

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

December 23, 2005
Volume 13 Issue 50

Happy Holidays



(Not So) Guilty

Christmas Pleasures

*Here's to the rest of us
A toast to the common man*

*A life and a death
... The cycle continues*

*Plus:
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AUSU This Month
Chronicles of Cruiscin Lan
and much more...*

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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: *The Grey Zone*, by Sandra Livingston, v 13 i49

I loved this article. I am 52 years old and I keep telling myself this year I'll go grey, but I still haven't been able to do it. I also admire the women who proudly display their grey locks.

Barb Godin

Thanks for the comment, Barb! In my mid-thirties, I've begun my own battle with the little white interlopers that appear in little bunches every few months. The Gray Zone makes me reconsider my tactic of plucking the little devils out! I guess it's got something to do with looking as young as we feel, but given that many women today look young and feel vibrant into their fifties and beyond and gray hair comes so early, maybe gray locks aren't so much an indicator of "aging" as it is of "maturity!" On the other hand, I think hair is there to have fun with and women of all ages should experiment and have fun! I haven't seen any grandmothers wearing green mowhawks yet, but hey, why not?!

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all voice readers and AU students a wonderful New Year and a fun but restful holiday. The next Voice issue will not be out until January 6th and it will be a Best Of The Year issue. The following issue, published January 13th, will feature all new material. See you in 2006!

Don't forget to enter the writing contest for your chance at a \$500 scholarship prize!

THE VOICE

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(Not So) Guilty Pleasures

Rebecca Brewer



The truth is that there are plenty of reasons to get annoyed during the holidays. Between the parties and the presents, the days seem to fill up quicker now than they do at any other time of the year. Often, what was supposed to be fun starts to feel more like work. Here are a few things to savour when you get the chance. Remind yourself why it was once called the most wonderful time of the year.

Some of the best (not so) guilty pleasures of the season

Staying warm inside all day while watching people pass by outside so bundled up that only their eyes are visible.

Crossing off the last thing on your 'to do' list knowing the only thing left for you to do involves some yuletide cheer and good company.

Listening to your iPod to drown out Christmas music (or in some cases to play it even louder).

Adding Bailey's to your coffee, particularly after a day of being cold and wet outside (think of those activities that keep you outdoors all day like skiing, shoveling snow, or putting up Christmas lights that refuse to all light at one time).

Watching *Cranky Salesperson* get acquainted with *Even Crankier Shopper*.

Discussing with a confidante the events of last night's office Christmas party (note, I said confidante).

Finding time to read a book that isn't listed in your *Study Guide*.

Going home to have your parents or someone else cook for you.

Walking in the door and smelling your favourite baked item rising in the oven.

Those candies in the dish at your grandparents (you never eat them anywhere else and you never eat them without thinking of your grandparents).

Charlie Brown's Christmas (c'mon, you like it).

Leftovers on Boxing Day (especially, those sandwiches with the homemade buns and all the fixings).

Listening to kids who still believe in Santa with all their hearts tell him what they want for Christmas.

Taking a nap on a day off (there's just something about sleeping when you could be working).

Those little marshmallows in your hot chocolate.

Getting cards from people you miss (alright, any mail that's not a bill can be pretty interesting).

Giving someone the perfect gift and knowing they really love it.

And, let's be honest, getting a thoughtful gift from a friend can be pretty great, too.

Skating on an outdoor rink when it's cold enough to keep it frozen, but warm enough to keep your eyelashes from freezing together.

Hearing your house filled with laughter.

A warm glow from a fire on a silent night.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

A death and a life

Debbie Jabbour



Some superstitious part of me hesitated to submit my recent article about my grandfather's 100th birthday (100 Years Young, v13 i48). I had started the article months ago, shortly after celebrating his birthday, but for some reason I had not been able to complete it until last week. I think on some level I felt that by writing about it I would somehow jinx his longevity. My sixth sense was right. My grandfather passed away peacefully in his sleep last night, at 100 and one-half years of age.

Earlier that evening, I had cried tears of joy as I welcomed my newest grandchild into the world. We had been on baby-watch for the last week after my daughter's due date came and went. My cell-phone stayed on and at my side constantly. Every time her number came up my heart would begin to race as I expected that the moment had arrived. At 5:00 a.m. yesterday morning, she called to advise me that her water had broken. We leisurely began to make our way to the hospital. With her first baby, the time duration between her water breaking and the delivery was over 30 hours, so we were settling in for another long haul.

