

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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Volume 13 Issue 49



Schwerin Palace

Life in Germany, part 5

The Grey Zone

Battling ashy roots

Stereotyping

The Human Binary?

Plus:

Lost & Found

International Newsdesk

Canadian FedWatch!

Dear Barb

The Good Life

Turning the Pages

AUSU This Month

Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan

and much more...

The Third Annual Voice Writing Contest - Details Inside

Welcome To the Voice PDF

The Voice interactive Table of Contents allows you to click a story title to jump to an article. Clicking the bottom-right corner of any page returns you here. Some ads and graphics are also links.



features

LIFE IN GERMANY - AN AU STUDENT ABROAD - part 5

John Buhler



articles

THE 50-CENT CONTROVERSY

Busby LeClair

THE NUMBERS GAME

Rebecca Brewer

THE GREY ZONE

Sandra Livingston

STEREOTYPING - THE HUMAN BINARY

Pam Pelmous



columns

CANADIAN FEDWATCH!

Karl Low

TURNING THE PAGES - Growing up Digital

Elizabeth Cousar

LOST & FOUND - Of Meat Loaf and Godspell

Bill Pollett

THE GOOD LIFE - Oh Tannenbaum

Janice Behrens

DEAR BARB - Dealing with abuse

CHRONICLES OF CRUISCIN LAN - The Concert

Wanda Waterman St. Louis

FROM WHERE I SIT - 2005 Christmas Status Report

Hazel Anaka



news and events

INTERNATIONAL NEWSDESK - A greener campaign?

SEARCHING FOR INTERNSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

VOICE EVENT LISTINGS

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS



from the readers

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLASSIFIEDS



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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Life in Germany: Schwerin Palace

Part 5

John Buhler



The ongoing adventures of an AU student studying abroad. See issues 1340, 1342, 1343 and 1346 in the Voice archives, or search for "Life in Germany" to read the beginning of this story.

The train travels eastward from the centre of Hamburg, through its suburbs, through forests, and then eventually into agricultural lands. By this time, many of the buildings along the rails appear abandoned, and even some of the train stations look as if they have been neglected and unused for many years. Yet, the train stops in each town. At every stop, a handful of passengers get onto the train and a handful get off. One woman stepping off the

train carries a bright blue purse with the letters DDR on it. Before November 1989, this area had been part of the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR), otherwise known as East Germany.

The train eventually pulls into the main station at Schwerin. Not only is it the capital of the German state, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, but it also boasts a palace surrounded by a lake -- a setting that draws tourist revenue. Furthermore, its proximity to the west makes it accessible for the more affluent western Germans to visit. As a result, this small city has some economic advantages not shared by other former DDR cities.

On this particular Saturday, it is Schwerin's Christmas market that draws visitors to the city. They make their way from the main train station, over cobbled streets, past old buildings that are either fully restored, or in need of repair. Eventually, the tourists arrive at the centre of town on the edge of a lake. Here, colourful rides draw children and parents, while vendors sell Christmas decorations, candles, and souvenirs of Schwerin. The sun is low in the late November sky, the air is cold, and almost everyone warms his or her hands around the cups of hot mulled red wine sold along the street. It is only noon, but many of the visitors to the market are



already drinking their mulled wine with an extra shot of rum. Within a short walk from the lake is Schwerin's old town, which once was a cattle market, but today offers Christmas goods to shoppers. Nearby a choir sings a mix of traditional German Christmas carols and American-style Gospel music sung in English. A smell of sweet baking hangs in the air. Kiosks sell roasted almonds and hazelnuts. Another cup of the sweet and spicy red wine helps to take the edge off the cold, and perhaps adds to the carnival atmosphere.

Many of these visitors to Schwerin will go to see the palace and perhaps take a tour of the interior. The palace's location on an island gives it a fairy-tale setting. It is said that the palace even has a resident ghost. It dates from the 16th century, but was expanded in the 19th. The additions were provided with central heating, a modern innovation at the time. Another innovation was the use of papier-mâché as decoration in the palace's interior. The papier-mâché was formed and painted to look like carved wood, and according to one guide, was actually more expensive than woodwork, but was used instead because it was considered to be very modern.



Palace garden with a view into the Orangerie

The palace was once a ducal residence, but under communism from 1945 to 1989, its maintenance was of course not a priority. At that time, some of its rooms, with inlaid floors and classically decorated walls, were used as school classrooms. Presently, the palace is undergoing repairs, and several sections are covered with tarps and scaffolding. Still, the guide takes visitors through the palace's grand rooms of Schwerin's palace. The last tour of the day ends around sunset.



Schwerin as seen from the bank of the Pfaffenteich

Though it is getting dark, the Christmas market on the lake is still crowded. And around the lake, you can still find evidence of the city's communist past. On one side of the lake is August-Bebel-Strasse. He was a long-time elected member of the German parliament and member of the German Socialist Party, the SPD, during the German Imperial Period. As he supported workers' rights and the rights of

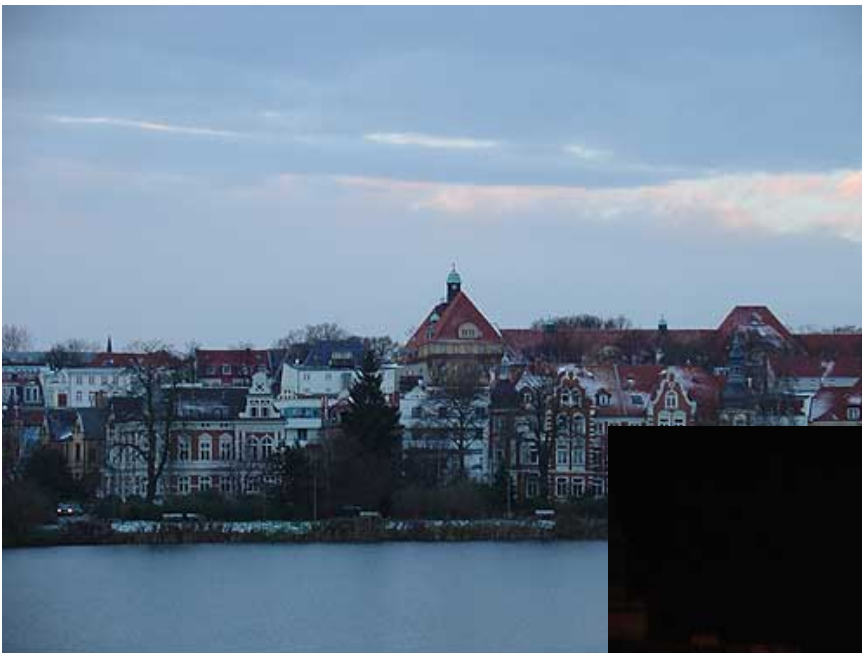
women, the communist regime seized on his legacy as an exemplar of communist values.

