada. GRO members receive regular newsletters, where they can read about others in similar situations and learn what they have been able to do. Also, members receive an information package outlining what the grandparent's rights are in their state or province. You can join GRO at the following website: www.grandparentsrights.org

Additional information on grandparent's rights in Canada may be obtained by writing to:

*Canadian Grandparents Rights Association
260-3631 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC
V6X 2B9*

Email: cgra222@vcn.bc.ca

Good luck Dinah. Hopefully one of these agencies will be able to direct you to the right place.

Next Week's Column: AIDS, should you be tested?

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.

Utter Bloody Rudeness



*From
Where
I Sit*

Hazel Anaka

My daughter Hilary and I joined a capacity crowd at the Winspear Centre recently as guests of the Edmonton Journal. In a huge thank you gesture to Journal subscribers, we were assembled to listen to the maven of manners Lynne Truss. Truss is the British author of "Talk to the Hand: The Utter Bloody Rudeness of the World Today, or Six Good Reasons to Stay Home and Bolt the Door."

The crowd chuckled appreciatively and nodded in agreement as Truss gave one example after another of the incivility of the world today. Her rant covered the disappearance of words like "please, thank you, excuse me, sorry." Who hasn't felt indignant when holding a door open for the thankless or letting someone merge without getting the expected wave in exchange?

Papers were handed to each of us to jot down questions for the author after the formal part of her presentation. Mine was rhetorical and was put to the author after Marc Horton, the Journal Books guy, asked her about the apologetic nature of Canadians. I asked if it wasn't ironic that as we assembled at a talk on manners, countless people brushed past to get to their seats without so much as a 'please, excuse me, thank you.' An audible groan rose in the Winspear and Hilary overheard some older ladies apologizing and saying thank you.

Truss tackled what she calls the Eff-Off Reflex. She thinks "the state of manners is driving some of us to be direct, which makes us uncomfortable enough in the first place. And this directness is whacked straight back at us by people who are never wrong, who interpret directness as sheer hostility and who say Eff Off so much in their normal conversations anyway that it springs automatically to their lips." She told the story of a man questioning the breastfeeding of a two or three-year old only to be told to Eff Off by the kid before he resumed suckling.

Like Truss most of us are fed up with automated switchboards, the hard work of navigating the internet, standing in lines, waiting hopefully for customer service. "Isn't this transaction of mutual benefit to both sides?" she wonders.

"So why am I not being met half-way here?" She's mad that whenever we need help, we're instructed on a system to find a solution for ourselves. Truss has become so sensitive to the DIYFS (do it your effing self) mentality that she screams "No I won't" when she sees a "Pick your Own Strawberries" sign.

From movie talkers to cell phone users, no one was safe from her attack. She feels so much better for having written the book but believes it dangerous and unwise to confront the rude and generally believes it's a lost cause.

The Journal gave each of us a copy of Truss' book and capped the night off with coffee and pastries. I followed up with a thank you card. Lynne would approve, from where I sit.

quitnow by phone makes it easier for BC smokers to butt out

The BC Lung Association is excited about changes to the quit smoking services in the province of British Columbia. Two services exist to help people quit smoking.

The first service is an internet-based cessation service called quitnow.ca that helps people electronically join others who wish to quit smoking.