My youngest daughter had been assigned the task of taking care of her sister's weekend shop, so I arranged to have her take my car and drop me off at the hospital. My task was to care for my grandson during the birth. I was surprised and pleased to discover that hospital policies have changed since the time I had my children, and my grandson was allowed to be present for the whole thing. One of the reasons I had opted for home births was because I wanted my children to be with me when their siblings were born. My daughter embraces this same philosophy. We feel it is essential that he be part of the birth process, welcoming his new brother into the world.

Shortly after arriving at the hospital, however, my daughter was sent back home. We theorized later about why this occurred. Ostensibly, it was because her labour had not progressed far enough; that she would be better off at home during early labour. However, the hospital was unusually busy with births that day, and rooms were being filled as quickly as they were vacated. The doctor suggested a 5:00 p.m. return would probably be appropriate, so we packed up all her items and returned home to rest and wait.

I took advantage of the break to visit with my other daughters and my granddaughter. I finally headed home at around 2:00 p.m., hoping for a short nap to energize me for the expected long night ahead. I had barely walked in the door when the phone rang. My daughter was in hard labour. I could tell from her voice that we needed to waste no time in returning to the hospital. A little over three hours later, at about 5:45 p.m., she gave birth to a healthy, beautiful little boy.

He was silent and unmoving in the first moments after birth. It was only when the doctor said, "we must wake him up," and cut the cord, that he finally took in the breath of life and greeted us with a lusty cry. In the first hour after the birth, mother and son bonded. I was amazed at how intently he gazed into her face. Her sisters arrived, and as we surrounded the bed to admire him, she commented, "he looks like great grandpa." We all agreed that he did, indeed, bear a strong likeness to his great great grandfather.

After a few hours, we left the hospital exhausted. My intention was to go straight to sleep, but something motivated me to email a few pictures of the baby to my father before I went to bed. It seems like, once again, that sixth sense was in operation. When I spoke with my father later the next day, he told me how much it had meant to receive the pictures in his in-box first thing in the morning, after he had spent much of the night mourning the loss of his own father.

An early morning phone call awakened me with the news that my grandfather had died. I was still disoriented and on a high from the birth, so it took me a few moments to absorb the news. My grandfather

had been in the hospital with pneumonia, but had been doing well. Some part of me really believed he would pull through it, like he had done so many times before. Some part of me really expected that he would still be with us for a while longer. I hadn't rushed to the hospital to visit, because some part of me thought he would pull through. He was healthy, able to get around on his own, and still mentally sharp. Some part of me thought, irrationally, that he would live forever. But his 100-year-old heart finally gave out.

Throughout the day, family members discussed things and examined the circumstances around my grandfather's death. We all agreed that after his 100th birthday party, he seemed to have turned a corner. It was as if he had decided that 100 years was enough; it was time to go.

Our conversation turned to those moments shortly after my little grandson was born and the pronouncement in that first hour that he bore a resemblance to his great great grandfather. It was surreal and difficult to actually comprehend. Many cultures believe that death is always accompanied by new life, but I've never before experienced that phenomenon so directly.

Sunday was a very difficult day. My daughters and I spent the day together as a family, processing the profound emotions that these two events had engendered. After visiting with the new baby, we stopped and had dinner with my parents. My father is a stoic man who does not show emotion easily, but I knew how deeply he was hurting. For my mother, this death brought back memories of the passing of her sister (my aunt) earlier in the summer. Although we all tried to remain upbeat and positive, focusing on the beautiful new addition to our family, we could not shake the deep underlying sadness that clung to every thought and word.

Finally, I arrived home Sunday evening, exhausted from too many tears -- tears of joy and tears of sadness. Suddenly my doorbell rang. I was surprised, wondering who might be calling at 8:00 p.m. on a Sunday. As I made my way to the door and switched the porch light on, I heard singing. Puzzled, I wondered whether some of my younger daughter's friends had perhaps imbibed one too many at the bar down the street and were visiting my house in hopes of continuing the party. As I opened the door wide, the words and the tune came clear, "...the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay...the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay." To my amazement, eight young carollers stood on my doorstep in the chilly night air, singing "Away in a Manger." Their smiling faces beamed with joy as they continued serenading me, verse after verse, while I stood, mouth agape in astonishment. I had never before been visited by carollers. The coincidence of their presence and the song they were singing was extraordinary. It brought back long-forgotten memories of standing around the piano with my grandfather and my grandmother singing carols.

The carollers finished their song with a loud, "Merry Christmas!" and retreated down my steps. Tears filled my eyes and I could barely get out the words to thank them, to tell them just how much their beautiful and selfless gift of song had meant to me on this particular evening. They responded by offering to sing me another song! Although tempted, I refused, afraid I would be unable to maintain any semblance of control if they continued singing. As I closed the door, I finally broke down and wept uncontrollably, all the strange, surreal events of the weekend taking their toll. I don't know who these wonderful young people were, nor how they happened to choose my door, but I felt in that moment that I had been visited by a choir of angels.