On the other side of the lake, runs Karl-Marx-Strasse, named of course for the writer of the Communist Manifesto. Ironically, it appears that some of the most expensive residential properties in Schwerin are located on Karl-Marx-Strasse and August-Bebel-Strasse, overlooking the lake.

Walking once more towards the train station, one can see in the distance, the lights of the Christmas market that reflect off the water. Into the cold night, the crowds continue to mix in the streets. And, even as some tourists depart, others are still arriving at the train station.



The formal gardens around the palace



A view of Schwerin from the palace



Schwerin's Christmas Market by night



In a Starbucks coffee shop a few weeks ago, I sat across from two students madly studying for an upcoming exam. They had a laptop sitting beside them and hundreds of dollars of textbooks at their feet, as they sifted through their notes and caffeinated themselves in preparation for a long night of studying. The students discussed a range of topics. I couldn't help but overhear them and wonder how much of that information they would actually need to get a job. I looked down at the textbook in my hand and wondered the same thing.

I remember a classmate once asked our social studies teacher in high school why we needed to know about history if we didn't plan to study it past this class. The teacher replied, much to everyone's annoyance, that it didn't matter; he was teaching us how to learn. But four years of post-secondary commitments later, most of us want to be able to say we know more than just how to learn. We want reassurance that we'll get hired. We want to know that it was all worth it.

There are many statistics that can tell you it is. "Today, more than 9 out of 10 youth surveyed aspire to post-secondary education" (Canada Department of Finance, 2005). Athabasca University participated in the Graduate Employment and Student Satisfaction survey. Eight universities and university colleges across Alberta participated in the survey. Out of 2000 students of the class of 2002, 83 per cent of grads considered the "program to be worth the financial cost" (Athabasca University, 2003/2004, p. 37). 73 per cent of all the combined employed graduates from all the schools felt the same way (Sorensen, 2002).

While that leaves us with a nice warm feeling towards our education system, it is likely that many students feel school is worthwhile because we can't do much without post-secondary anymore. It's worth it, because society has structured it that way. As Dr. Piper stated, "70 per cent (2004) of all new jobs will require some post-secondary education" (Education is key factor in job market, 2005). And "individuals—working full time over a full year—with a bachelor's degree earn on average about 50 per cent more than high school graduates" (Canada, Department of Finance, 2005). The statistics citing how worthwhile school make me feel hollow when you consider how necessary school seems today.

Another statistic from the survey catches my eye. 75 per cent of grads held jobs in their area of study (Sorensen, 2002 p.76). Out of the Athabasca grads of 2002, 86 per cent of employed graduates had jobs related to their area of study (Athabasca University, p. 37). These statistics surprise me as my experience has taught me differently.

I know of a Physical Education major who works in the plumbing industry, a teacher running a business, and a political science major working in insurance. I meet these types of people all of the time. Likely, so do you. Is it possible that we meet the 14 per cent of the minority time and time again? I suppose it is, but it seems more likely that the statistics leave much unaccounted for.

My intention as I began writing this article was to discuss the job force and learn a little about life after graduation. I wanted to justify the challenges of a post-secondary degree. I found plenty of interesting numbers, but nothing of real substance. The stories I've heard and the ones I've got to tell justified the challenges. I fell back on my experiences to reassure me that the post-secondary grind was worth it, even if it doesn't grant me the career I had originally intended.

The numbers oversimplify, but I feel like I've learned something. And like school, it may not come out as planned, but in the end it's worth it.

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The 50-Cent Controversy

Busby LeClair



There was an interesting news item a couple of weeks back about Dan McTeague, the Toronto Member of Parliament (MP) who wants to keep "bad boy" rapper 50 Cent (also known as "Fiddy") out of Canada (Pedwell, 2005). As his reasoning, McTeague cites the fact that Fiddy has a criminal record. There is concern that Fiddy's music, which allegedly promotes gunplay and misogyny, will have a negative influence on the minds of impressionable youth. McTeague and others worry that this influence could lead to an increase of gang-related violence and crime on the already-troubled streets of Toronto.

I can see the point of these pro-censorship critics. Our innocent youth really should be protected from messages that might send them all haywire and psycho. After all, this "see-no-evil" approach has worked so well in the past with respect to the likes of Alice Cooper and Marilyn Manson. Who knows what might happen if we let our kids listen to this vile stuff? It would be like leaving a

seventeen-year-old virgin in a locked room with the demented evil brother of Reven the Hypnotist. One minute, your teenage son or daughter is gluing stamps in an album or carving cedar bird feeders. Then they hear that 50 Cent is coming to town, and the next thing you know, they're threatening to "put a cap in yo' ass," or submitting employment applications to the U.S. Postal Service. And it's not as though they've been exposed to tens of thousands of violent messages by means of t.v. shows, newscasts, Hollywood films, video games, and hockey broadcasts already by the time they're six years old.

Please don't misunderstand my sarcasm. I'm all for the sort of arbitrary censorship that McTeague is calling for. I just think that the politician is fighting the right battle for the wrong reasons. By all means, let's keep Fiddy out of the country, but let's do it because he, along with most mainstream rappers, creates mediocre crap filled with secondhand beats and self-aggrandizing clichés. I say, extend the ban to include the likes of Snoop Dogg and Kanye West, too. Hell, just about every rapper, in fact, except the very few (like De La Soul, Eminem, and Canada's own Buck 65) who actually know what it means to create memorable and lasting music and words.

While we're at it, we should also impose heavy penalties for radio stations that play Foreigner and Loverboy songs. And let's form a parliamentary committee to study what can be done about Nickelback. Then, we would be making the streets, airways and concert halls safer for all of us.

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We are unwilling allies, the smiling woman and I. At our bi-monthly meetings, she never fails to beam happily at me, a fit, healthy and apparently wealthy icon of youth and beauty. She is number 837, Natural Golden Brown, and with each appointment that I keep, I become ever more determined to cut her out of my life.