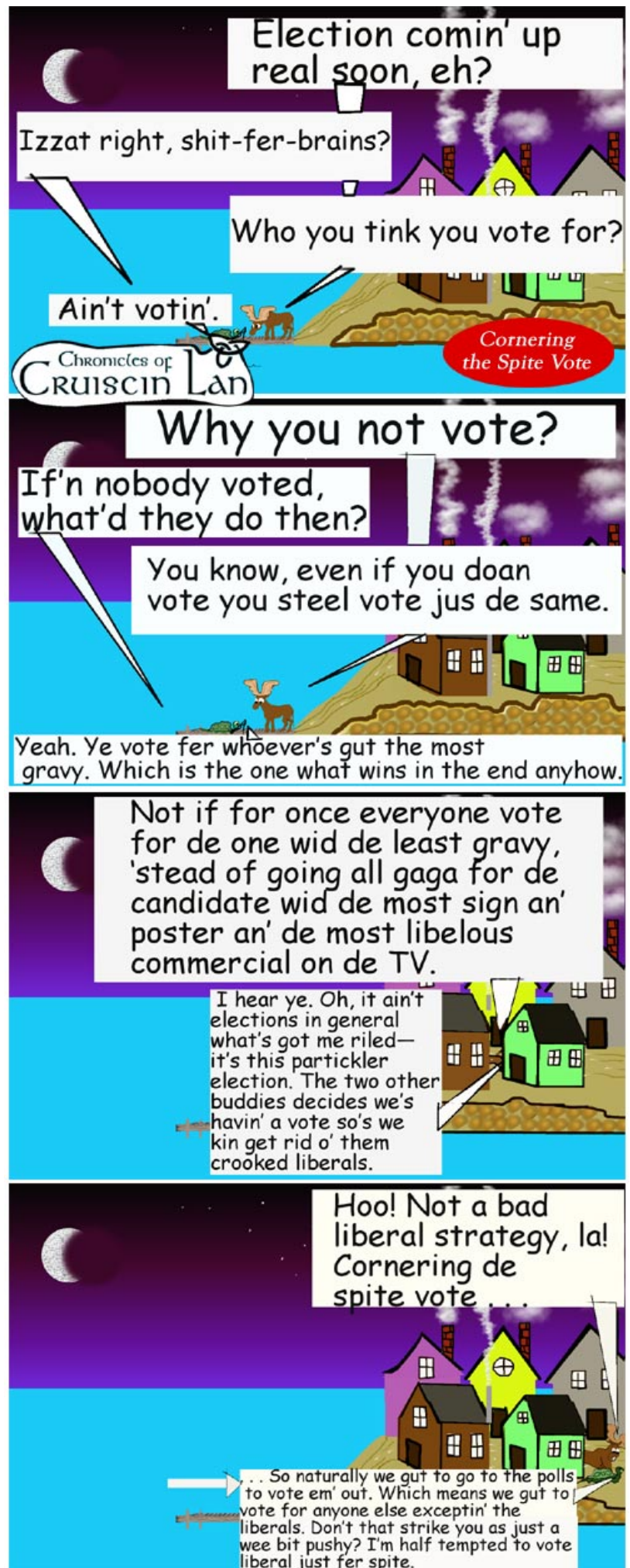
The second service is **quitnow by phone**, a 24/7/365 service staff by registered nurses to help people who wish to quit over the telephone. **quitnow by phone** replaces the service previously called the BC Smoker's Helpline (BCSH). The telephone number has remained the same.

You should stop smoking. It's the most important thing you can do to improve your health.

quitnow
by phone 1-877-455-2233

Features exclusive to quintet members include:

- 24/7 Support Community
- Personal Q-Mail account
- Quit-smoking stats calculator
- Quit Date Wizard
- Quit Buddies
- Chat
- Topic-specific message boards
- Personal Quit Page
- Quit Calendar
- Expert Support
- Personal Quitting Guide
- Medication Guide
- QuitNet Greeting Cards
- Quit Tips and Anniversary emails
- Directory of local support programs
- Self-assessment tools





Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

INTERNSHIP

Marketing Analysts and Management Consultants
Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver

Term: Throughout the year

Dates: as soon as possible.

Language: English

Experience Required: no

Typically The Application Process Time Is 1 to 8 weeks

Application Process Involves: Resume and written application

Post Services Include: Alumni network and job and internship network

We will provide the work placement/work permit (Visa) with our corporate clients.

Define, execute and manage various marketing programs activities, including launches, customer retention programs, events, sales promotions, sales tools, etc.

- Review, Implement and evaluate marketing systems
- Make sure Market Segmentation is done and all relevant clients are contacted
- Assists in research and development of markets for pricing, competitive products, etc. Includes possible travel
- Compiles and produces sales and marketing reports
- Identifies and analyzes potential new product opportunities
- Assists in all levels of product development.

Qualifications:

- Sales or Marketing Experience helpful, but not required.
- Ability to comprehend technical information.
- Extreme drive and willingness to learn new information
- Positive attitude and ability to accept constructive criticism.
- Good leadership required for Management positions.
- Candidates must have some english skills (other languages a must) and ready to travel overseas.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills required.
- A College or University degree could be required by employers.
- Ability to work independently and in team situation.