Although I don't hold a particular belief about death and the afterlife, I don't believe death is the end. I am confident that my grandfather has moved on to the next phase of his existence, reunited at last with my grandmother. But he lives on in so many other ways. He lives on in the faces of his grandchildren and great grandchildren and in their personalities. His philosophy of life lives on through the lessons he has taught my children and me by the way he chose to live his life. He lives on in our memories of him, the precious times we spent together. Most of all, though, he will live on through the birth of a new child -- his great great grandson. A child who has forged a powerful connection to his great great grandfather across the span of one hundred years -- one soul entering the world and embracing life...one soul leaving it.



Let's get one thing straight right off the bat: having money *does* make you happier. Anyone who says otherwise is foolish, deluded, or rich. Of course, money buys happiness. How could it be otherwise? Consider which set of options you would rather be faced with: deciding whether it would be better to drive the Audi or the BMW to the spa today; or deciding whether it's more important to buy groceries to feed your family or to pay the gas bill before they disconnect you and leave you shivering in the dark over the Christmas holidays. Your thoughts?

Naturally, the rich have a vested interest in having the other 80 or 90 per cent of the population believe that financial wealth does not equate to happiness. After all, it's better to keep the scurvy mob as placid as possible. If we became too resentful of our situation, we just might take to demanding more things from the toffee-nosed twits. Or else eating them.

So, now that we have addressed that noxious little bromide, let's get down to the real thing that money can't buy, which is character. Okay, this statement doesn't apply to first generation wealth. You do have to have some real moxie to scrap your way to the top of the crooked money pyramid, as your capitalist competitors are all the while looking to get a good tooth-hold on your throat. It takes character aplenty to rise up from the bottom, which is why I wouldn't want to meet

any self-made millionaires in a dark alley. On the other hand, there is simply no way that any whiny, spoiled, private school lay-about raised on custard, kippers and great lashings of hollandaise sauce is ever going to have any real lead in his pencil.

Think about this. Anything good in our world that is attributable to humans is attributable to the poor and the working class. It is the poor and the working class who sweep the streets, teach the children, bake the bread, weed the flower beds, tend the sewers, change the catheters, drive the trucks, protest the wars, and travel to distant places in order to step on land mines, so that the very rich don't have to worry about their overseas investments or their oil income. By and large, it is the poor who make the art and write the poems. It was the poorest of the poor who invented jazz, blues and rap. The bones of many of the men and women of genius who wrote the operas, concertos and plays that the rich spend their tax deductible dollars supporting have lain in these many years in unmarked pauper's graves, repeatedly pissed on by drunken Ivy League frat boys on spring break European vacations.

And if I were ever face-to-face with a savage mob and had to choose whom I would want standing beside me, a rich dilettante mama's boy or a welfare mother who has had to fight for the survival of her six kids, I know the choice I would make. Do you?



It was a dark autumn evening. Frozen from the cold, I had arrived at the run-down side door of the church building. "Bang," I heard as the door slammed behind me. I was trapped inside. I walked down a flight of stairs and saw the door leading to the room below and heard the tune of "Getting to know you," inside of my head. Who would I meet when I reached the bottom of the stairs?

I continued down the steps, to be greeted by familiar faces. A voice said: "Hello." "How are you?" "So you've come back to help us tonight?"

"Yes, it is good to be back," I replied, as I put my coat and bag on the coat hook.

I was greeted by a group of adults sitting at a long table on mismatched chairs. Joining them, I chatted briefly, asking how they were and how their day went. In broken English, they replied and asked how to pronounce certain words and inquired as to the meaning of others that they did not understand. I replied, teaching these adult students, and telling them about how my day went. I learned that there was another group of adult students who were inside of the computer room learning English on the computers.

Walking over to the computer area adjacent to the main teaching area, I found that the apparently closed door was opened slightly. I peeked in and found a row of computers with students sitting at each. They had headphones on, as sounds came out of the computer while they typed. Repeating the words the computer sounded out, they repeated a rhyming litany of words like "bat," "cat," and "rat." This computer program, entitled "Auto-skills," another teacher explained to me, was to help the students with their English pronunciation skills with troublesome English words. Seeing me come into the computer room, some of the students said "hello" and smiled at me while they worked busily. I helped some of the students whom were having problems with their work thinking, "Maybe I will have the opportunity to get to know the students better when I talk with them later on in the evening."