You'd think it would be simple for someone like me, a quick severing of old unwanted ties. I eschew the cult of youth in favour of a steady, comfortable march toward middle age. Britney, Christina and Beyonce do not blare from my car stereo. I celebrate a broader array of music and the arts, one that has taken many years of patience and experimentation to

appreciate. The one-dimensional, disposable fashions (musical and otherwise) that the advertising gurus push as the accoutrements of being young, hip, and desirable are not for me. Neither do I indulge in girls'-nights-out, those shrieking, tipsy, mini-skirted bonding rituals that so many women of a certain age seem to require as reassurance of their ability to attract the attention of strange men in bars.

So why this frustrating reluctance to just let go, to say to the world that yes, I have grey hair and I really don't care? Age is not an issue for me and I'll happily announce that I'm forty-two to anyone who asks. Money has little to do with the equation either. I'm not a beauty queen or movie star, and my looks have never been a factor in my ability to earn a living.

I don't really know the answer to this question, but one thing I'm sure of is that I'm not alone. One manufacturer of cosmetics and hair care products estimates that as many as 40 percent of women and 5 percent of men colour their hair. Sure, a lot of people have fun changing their hair colour as part of their wardrobe or to experiment with their image, but a quick look at the drugstore shelves shows that at least half of the boxes there exist for one reason and one reason only -- to cover that unsightly grey.

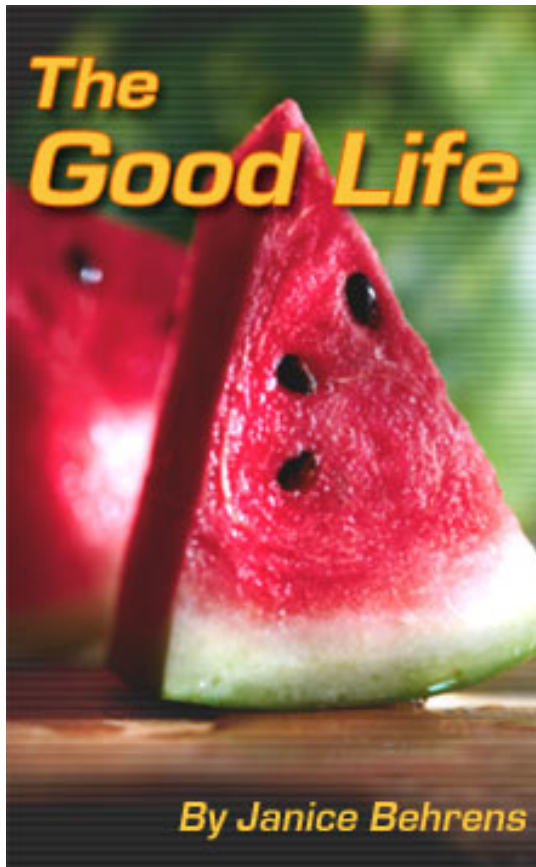
I've even heard that one of the many trendy pastimes of the rich and beautiful is to have the grey hair on their pets dyed into oblivion. Apparently, if an Alsatian has the audacity to develop a grey muzzle, it's a direct reflection of its owner's decline in youth and associated power. The adage about having more money than brains comes to mind, but I think the truth of the matter lies deeper than that. I think that no matter how intelligent, rational or discerning we may be, the constant assault of youth-as-perfection can't help but affect us. Young is good, and old is bad. Flawless skin is desirable, and wrinkles are a flaw. It saturates our sensibilities through billboards, television -- actually, just about any media you can name -- until, unlike the Argonauts protected from the wail of the Sirens, we succumb.

Sometimes I hold off as long as possible, watching with grim resolve as the silver roots grow longer, determined that this time I'm going to beat the urge to buy into the bill of goods society has sold me. And I do hold off, standing firm until some wag remarks in surprise, "Wow, I didn't know you have so much grey hair!" It's times like these that always seem to find me at the hair salon, black-caped and mesmerized, as I watch the short, even snips falling like some sort of mutant rain. It's then that reality sinks in, the stark glare of pure white ending abruptly where it merges with a length of Natural Golden Brown. There is a distinct demarcation point, like the shocking pallor of a foot that's remained sock-clad and virginal all summer, while the leg above it has been allowed to mellow into a golden semblance of the sun's rays. The contrast can be startling.

If truth be told, it's not the grey-free twenty-year olds I envy. It's the women I occasionally glimpse in the shopping mall or on the street, the ones sporting thick, rebellious coifs of snow-white or steel-grey hair, the ones who don't dye and probably never have. The ones who, no matter what their age, have accepted their

maturing hair colour as part of who they are, of who they've grown to be, and don't give a damn what anybody thinks.

One day, I'll be one of them. I will finally have let go of my one last, lingering preconception of what it means to be attractive in a world that places such a premium on something none of us, no matter how rich or powerful, will ever achieve -- eternal youth. In the meantime, I'll continue to meet my smiling friend in the aisles of the nearest drug store, and together we will wash that grey right outta my hair. And until that day comes, it'll be our little secret.



O Tannenbaum

Last night marked the official arrival of the Christmas season in our home. It came a little later than usual for us this year, due to an abnormally hectic work schedule. But we finally found the time to head to the tree lot at the elementary school near our house to pick out a Christmas tree. Usually we get a charmingly lopsided Charlie Brown-type model, but this year we were lucky enough to get a deal on a real classical beauty of a tree -- a six-foot noble fir that looks like it might have come from the pages of a Victorian picture book. Later on, we had some friends over, built up a fire in the fireplace, put on some Frank Sinatra and some gospel music, set out a bowl of green olives, a thick wedge of Stilton cheese, poured some beverages (cranberry juice for the kids, red wine and Doppelbock Winter Ale for the more seasoned of us) and set about the serious work of getting tangled up in strings of lights and garlands of cranberry and popcorn.

As any good pagan knows, the doorway to spirituality is through the senses. For me, indulging those senses is what the Christmas season is all about. You can keep your trips to the shopping mall, your DVDs, and gift certificates. Give me, instead, the tastes and smells of roast turkey and mandarin oranges, the sound of children's choirs, and above all the sights and scents of a fully lit and decorated Christmas tree. The wonderful smell is like having

the corner of your living room become a doorway into a magical forest.