Please visit the following URL to contact Placements Impact:

<http://www.internabroad.com/listingsp3.cfm/listing/24947>

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Contributed by Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship

Value: \$1,000

Application Deadline: May 13

Description: Must be currently enrolled in full-time studies at the undergraduate or graduate level at an accredited four-year college or university. Declared major in accounting or criminal justice, with interest in becoming Certified Fraud Examiners

Submit maximum 500 word essay on specified topic. Transcripts and letters of recommendation are required.

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)

Web Site: <http://www.cfenet.com/services/scholarships.asp>

Gloria Landis Memorial Bursary

Value: \$1,000

Application Deadline: June 15

Description: For residents of Ontario at least 25 years of age with a learning disability, entering first year at a post-secondary or accredited vocational institute program as a mature student. Must not have attended school full-time for three or more years. Must submit 400-600 word essay on topic of learning disabilities. Submit letters of reference, proof of learning disability, proof of residency and acceptance into a post-secondary institution.

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO)

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

Helen Basset Commemorative Student Scholarship

Value: \$1,000 (4)

Application Deadline: July 29

Description: For Aboriginal women under 31 years of age who are pursuing post-secondary studies with a demonstrated commitment to improving the situation of Aboriginal women in Canada. Submit short essay on goals and plans to contribute to society. Financial need required. Must submit proof of age, Aboriginal descent and post-secondary registration, transcripts, letter of reference, statement of financial need and budget breakdown. For further information, please visit the website posted below

Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) / L'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada (AFAC)

Web Site: [http:// www.nwac-hq.org](http://www.nwac-hq.org)

Steven Huesing Scholarship

Value: \$500

Application Deadline: July 31

Description: Enrolled in a Canadian post-secondary institution in a health informatics or health care information management program. Must be of sound academic standing. Submit maximum 500 word description of achievements in health informatics. Transcripts, proof of enrolment and personal letter are required. For further information, please visit the website posted below

COACH: Canada's Health Informatics Association

Web Site: <http://www.coachorg.com/default.asp?id=627>



Voice Events Listings

On and off campus events worldwide

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

alberta

Have a Heart for Hospice Holiday Campaign

December 01 - December 23, 2005

Calgary 11:00 AM-1:00 PM - Eau Claire Market

catherine.bell@hospicecalgary.com

<http://www.hospicecalgary.com>

The Holidays can be a special time for sharing memories and thinking about those we love. This year, Hospice Calgary invites you to dedicate a heart and place it on the Tree of Love at Eau Claire Market from Dec 1 - 23 between 11:00 A. M - 1:00 P.M.

british columbia

CAROL SHIPS DINNER CRUISES

December 01 - 23 - Vancouver, BC

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Range from \$49.95 to \$59.95

Ticket Outlets www.VancouverCruises.com

604-681-2915 - gary@vancouvercruises.com

We'll join the many ships in the Carol Ships Parade and enjoy a Traditional Christmas Buffet!!

WHISTLER FILM FESTIVAL

December 01 - 04 - Whistler, BC

9:00 AM - 9:00 PM - Single tickets - \$9

Alex@whistlerfilmfestival.com

<http://www.whistlerfilmfestival.com>

Saskatchewan

CREELMAN DINNER THEATRE

November 22 - December 04, 2005

Creelman, SK - 5:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Creelman Community Complex

\$25.00 per person - with 30 ticket limit

Ticket Outlets - Creelman Community Complex

eliford@hotmail.com

11TH ANNUAL THEATRE SASKATCHEWAN DINNER THEATRE

December 09 - 10 - Regina, SK - 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Regina Performing Arts Centre