Halfway into the evening, the students on the computers took a break from their work. All the students and teachers gathered at a table for their conversation sessions. There were piles of newspapers and magazines on the table for the students to look through. Another teacher suggested that the students pick a newspaper or a magazine from the pile to start off our conversation topic for the evening. One of the students picked a travel magazine showing beautiful landscapes of the Canadian countryside. As I looked at the travel magazine with the rest of the group, I could not help but mention that I attended Athabasca University, which, from what I've seen in university publications, is surrounded by beautiful scenery. "Where is Athabasca University?" a student asked. In response, I found a Canadian atlas on the table and pointed out its exact location. "It's halfway across the country, on the other side of Canada from where we are," I replied. I then asked the students about their interests in traveling and their travels. One-by-one, the students told me about their traveling experiences and their stories of immigration to Canada. "Are there any difficulties that you've experienced as an immigrant to Canada?" I asked.

In response, one of the students took out their student notebook. Each week, we would have the students write a story in their notebook and read them out loud. After this exercise, the teachers would correct the students' grammatical and spelling errors. As well, while the students read their stories, the teachers correct pronunciation if a word is mispronounced. So, reading out loud his story, the student proceeded to tell of a funny experience he encountered when at a restaurant. "I want the bill," the student said to the



waiter. Unfortunately, the waiter mistook the pronunciation of the word "bill" for the word "beer," so the student ended up getting a pitcher of beer from the waiter, instead of the bill. On top of that, he had to pay for the extra beer. Everyone at the table laughed lightly, enjoying in delights of the story and other stories shared by other students that evening. In hearing these stories, I felt as though I had another viewpoint as to what it was like to be new to a country. I could tell that these students were eager to learn English, continuing to overcome such linguistic and other barriers in their life. All it takes is a bit of encouragement for newcomers to tell their story, and they can feel better about the challenges of immigration. I never realized before that

such experiences are taken for granted in an English-speaking world.

Responding to the stories, I said, "What a co-incidence that most of you mentioned that you had problems with pronunciation of words, as the lesson plan for today includes examples of such troublesome words." From my bag, I took the pre-planned lessons that I had typed up on my own computer, handing a copy of the lessons to each of the students and the other teachers present to discuss and share for the night. For the last couple of weeks, I had typed up themed lessons with English vocabulary words and phrases that I thought the students would use in their everyday lives. For example, I had made lessons on themes of jobs and careers, school, shopping, time, directions, cooking, etc. As well, I had made a lesson on the basics of English vowel sounds, which I knew some students still had problems with. Going through some of the lessons, I asked the students to comment on the words and phrases listed and asked them to make short sentences with the new words. "What does this word mean?" a student asked me, as it was their turn to read from the list. After I had explained the word's meaning, I said, "Now, can you make a sentence with that word?" As each student read off of the list, I could see the look on their face, that they were proud to be able to achieve their goals of learning English. In a similar manner, I was happy that they were able to use their newly learned skills, knowing they would continue to do so in everyday life situations.

By the time I knew it, the evening was over. I was sad to see it end, but I knew that there would be more learning and teaching again. The students packed up their books, saying that they would be back next week to learn more English. As the students left, the teachers stayed behind briefly and talked of how the evening went, and what to prepare for next week. Before I turned the computers and lights off, and locked the doors, I snapped some photographs of the teaching area around me. I felt as though I had done my job for the evening. Like the students, I looked forward to returning soon for another session.

Overall, as another academic year continues, I reflect on the lessons that I have learned in this volunteer opportunity that I have participated in during the evenings over the last two years or so. What I learned that day was perhaps not of the mastery of the English language. Rather, I learned how to learn English from a newcomer's perspective, as I had taken for granted the knowledge of a language I had known my entire life. More importantly, I learned how to help others to make a difference in the world. The more we help people, by learning and teaching each other, the more we are connected to everyone else in the world. We are then in turn more open toward new ideas, cultures and ways of living. After all, we are all part of a common society, needing to overcome language barriers to continue the process of learning from each other. So, what better way to learn how to overcome cultural obstacles, than to learn English?



I read an interesting article a while ago claiming that the most rapidly expanding form of worship in today's world is the worship of celebrities. While I can understand the intrigue with these prominent individuals whom have attained fame and wealth in their lives that most of us can only dream of, what is more fascinating to me is that when these stars stumble, when they are shown to be just as fallible and regular as the rest of us, people continue to adore them. With the recent downfall of Kate Moss (in case you don't follow tabloids, she is a supermodel who was caught on camera snorting cocaine "expertly") came a story that summarized her situation quite well. The fact that models use drugs to maintain their trim figures has been long known in the corporate world, but as long as the reality was not caught on photo, they could ignore it. Kate Moss lost several modeling contracts after being caught using drugs. But the biggest irony is that Kate Moss was famous for her gaunt, "drugged-up" look. Even though she has fallen from favour, the fashion world will likely embrace her once again after the shock had worn off, that is as long as she maintains her looks. This has already begun happening, as (I believe) some of those same

modeling contracts that she had lost were offered to her once again after she had left rehab.