There are two schools, when it comes to tree decorating. There is the tasteful technique followed by my friend Linda, who makes her living as a graphic artist. Typically, you would find her tree decorated with such things as dried, long-stemmed red roses. On the other hand, I come from the equally valid decorating tradition of "throw everything at the wall and see what sticks." This approach was enthusiastically supported by my family and the friends who were able to come by. So, by the end of the evening, our tree was groaning under the weight of a lifetime's worth of collected trinkets and merrily flashing lights (I admit it it's the kind of lights that play Christmas carols). A true thing of beauty!

As many of us know, the tradition of the Christmas tree has its roots in ancient pagan times, when villagers would hang boughs of spruce and fir over their doorways, believing that the evergreens would ensure longevity and vitality, and keep evil forces away. It seems to me, as we try and forge a new and more positive consciousness in these dark days early in the new millennium, hopefully based on connection and joy rather than isolation and fear, the Christmas tree is an appropriate metaphor of hope.



Stereotypes and the binary number system consist of similar principles. Both categorize elements by an "either/or" determination, thereby allowing for maximum efficiency. Yet, both are limited by that very same "either/or" quality. Problems can arise from such narrow limitations resulting in a mechanical and unwavering bias. However, the benefits provide balance with "either/or" limitations allowing for quick and efficient processing of large amounts of information. Without such efficiency, progress would be uncompromisingly slow. Just imagine how long your morning routine would take if you had to stop to analyze every situation individually, instead of simply accepting that when the light switch is flipped up, the light is on, and that when your toast has popped out of the toaster, chances are, your toast is ready.

For the purpose of this discussion, stereotypes will be defined as any assumption or expectation based on past experience, but not necessarily linked to future results. This definition includes assumptions such as assuming a wet surface will be slippery to assuming that a teenager with a coloured Mohawk is a troublemaker.

Stereotypes (which are typically developed on the basis of trends) are similar to the "on" point or the "1" of binary. Acting against a stereotype is the "off" point or "0" of binary. Once this binary system of stereotyping is in place (psychologically and further cemented by age and experience), the complex process of categorization becomes automatic and, in many ways, simpler and faster to use than judging people/situations/things by their individual value.

To provide an example, our learned sense of safety comes from identifying dangerous situations, such as cars speeding down the road toward you as opposed to an empty road, into a "1" or "0" conceptualization of danger versus safety. Of course, there are situations in which cars are on the road and it is still safe to cross, so experience narrows the stereotype to more specific circumstances (e.g., "yes, there are cars, but they are far away and moving slowly so it is safe for me to cross) and the bottom line is still a "yes" or "no" decision. Experience, then, fine-tunes decisions, but these decisions are rooted in the more primary and broad stereotypes that you began with.

Adult life is very much dependent on predicting outcomes and generally not being surprised by circumstances. For instance, we expect our alarms to go off in the morning; we expect that if we have not done anything wrong, we will still have a job the next day, and so on. While we recognize that situations vary, we still focus on trends for the sake of efficiency. Can you imagine going to bed every night wondering if your alarm will go off, or worrying at work that you will be arbitrarily fired? These are just a few examples, and they are certainly not universal (i.e., some people's alarms might not be dependable or their jobs might not be stable). But if you take a moment to reflect, most of your actions are based on assumptions that are based on trends that are based on stereotypes. Human binary.

Interestingly, one of history's largest proponents of human binary was Confucius, who taught methodical, traditional ways of living to maintain harmony with our surroundings and the people we meet. This harmony is based on predicting the way a person will move or speak, much like etiquette defines what is proper (binary: 1) and improper (binary: 0). Confucius taught that every situation has an acceptable and definite way of acting and reacting, from walking on opposite sides of the room at exactly the same pace with the same foot forward on the way to dinner, to restricting what one can say and at what time. Clearly, if one was learned in these methods, life became simpler because one could know exactly what to expect from a person under all circumstances, and thereby know his/her intentions of being "proper." If someone behaved

"improperly," you knew that they were uneducated, and if you chose you could assume that they were not worth your time.

This method might seem ridiculous to people of our time, but the truth is, we unconsciously adopt many of these principles in our daily life. To reiterate, our dependency on stereotypes is developed from experience, and our experiences define trends. If every large-nosed person we come in contact with were warm and pleasant, we would begin to associate large-nosed persons with warmth and pleasantry, and respond accordingly. The benefit, of course, is that we are able to make decisions faster and more confidently. Granted, this system is not 100 percent accurate and life becomes reduced to a matter of the probable verses the improbable.

Those concerned with individuality may be assuaged by knowing that the more experience one obtains, the more refined this categorization system may become, as with the earlier example of assumed personal safety when crossing the road. The comfort we derive from the security of being able to predict is not only natural, but also efficient. As such, one may argue that maturation is the process of learning how and when to generalize.

Of course, the problem of stereotyping is inherent to the binary system. It makes us mechanical and at times unfairly biased. This is what many feminist, anti-racist, and other interest groups fight against. However, there is no way to absolutely eliminate stereotypes, which is both fortunate and unfortunate. Those who suffer most are the ones who are "not given a chance" because of assumptions, even if the assumptions are based on valid trends. For example, some European groups, particularly Slavic, are stereotyped as being aggressive. Being of Slavic origin and being more docile than the average person, progress can be frustratingly impeded because of people's assumption that my temper will explode at any moment.

For those going against human stereotypes (which are the majority, since human stereotypes tend to be based on perceived trends) such unwaveringly binary judgments are frustrating. In many cases, however, they may be overcome. My belief is that the best way to escape this mechanical way of thinking (i.e., on or off, yes or no) is to be yourself, and consciously work against stereotypes when it comes to human interactions. When I'm playing football with my guy friends and I miss a catch, I don't think, "oh dear, they're going to think I'm a typical girl" (binary: 1). And if I make a good pass, I don't think that I've "done it like a boy" (binary: 0). I'm just going to accept the failures and successes as a part of being human -- being neither "1" or "0." And my attitude that I am an individual who should be judged as an individual will rub off onto other people. Just try it and see.

AU E-LETTERS ARE HERE!

AU has launched AU will launch an exciting new initiative to assist students and more efficiently utilize AU resources. "Electronic letters (e-letters) is a new feature that will enable undergraduate students to view certain letters online - registration, withdrawal, extension, exam, and final grade, to name a few.