1 - 15 people - Early Bird \$29.00 per person

16 or more people - Early Bird \$27.00 per person

Tickets - Regina Performing Arts Centre @ 779-2277

(306) 352-0797

info@theatresaskatchewan.com

<http://www.theatresaskatchewan.com>

The play is a Comedy by Pat Cook named "You Can't Get There From Here"

manitoba

CHRISTMAS AT THE TAYLORS

Winnipeg , Manitoba - Nov 25 - Jan 04, 2006

75,000 plus Christmas lights on an Interactive site plus a chance to ride a 1/8 scale train through the illuminated bush. For event information: Telephone: (204) 837-1305 Fax: (204) 786-5082

iceman@swedenfreezer.com

www.swedenfreezer.com/avr/

quebec

SNOWBOARD JAMBOREE

December 15 - 18, 2005

Lac-Beauport, QC

Le Relais Ski Resort

418-827-1122

info@snowjamboree.com

<http://www.snowjamboree.com>

maritimes

FESTIVAL OF TREES

December 09 -11 - Liverpool, NS

Liverpool Lion's Hall

aalangille@eastlink.ca

Come and view and bid on beautifully themed Christmas Trees, bid on a wonderful array of silent auction items, enjoy homemade cookies, hot apple cider and warm gingerbread with whipped cream. Santa will make a visit and you can vote on your favourite tree for the people's choice award. We will also have a raffle which includes trees and local art. Dec 9 - 6:00 pm - 8:00 PM; Dec 10 - 11:00 am - 8:00 pm; Dec 11 - 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.

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

Conference Connections

BECK MEETS FREUD? COGNITIVE THERAPY IN DEPTH

December 1 - 2 2005 - Toronto, Ont.

<http://leadingedgeseminars.org/pretzer1.htm>

Participants will develop an understanding of cognitive therapy's approach to issues that are often seen as the domain of psychodynamic therapies, including the complexities of the therapeutic relationship, resistance to change, trauma, and other family of origin issues, and dealing with dreams, fantasies, and imagery. Participants will learn how to modify cognitive-behavioural approaches in order to apply them more effectively when profound issues complicate therapy. Participants will be able to identify cognitive-behavioural interventions that are particularly useful in making deep and lasting changes and to apply them within their own approach to psychotherapy.

You will learn:

- Cognitive therapy's perspective on transference, countertransference, and other complexities of the therapeutic relationship
- Ways to structure treatment in order to minimize resistance, increase motivation for change, and maximize treatment adherence
- How to modify cognitive-behavioural therapy to better address long-standing interpersonal and intrapersonal problems
- Methods for identifying family of origin issues and addressing them within short and long-term therapy
- Techniques for using dreams, fantasy, and imagery
- Methods for accomplishing deep change and minimizing the risk of relapse

ENTREPRENEURING WOMEN SEMINAR

December 13, 2005 - Garden Grove, CA, USA

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

8am-4:30pm

\$79, RSVP by Nov 21st

includes continental breakfast (7:30am), buffet lunch, and entry to "after-seminar" mixer.

\$125 after Nov 21st or at the door

Topics include: business mistakes to avoid (and ways to fix them), finding funding, getting out of debt, insurance & investments, marketing techniques and more - all relevant and immediately useful. Get the tips, techniques and tools

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.

needed to succeed. We will also have a session for those interested in "finding the right entrepreneur job or franchise".

WALKING THE WALK: CREATIVE TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMING COMPASSION FATIGUE

December 5, 2005 - Toronto, Ont.

<http://leadingedgeseminars.org/cf1.htm>

You will learn:

- About the complexities of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma
- To identify personal triggers and contributing factors
- To evaluate self-care and target areas for prevention and healing
- To create a personalized strategic plan for identifying and treating compassion fatigue



Prairie Universities Biological Symposium

40th Anniversary Conference
BY students FOR students

University of Calgary
Feb 23-25, 2006
Registration \$22, Banquet \$20

Banquet at the Calgary Zoo
Guest speaker: Dr. Robert Barclay

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACTS NOW!
Deadline: Jan 10, 2006

Registration & information:
<http://homepages.ucalgary.ca/~pubs/>

classifieds

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.

AU Student in Canada seeking thirty-something Alberta pen-pal to correspond with about school and life.
Contact voice@ausu.org for contact information.

Need some extra \$\$\$\$?
Part Time Days, Nights, Weekends!!
♦ Inventory Takers/Supervisors
♦ No Experience Necessary
♦ Paid Training, Paid Travell!
♦ Competitive Wages!!
♦ Reliable Vehicle required
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