This preoccupation with appearance is intriguing. There are certain materialistic philosophies (Thomas Hobbes', for example) that discuss reality as being limited to the tangible. Whether or not people consciously embrace such a philosophy, such are their lives when their primary focus is on the corporeal. I wonder though, if people would continue to follow such philosophy if they realized how neatly one could summarize their "worship." It's about appearance.

The other extreme is the general disinterest in religion in today's secular society. People point out the fallibility (ahem) of the human-run institution, bring up such historical atrocities as the Spanish Inquisition. They say, "See, religion did this, and so religion is bad." (Side note, if religion brings people to bad decisions, is religion to blame, or the people?) While the logic may seem sound, there is a problem with the argument. Religion is not limited by its human component. There's a godlike component that is the focus of religion, a component that is beyond all human comprehension. Certainly, the natural argument would seem to be, "But how can you know there's a God? How can you have faith so blindly? It's much better to believe in solid, tested, and tangible things. I believe in science." Those of faith may reply that much of life is based on faith, whether in science or not, and that once you have faith in God, you just *know*. And that's all they need, as unsatisfactory as the explanation sounds to the rest of the population.

Although it is impossible to test the existence of God or a higher power, psychologists have tested the positive effects of believing in such. Just the belief in Heaven as a reward for those who live well is incentive to follow the 'moral path.' It provides comfort in times of sadness and direction in times of duress. This is true faith, although it is not necessarily 'religiosity.' To those who argue that religion is bad because of its limiting factors, people of non-faith who claim religiosity, aren't making a valid argument, or at least not one that pertains to 'true faith' which should be the question at hand.

Science is another area trumpeted by society, particularly in opposition to religion. (Although, it's interesting that many people fail to realize that science and religion can function alongside one another). The Scientific Method, people claim, can prove anything, as long as it is given time. People who make these claims make me wonder how much they actually know about science. The Scientific Method, fundamentally, cannot prove anything. Its nature is such that its 'proof' comes from continually disproving the alternative. Science is never able to say, "This is what is." It only ever says, "This is the most probable or likely." The Scientific Method is just as faith-based as religion. But the positive effects, like in religion, are seen. After all, we have bridges, many great architectural achievements, and medical breakthroughs. However, even these achievements are limited because of human error.

Yet, we continue our science-based lives. When we're sick, pretty much everyone will go to a doctor. Many of us, if we needed a heart transplant, would go for it. We do this, trusting strangers, even though medicine is based on people and people are fallible. Fallibility is why the number of preventable deaths in hospitals is disappointingly high. Human error plays a major factor. The statistics are public and for the most part don't prevent us from seeking medical intervention when we need it. Why? It is because we have learned to trust in it, and in some cases to trust blindly.

I have met a large number of individuals who believe that one day humans, through slow but sure progress, will know everything and achieve everything, and that all areas of human endeavour will become infallible. I ask these people, "How? When? Sometime in the far future?" I'm guessing that this is supposed to happen the moment humans become perfect. But we won't. Why? It won't happen because, even if we don't end up killing our planet and ourselves in the next thousand years, we will still be a part of recapitulating history. Despite progress and improvements in all areas of knowledge, humans generally think the same as they did a thousand years ago. The other problem is nature. There is always a factor of error in nature. Nothing is 100 percent. Those who have studied quantum physics know that beyond the threshold of light, quarks move in erratic, random ways. While we can learn much from indirect experimentation, we will never be able to rationalize all the data, just like we will never be able to know the entirety of pi. We might achieve commendable progress, but we'll never make it to the end because of a limiting factor. That limiting factor is us.