The process took more than a year, was worked on by eight staff members from the Registrar's Office and Computing Services, and the program was extensively tested by a number of volunteers. A [FAQ web page](#) will answer any questions and another [web page](#) describes what e-letters are. Existing AU students will be informed of the new e-letters service and asked if they would like to begin receiving electronic copies of letters. Log in to MyAU to make your choice. AUSU supports this new development as an environmentally friendly and cost-conscious option. We also note that many students contact AUSU asking how to obtain tutor contact information after hours. With e-letters, when a tutor information letter is lost, you will be able to access it again right away online!



TURNING THE PAGES

Elizabeth Cousar

Well, it's certainly been a week, all right! I have been doing some outside reading for my due-any-day-now Communications 321 (Computers and Human Experience) paper about the Information Revolution. I have to tell you, reading what some 'experts' thought was going to happen, and what some of them *still* think is going to happen, makes for some interesting reading. Interesting as in "May you live in interesting times" kind of interesting.

The first book I read was very easy-to-read. It was approachable in tone, rather positive and upbeat.

Growing Up Digital: The Rise of the Net Generation, by Don Tapscott (1999) apparently is an international bestseller of which I'd never heard of. It is a 300-odd-page work of futurism. The author questions, "What will today's [American] children bring unto the world?"

One of the strengths of this book is that it is not written in a vacuum. Sometimes I get the feeling that authors sequester themselves in a shed out back to begin a book, and don't surface until the first copies are rolling off the presses. Tapscott did a great deal of research (via the Internet, of course) and interviewed a great number of people, most of them being children and teenagers. This is important, not only because his book addresses the new generation that is growing up connected to the Internet, but also because the reader gets the impression that Tapscott bases some of his ideas on actually listening to young people, which could be the best way to predict their future behaviour.

One thing Tapscott predicts really hit home for me. Education, he believes, will have to change radically in order to keep up with the new reality of Internet access, cell phones, and kids capable of multi-tasking from a very young age. The industrial revolution model of education that we currently have in our bricks-and-mortar schools will go the way of the dodo bird. Tapscott thinks, among other things, that distance education (as we know it at AU) and home schooling (as most of society calls it when the students are elementary-school aged) is the low-frequency rumble that will become a sweeping avalanche. Major reforms, according to Tapscott, are coming — and sooner, rather than later.

Tapscott delves into many other aspects of the Net generation (he calls them the N-gen for short), their work, play, communications, learning, shopping and creating. He even discusses how the digital divide (the disparity between those with the economic wherewithal to have computers with Internet access constantly available, and those without such access) will affect the N-gen.

Perhaps especially, the N-gen differs from their Gen-X or Gen-Y parents in terms of their culture. Exposed to interactive media (as opposed to passive broadcast media, like radio and TV) for most, if not all of their lives, the N-gen needs to participate in the generation of its entertainment. No couch potatoes, these! If the N-genners are watching TV, then they're also on their cell phones, and chatting online with friends, usually while listening to music and doing their homework. An experience, to the N-gen, isn't an experience until it's been shared.

Growing Up Digital is not all roses and sunshine. There are some problems coming for all of us as the world adjusts to the N-gen and their way of doing things. Tapscott, however, offers solutions to some of these problems. He is not afraid to carefully construct his arguments, show his reasoning, and address some of his opponents' probable arguments. This book is definitely worth a look, especially if you have children you're having trouble relating to. You may find out why, exactly.

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Athabasca University behind the Times

Once again, it seems Athabasca University (AU), supposedly the premiere home of distance education, is caught having to play catch-up in the very field it supposedly specializes in.

Early in December, the provincial government of Alberta announced that NAIT was training welder and electrician apprentices through videoconferencing -- something that AU has not yet managed to make work effectively in its own meetings as of yet (Alberta Advanced Education, 2005).

Surprisingly, NAIT received no additional support to do this program beyond its usual funding, other than access to the Alberta SuperNet. Considering that AU is the only school to be offering a Master's in Distance Education, the fact that this technology is not routinely employed by Athabasca should be of great concern to everybody in that program.

To be fair, the videoconferencing will be followed-up by the professors or the "NAIT in Motion" trailer visiting the communities after the completion of the course, another area that AU seems to lag behind in. Currently, AU students are expected to travel to one of a very few places (Athabasca, Calgary, Edmonton, or Hamilton) in order to complete their labs for some of AU's science courses. This baffles me because if we can have invigilated exams anywhere on the globe, why not invigilated labs?

The good news is that AU finally seems to recognize this problem and some slow steps are being taken to overcome it. Since we now have both a Masters of Distance Education and a Masters of Computing Sciences, it seems only natural that AU should be able to develop some sort of solution to this problem fairly quickly. At least before NAIT beats us to the punch again.

Reference

Alberta Advanced Education (2005, December 2). NAIT using SuperNet to train apprentices in their communities. Retrieved from <http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200512/19151EC3DD9E3-A1B8-D5F7-F04B7AFE1BB358D3.html>

Ontario Improves Aboriginal Post-Secondary Access -- by a Committee?

The Ontario government has decided that it wants to improve the access to post-secondary education for Aboriginal students across Ontario. In order to do this, they've established an advisory committee to tell them how to spend part of the 6.2 billion dollars they've budgeted for post-secondary education advancement over the next five years (Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, 2005).

Unfortunately, the advisory committee membership is almost entirely made up of people already responsible for Aboriginal programs in various universities across the province. This means that solutions that might pull students out of their programs, such as Athabasca University's own offerings in the field, and are thus unlikely to be looked upon with much favour. Even so, if AU could establish meetings with some of the "higher ups" in the committee, they might be able to swing the discussion to simply providing grants for Aboriginal students to be able to decide their own course of education. If those grants were unrestricted in the choice of institution, AU stands to benefit from those students using distance education to get their post-secondary education while staying involved in their own culture.

Reference

Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (2005, December 8). Government plan helps Aboriginal students reach higher: Advisory group to improve access to higher education. Retrieved from http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2005/12/08/c4729.html?lmatch=&lang=_e.html

Statistics Canada Confirms Research Spending Increased

Research spending at the post-secondary level increased 9 percent from 2002/03 to 2003/04 coming to a total of 8.1 billion for that year (Statistics Canada, 2005).

The interesting part is that statistic is that most of the increase in research spending actually occurred in the social sciences and humanities fields of study, which increased 13 percent, followed by natural sciences and engineering, which increased 12 percent. Meanwhile, health related research only increased by about 4 percent. You would think that in a country that is consistently complaining about how far behind we are in advanced health care, that we'd see larger research expenditures in this area.

In any event, if you're going for a graduate degree this might help determine which fields you consider.

Reference

Statistics Canada (2005, December 7). Spending on research and development in the higher education sector.

Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/051207/d051207c.htm>



Are you looking forward to a Greener campaign?

Mandy Gardner

We are all familiar with the major political parties in Canada today. There are the Liberals, who by most standards actually represent the middle of the political spectrum; the ever present and opposing Conservatives; the Bloc Quebecois with their unrelentingly French vote; and the New Democrats with their electorate of die-hard socialists. And then, there's the Green Party. Every election year, most of us consider them for a split second and then give our vote to someone else. Why is this? Perhaps, it's a lack of knowledge, a lack of understanding about what the Green Party is all about. During our next federal election, this may change.

Since 1984, the Green Party of Canada has endeavoured to promote its policies of environmental conservation and progressive social planning. Through the years, the party has gained supporters all over the country. In 2004, it proudly had a candidate running in every one of the 308 ridings. It was during that election that the Greens received 4.3 percent of the popular vote and finally had enough support to merit federal funding. A political party requires at least 2 percent of the

popular vote to receive this kind of monetary campaign aid.

So now, as we endure the campaigns of all parties in the run-up to the January election, we can also look forward to a new face on the scene. Green leader Jim Harris intends to use those funds in a particularly efficient and effective way. In fact, the Green Party was awarded an efficiency prize by Elections Canada for its resourceful use of campaign money in the 2004 campaign. Greens spent \$0.86 per vote they obtained, in stark contrast to the hard-edged crusade of the NDP who spent the most money of all political parties at \$5.66 a vote.

Equipped with \$1.75 per vote, what can we expect to see from the Greens? It is probably a safe bet that the party would demand inclusion to the Leaders' Debate, broadcast live on CBC before voters take to the polls. Last year, they were not invited to participate in the televised debate and party members were not impressed. Aside from television coverage, the party would certainly benefit from a full and publicized explanation of its policies and current platform. At the moment, Harris' party has a very comprehensive and unique approach to its policy development, called a Living Platform. Found on the party's official website, the Living Platform offers party members and the general public a virtual roundtable to converse about Green ideals and plans. Platform 2005 has already been adopted and will be used as the official policy during this election campaign.

A Green campaign is likely going to contrast sharply with the rhetoric of some of the other parties we know so well. That fact might make for an exciting political battle. Once that overlooked option on our election ballots becomes a real political entity with ideals and goals, perhaps a lot more Canadians will mark their ballots with an X in a new place.

Reference

Green Party of Canada - <http://www.greenparty.ca/>

AUSU THIS MONTH



AUSU Job Posting - Chief Returning Officer

Deadline - January 17th

The Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) represents AU students and their interests. The Union strives for a fair and accessible election process for members to the Students' Council. To this end, AUSU is seeking a student to fulfill the role of Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the 2006 AUSU General Elections.

Position Duties and Responsibilities

The CRO's responsibilities, as outlined in AUSU policy, include arranging to receive, collect, and maintain ballots in a secure location, overseeing the counting of ballots with two (2) Scrutineers on March 17, 2006, notifying candidates of the results, and conducting the appeal process as required. Please include a recent resume and your AU student ID number along with a letter indicating your intent to apply for this position.

Selection Criteria

- Applicant must be currently registered as an AU student.
- Applicant must be bondable.
- Applicant must have strong organizational and logistical abilities.
- Applicant must be able to analyze and apply policy to ensure a fair election process.
- The CRO will be ineligible to run for council in the 2006.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel is an asset.
- Candidates must be able to operate out of the AUSU head office located in Edmonton, AB.

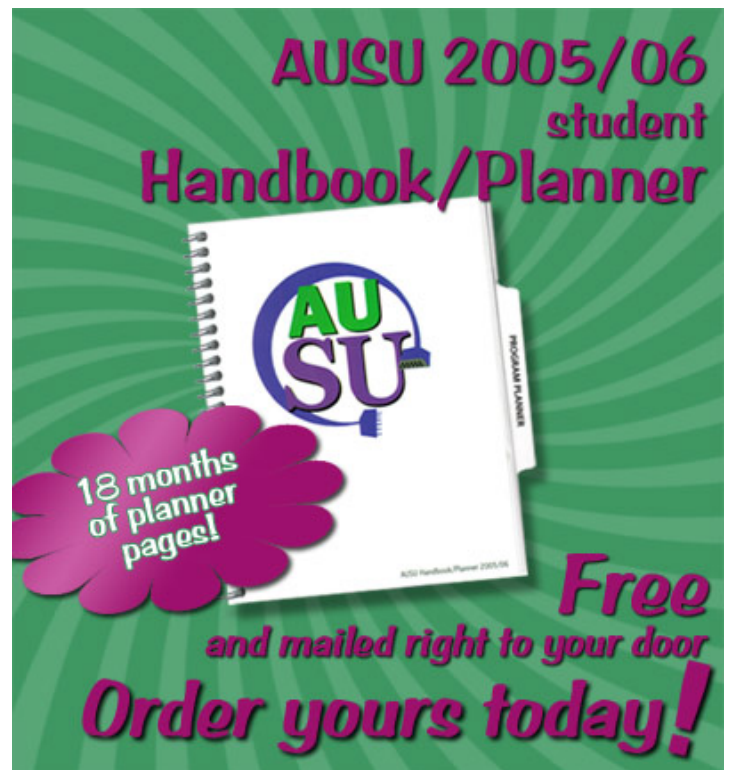
Remuneration - \$500 stipend

Apply to: AUSU, Peace Hills Trust Tower, 1200 10011 109th Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3E4 - Phone: (800) 788-9041 extension 2905

E-mail: communications@ausu.org

AUSU Course Evaluations

Would you like to know what 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. Students 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 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.





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 without providing remuneration.
- 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.

- Entrants found tampering with the contest results, or attempting to influence any of the judges 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.
- 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 your 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 or 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:

My boyfriend and I have been living together for two years. We dated for one year before moving in together. While we were dating he was loving, supportive, and open. We had a lot of fun together. I really believed he was the man I would like to spend my life with. Our first year of living together was also wonderful. However, things began to change during the second year. My boyfriend became very possessive and no longer wanted me to go out with my friends. As a result, we began fighting all of the time. Some of these fights escalated and became physical. Although he apologizes after these outbursts and promises he will never hit me again, he always does. I'm afraid for my safety, but I'm even more afraid to leave. I just don't know what to do. I still love him and really want us to work this out. I think he really is a good person. I just don't know what to do.