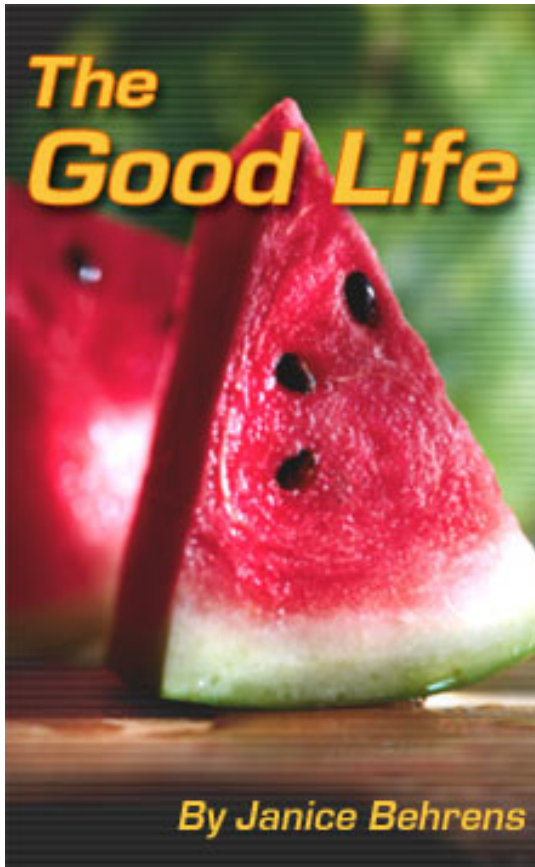
Try a little experiment right now; if you manage to do it, I'll immediately retract my statements about the finitude of humans. Sit back in your chair, close your eyes, and try to imagine infinity. There's always a limit to it, isn't there? When you try to imagine the infinite vastness of space, don't you always come to a border and wonder what's beyond that border?

This discussion is not about telling people how to think or what to believe in. It's primarily an urge to think about what you believe in and to know why you believe in it. We're free to choose what we will, so should we not put our intellect into the decision? Should we not truly decide what we believe in instead of taking things for granted? I think the world would be a much better place if people explored what they believed in, why, and what the implications are. Then interactions would be brought to honest and intellectual levels with the purpose of elevating the human awareness.

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!



Peace, Order and Good Government

When I was growing up, I was taught to respect authority. I sat quietly in class, with my legs properly crossed, and listened with rapt attention to everything that my teacher told me. I watched the town mayor walk by in the annual parade, with the giant medallion around his neck, and was suitably impressed by the dignity of his person. I learned from an early age that the armed forces were charged with defending liberty around the world, and police men and women were there to go to in the event of trouble or danger.

Over the years, though, I began to see more and more examples of the dark side of authority. There were the news reports of terrible events transpiring in Vietnam and Cambodia and other places around the globe. There was Watergate. There was a school project in grade seven about the conspiracy theories arising out of the Kennedy assassination.

In recent times, many of us have come to believe that the forces of authority are frequently involved in the process of undermining freedom, rather than protecting it. We have seen the rise of extremism in the U.S. under the regimes of Reagan and the two Bushes. We have witnessed brutal acts of suppression of dissension, such as the tear gassing and police violence directed

against the World Trade Organization protesters in Seattle. Those of us who have read alternate news sources and books about the events that have shaped recent global politics have become familiar with horrifying acts of political manipulation carried on by western governments throughout the world in the name of protecting democracy and freedom. And since the awful events of September 11, our civil liberties and individual freedoms have become more endangered than at any other point in our lifetimes.

In Canada, it sometimes seems that our politicians, at all levels of government, care more about kowtowing to U.S. foreign policy and protecting the interests of large corporations than they do about protecting the welfare of average Canadians. Despite rosy economic conditions brought about by our hyper-driven consumer society and squandering of natural resources, homelessness and poverty continue to increase, and the gap between the riches and poorest in our society widens every year. Also, in the city in which I live, there have been disturbing reports about acts of police brutality that have not been adequately and independently investigated.

All of this contributed to the mixed feelings I had the other day when my elementary school daughter told me of the police officers who visited her school to give a talk about traffic safety. She was so excited about speaking with a police woman, and I was filled with a sense of nostalgia about the absolute sense of faith in authority that she still has. For all of the disappointment over the years brought about by the actions of those in power, though, I still believe that most police officers, military personnel and politicians are going about their business with good intentions. Above all, I don't want to foist cynicism upon my child.

On the other hand, I do want her to question all that she hears, and to think for herself. I want her to realize that, as has often been said, the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. It is only by speaking the truth as we see it, even if that means defying authority when we see it is wrong, that we will be able to maintain the peace, order and good government that we, and all the human race, deserve.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK*What's new here and around the world*

Mandy Gardner



Traditional Inuit Diet is affected by Climate Change

Mandy Gardner

Recent research into seventeen different Canadian Arctic communities shows that global warming is having an effect on the traditional Inuit diet. As a people who have subsisted on marine foods for thousands of years, it has been suggested that the Inuit have cause for health concerns now that southern foods are playing a bigger role in northern menus.

According to Dr. Christopher Furgal, a researcher from Laval University, the Inuit across Canada are "... finding it harder to get out as often as they normally would, less people are going hunting as frequently as they normally would, therefore decreasing the amount of hunting that they're doing." Global warming has caused this decrease in transportation, which

in turn means heavier reliance on processed and packaged foods. As the polar ice caps melt, less stable ice conditions and more unexpected storms make for uncertain travel conditions that have led to less of the traditional hunting trips for seal and other marine mammals. Another factor is the changed behaviour of animal species in connection to climate change, such as migratory and breeding habits.