Cindy - Indiana.

Hi Cindy. Your confusion is evident. I can imagine how devastated you must have been when the man you love physically assaulted you. Unfortunately, this situation occurs more often than most people realize. This issue is now receiving some recognition, unlike the past when everyone looked the other way. The philosophy then was, "what happens behind closed doors, stays behind closed doors." This thinking only perpetuates abusive behaviour. Things have improved considerably with women like you coming forward and speaking out. You realize this is not right and you do not deserve to be treated this way.

For the benefit of someone who may wonder if what they are experiencing is abuse I'd like to quote a definition of family violence provided by the Government of Alberta Children's Services.

"Family violence is the abuse of power within relationships of family, trust or dependency that endangers the survival, security or well-being of another person. It can include many forms of abuse, including intimate partner abuse; senior abuse and neglect; child abuse, neglect and sexual abuse; parent abuse; and witnessing abuse of others in the family. Family violence may include some or all of the following behaviours; physical abuse, psychological abuse, criminal harassment/stalking, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse and spiritual abuse." (Government of Alberta Children's Services, 2005)

Cindy you need to take care of your safety and the only way to do that is to leave this situation. Since you are afraid to leave, you will need some support and a place to go where you will be safe and protected. It would not be a good idea to go to a family member, because that would put them in danger.

Most communities have places for abused women to stay while they, and if willing, their partners get help. These are professional organizations that will direct you and your boyfriend to the resources available in your community. I am not familiar with what is available in the United States, but I'm sure they have similar services to those in Canada.

"Changing Ways" is a support group based in London, Ontario, for men who abuse their partners. This organization also offers assistance to the women in these partnerships. Check your local telephone directory to see if there is a similar organization in your area. Also look in the white pages under "Abused Women's Centers." The National Suicide Crisis Line has an abundance of information for individuals in crisis. You can reach them in the USA at 1-800-273-8255.

I know this must seem like a drastic measure to take, but many women wait too long believing things will get better. Unfortunately, for some of them their wait is a deadly one. Don't become a statistic Cindy. Get help now!

Reference

Government of Alberta Children's Services (2005, November). Definitions for Family Violence and Bullying. <http://www.child.gov.ab.ca/whatwedo/familyviolence/page.cfm?pg=Definitions%20for%20family%20violence%20and%20bullying>

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.



Of Meat Loaf and Godspell

Most people, I think, start out by being fairly open-minded to most experiences. For a child, each new room and each new day are potential adventures waiting to be explored. During the first few years of our lives, we are totally "in the moment," completely immersed in the waters of the here and now.

As we get older, though, we begin the laborious task of separating, ranking and categorizing our likes and dislikes. Getting beyond the basic requirements of sustaining life, we begin more and more to seek out the little joys and luxuries in life that bring us a sense of comfort and satisfaction. We tend to avoid those things that detract from the enjoyment of a day well spent. For my part, for instance, this means placing meat loaf and string quartets on the "pure pleasure" side of the ledger, and relegating Regis Philbin and bubblegum flavoured ice cream to the "to be avoided" side.

For me, the most intense period of developing these appreciative and critical insights was during my late teen years and early adulthood. (I imagine it happens at different times for different people.) It seems, looking back, that every week during this stage of my life was a fertile ground for discovering new interests and passions that would follow me through the decades to come.

Single malt scotch, Kurt Weill, Tabasco sauce, gothic literature, antique maps and mashed potatoes all took up permanent residency in my life.

This process of finding out what we like and don't like, and trying to understand why, is an important part of understanding who we are. All these little preferences and idiosyncrasies are part and parcel of our individual personalities. So, obviously, this process of discovery is a good thing. It can have its drawbacks, though. There is a possibility that we can take this cultivation of preferences a bit too far. At what point does knowing what you like become ossified into prejudice and closed-mindedness to new experiences?

Luckily, I don't have to worry about being too discriminating anymore. In a sort of middle age induced psychosis, it seems I'm becoming nearly unable to dislike anything anymore. The other day, for instance, I found myself singing along to some power ballad by REO Speedwagon on a soft rock radio station, and even getting choked up by the cloying sentimentality of the song. In the past couple of years, I've discovered previously unsuspected likings for disco music, Coronation Street, ice cold Carling Black Label, microwave popcorn, and the original cast recording of Godspell. Can Whitney Houston and chicken McNuggets be far behind? Suddenly, I have no taste or judgement at all, and the world is once again my oyster. What a wonderful turn of events.

Christmas 2005 Status Report



From
Where
I Sit
Hazel Anaka

It's December 11th as I write this. In two short weeks from today, our extended family will be gathering here for Christmas dinner. Yikes!

Check out this status report. The new dishwasher we bought in June is still sitting in the middle of the kitchen awaiting installation. What's the big deal you may ask? When we decided to install laminate in the kitchen over at least two layers of lino and a sub-floor from renovations past, we lost some precious space in the dishwasher cavity. There's also a quarter-inch difference between that floor and the adjoining living room. "The sunken living room Hazel's always wanted," is how Roy describes it. Like virtually every project we've ever tackled, this is not straight forward. And the clock is ticking.

Roy isn't even home. He's working his way back from Texas. I volunteered to host Christmas because it was our turn and the newly renovated basement would provide overflow space in our small house.

To add increased pressure, I began another big project. We're converting an unused catch-all space into a fully outfitted office. So far, I've removed the wallpaper border, TSPed the wall, primed, painted three coats of a rich red, removed the carpeting, scraped the foam backing, as well as emptied and purged closet contents. Next is the installation of laminate flooring. Our electrician son Greg offered some time and labour saving strategies for expanding the power capability for a 21st century home office from a 1959 bedroom with two outlets. I explained this to Roy on the phone and assured him it was now safe to come home because the project got easier!

Red walls and laminate do not an office make. Occupying a good part of the basement party space are eight pre-fab kitchen cupboard sections. These must be installed for the built-in storage every office needs.

As the time draws nearer, I don't hold out much hope for getting countertops, crown moulding, baseboards, new closet bi-fold doors, and window treatments all installed in time. I guess it'll match the missing baseboards in the bathroom and kitchen.

Once Roy builds me the boxes, I've still got to do three padded valances. The sheets on the living room window will be replaced with three new roman shades, God willing.

And don't get me started on the menu. Luckily my mom, sisters and daughter-in-law will all contribute to the meal. I have no qualms about buying what I'm incapable of or unwilling to do.

The tree isn't up and the decorations are still all packed away. The staging, fluffing, and decorating are my favourite part of this whole process. Forget cards.

We scaled back our gift giving to one gift for the name we've drawn and one fun exchange with the larger group. This really reduces the shopping stress and prevents unpleasant credit card surprises come January.

Next year's Christmas season had better be renovation-free, otherwise there may be divorce proceedings, from where I sit.

** Reprinted with permission*



Searching for Internships

Lonita Fraser

INTERNSHIP

The Walrus Magazine

Toronto, Ontario

The Art Internship is six months long. Sessions begin in July and January.

Application deadline: April 15 for July 2

There are two six-month Editorial Internship sessions per year.

Four interns are chosen for each session, and begin in pairs on consecutive months.

Requirements:

- must be graduates of a post-secondary academic institution or design school
- no more than thirty years old
- those who do not meet the criteria may make a case for consideration on the basis of exceptional circumstances

The Walrus editorial internship aims to introduce aspiring writers and editors to the magazine industry and to train them for future work in their fields.

Responsibilities include:

- fact checking, research, and reading unsolicited pitches
- take part in production and story meetings
- may shadow edit articles alongside staff editors
- assist with proof reading final copy
- are encouraged to pitch stories to the magazine
- administrative tasks are part of the interns' responsibilities, but will never occupy more than ten percent of their time

Submit:

- a statement of purpose
- a resume
- two letters of reference
- editorial internship applicants who have a strong preference for starting time should indicate their preference.

Qualified editorial applicants will be given a set of tasks to complete in a time limited period, and a selected group will be interviewed.

All interns receive \$900 bi-weekly, plus benefits.

Please mail application materials to:

Internship, The Walrus, 19 Duncan Street #101, Toronto ON M5H 3H1

Information gleaned from: <http://www.walrusmagazine.com/article.pl?sid=03/07/09/1835250>

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.

LIFE & TIMES OF THE MOTORCYCLE

Now until September 17, 2006
Wetaskiwin, AB - Reynolds-Alberta Museum
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Adults \$9; Seniors \$7; Child \$5; Family \$25
under 6 is free - 1-800-661-4726 - ram@gov.ab.ca
<http://www.reynoldsalbertamuseum.com>

Visit 'Life and Times of the Motorcycle', an extraordinary exhibition featuring 150 of the most influential motorcycles in the past 100 years of motorcycling.

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!!

manitoba

SILVERWING

December 09 - 24, 2005 - Winnipeg, MB
CanWest Global Performing Arts Centre
2 Forks Market Road
All seats \$15 - <http://www.mtyp.ca>

Recommended for age 8 to adult

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/

maritimes

ST. JOHN'S CIRCUS: GROUP PRACTICE

St Johns, NF - Tuesdays - Mun Athletics building - FREE
<http://nick.wirelesszero.net/cgi-bin/juggling/YaBB.cgi>
Everyone's a Star! Juggling, Unicycling, Magic, Clowning, Poi, Diabolo, Fire, and whatever YOUR skill(s) is!
Tues At 7:00 PM - Thurs At 7:00 PM - Sat At 2:00 PM
Sessions usually run about 3 hrs...

123 SENSE

St Johns, NF - Saturdays - 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Eastern Edge Gallery, 72 Harbour Drive
free entrance
709-739-1882 - <http://www.easternedge.ca>
Jean Klimack (Winnipeg); Dave Yonge (B.C); Tania Lewis (NY/Newfoundland)
These three artists present in different mediums (video, drawing and photography) odd senses of the everyday, urban myths and gentrification.

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

Conference Connections

HIP HOP ECONOMIC SOCIAL CONFERENCE

Jan 5 - 8, 2006 - Atlanta, GA - <http://www.tnma.com>

TNMA conference will have enormous hip-hop celebrities and respected visionaries communicating the importance of establishing a sound financial future. The topics selected are to empower the participants to improve their quality of life. Events include: a celebrity basketball game, celebrity golf game, banquet and achievement awards.

3 day all access pass with accomdation: \$850

1 day access pass: \$380

1 day conference pass: \$475

1 day workshops pass: \$200

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON SHAMANISM, ENLIGHTENMENT, AND SACRED SEXUALITY

Jan 20-24/06 - Santa Fe, New Mexico <http://bizspirit.com>

Some of our presenters are Raphael Cushnir, Alberto Villoldo, Joyce and Barry Vissell, Brant Secunda, Leonard Shlain, Juliana Dahl, and many more. The Message Company creates blocks of hotel rooms for you at a discounted price. All the rooms are on the Plaza.

MINDBODYSPIRIT MEDICINE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Jan 29 - Feb 4, 2006 - Berkeley, CA <http://www.cmbm.org>

The most comprehensive mind-body training program in the United States, using a unique, small-group model for healthcare professionals who want to integrate the best of MindBodySpirit medicine into their clinical practices including medicine, psychology, nursing, social work, or other healing profession, or into medical school education. Become a better healer, and find more meaning in your work through this experiential, science-based program. Continuing education credits and partial scholarships available.

2006 HAWAII INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Jan 11-14, 2006 - Honolulu <http://www.hichumanities.org>

The main goal of the 2006 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities is to provide an opportunity for academicians and professionals from various arts and humanities related fields from all over the world to come together and learn from each other. An additional goal of the conference is to provide a place for academicians and professionals with cross-disciplinary interests related to arts and humanities to meet and interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines. Performing artists (live dance, theater, and music) interested in displaying their talents will be accommodated whenever possible.

2006 HAWAII INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

Jan 6 - 9, 2006 - Honolulu - <http://www.hiceducation.org>

The main goal of the 2006 Hawaii International Conference on Education is to provide an opportunity for academicians and professionals from various education related fields from all over the world to come together and learn from each other. An additional goal of the conference is to provide a place for academicians and professionals with cross-disciplinary interests related to education to meet and interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines.



**P
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**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/>

Know of a conference that is not on this list? Contact voice@ausu.org with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.

classifieds

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

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

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