This is unfortunate, because a study of Inuit people in Nunavik, Quebec, has linked the traditional diet of marine mammals to reduced cardiovascular health issues and increased levels of omega-3 fatty acids (which protect against heart disease). Younger Inuit are turning to a non-traditional diet as hunting decreases and there is concern about what path to take. Should measures be taken to guarantee the availability of marine mammals in northern markets? Should a new and nutritionally balanced diet be promoted to Inuit communities? Certainly in either case, healthier foods need to be available in markets.

The distribution of fresh foods to northern Canada has historically been a challenge, since the northern growing season is short and people must rely on imports from other parts of the country and abroad. The biggest issue, as Indian and Northern Affairs Canada puts it, is that "many isolated First Nations and Inuit communities can't be reached year-round, by road, rail or marine service. That can make it difficult for residents to buy affordable healthy food like fruits, vegetables, bread, milk and eggs." With the decline in hunting due to climate change, things are looking grim for general Inuit health.

The question remains: How can a country like ours, which is so directly affected by climate change, be so indecisive about implementing Kyoto obligations? Doesn't the government owe it to us to act fast?

What do you think the Inuit have to say about it?

REFERENCES:

Climate change prompts Inuit to reduce hunt, limit healthy foods -

<http://www.cbc.ca/story/science/national/2005/12/16/Inuit-food051216.html>

Traditional Inuit diet cuts heart disease risk: study -

http://www.cbc.ca/story/news/?/news/2001/09/21/inuit_diet010921

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Health and Well Being -

http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/sq/sg4_e.html

AUSU THIS MONTH



Happy Holidays, from AUSU!

Please see the front page of AUSU.org for a Christmas card to the members and a new message from the President.

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.

AUSU 2005/06
student
Handbook/Planner

18 months
of planner
pages!

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THE THIRD ANNUAL VOICE MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rules and Regulations:

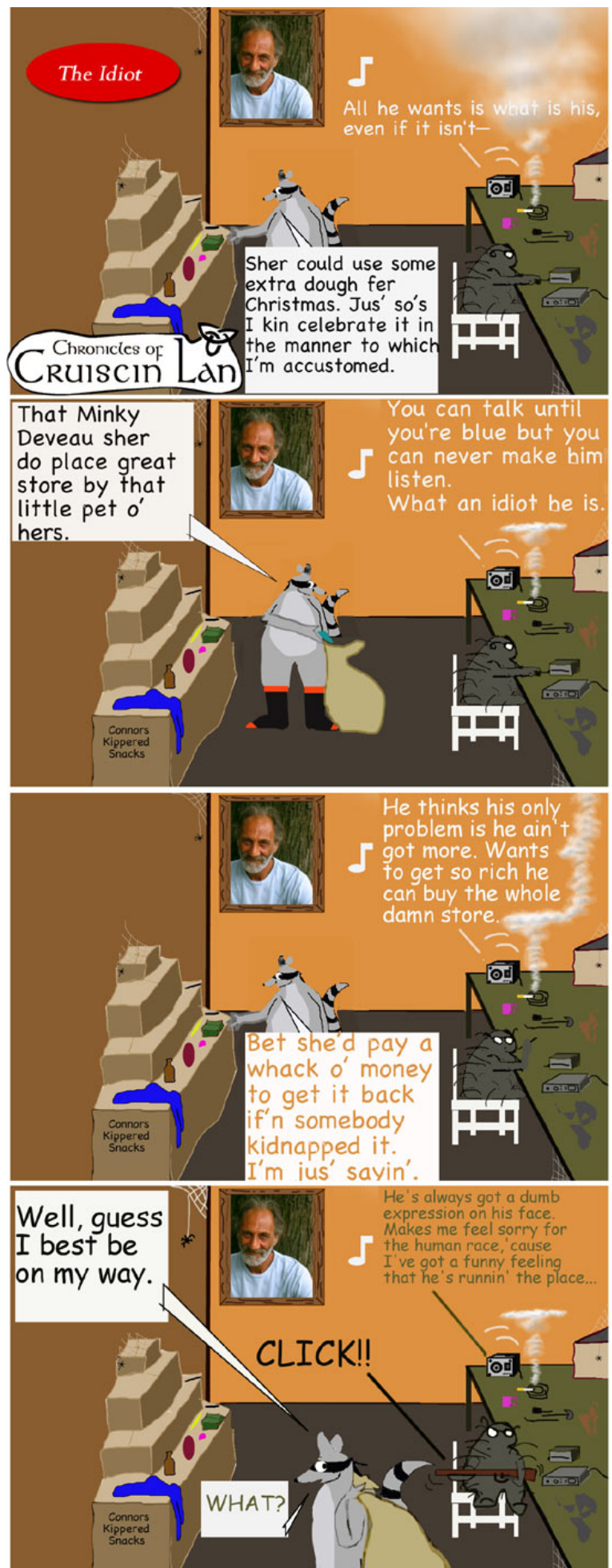
- Entrants must be AU students. Student status will be confirmed with the AU registrar. Please ensure that the registrar has your current address and contact information.
- Winning entries will be published in The Voice. The Voice reserves the right to print non-winning entries at a rate of remuneration in accordance with current Voice freelance submission rates. The Voice may use portions of non winning non-fiction entries in a composite about students' perspectives on the environment 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 Readers:

Thanks to everyone who wrote in this year with questions. I hope I have been able to help some of you. I'd like to end the year with a story I found online. It is a story about the true meaning of Christmas. Some of you may have read this story, but I think it's a story that could be read every year to remind us of what Christmas is all about. Merry Christmas - Barb

True Meaning of Christmas*

Just a week before Christmas, I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I had just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed when I heard a noise in front of the house. I opened the door of the front room, and to my surprise, Santa Claus himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his fingers over his mouth so I would not cry out.

"What are you doing?" I started to ask, but the words choked up in my throat as I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know.

He then answered me with a simple statement, "Teach the children."

I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement, brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree.

As I stood there bewildered, Santa said again, "Teach the children. Teach them the old meaning of Christmas — the meaning that Christmas nowadays has forgotten."

I started to say, "How can I..." when Santa reached into the toy bag and pulled out a brilliant shiny star.

"Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promise long ages ago. God promised a savior for the world and the star was a sign of the fulfillment of that promise. The countless shining stars at night (one for each man) now show the burning hope of all mankind."

Santa gently laid the star upon the fireplace mantel and drew forth from the bag a glittering red Christmas tree ornament. "Teach the children that red is the first colour of Christmas. It was first used by the faithful people to remind them of the blood which was shed for all the people by the Savior. Christ gave His life and shed His blood that every man might have God's gift of Eternal Life. Red is deep, intense, and vivid. It is the greatest colour of all. It is the symbol of the gift of God."

"Teach the children," he said as he dislodged a small Christmas tree from the depths of the toy bag. He placed it before the mantle and gently hung the red ornament on it. The deep green of the fir tree was a perfect background for the ornament. Here was the second colour of Christmas.

"The pure green colour of the stately fir tree remains green all year round," he said. "This depicts the everlasting hope of mankind. Green is the youthful, hopeful, and abundant colour of nature. All the needles point heaven-ward, as symbols of man's returning thoughts toward heaven. The great green tree has been man's best friend. It has sheltered him, warmed him, and made beauty for him."

Suddenly, I heard a soft tinkling sound. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring for man to return to the fold. It means guidance and return. It further signifies that all are precious in the eyes of the Lord."

As the soft sound of the bell faded into the night, Santa drew forth a candle. He placed it on the mantle and the soft glow from its tiny flame cast a glow about the darkened room. Odd shapes in shadows slowly danced and wove upon the walls. "Teach the children," whispered Santa, "that the gentle candle shows man's thanks for the star of long ago. Its small light is the mirror of starlight. At first, candles were placed

on the trees. They were like many glowing stars shining against the dark green. The coloured lights have now taken over in remembrance."

Santa turned the small Christmas tree lights on and picked up a gift from under the tree. He pointed to the large bow and said, "A bow is placed on a present to remind us of the spirit of brotherhood of man. We should remember that the bow is tied as men should be tied, all of us together, with the bond of goodwill toward each other. Goodwill forever is the message of the bow."

Santa slung his bag over his shoulder and began to reach for the candy cane placed high on the tree. He unfastened it and reached out toward me with it. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherd's crook. The crook on the staff helps bring back the strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane represents the helping hand we should show at Christmas time. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brothers' keepers."

As Santa looked around the room, a feeling of satisfaction shone in his face. He read wonderment in my eyes and I am sure he sensed admiration for this night.

He reached into his bag and brought forth a large holly wreath. He placed it on the door and said, "Please teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of love; it never ceases, stops or ends. It is one continuous round of affection. The wreath does double duty. It is made of many things and many colors. It should remind us of all the things of Christmas. Please teach the children."

** The author of this work is unknown and research indicates that it is a historical work in the public domain which has been translated into both songs and written works in various formats.*

Source

Anonymous (1999-2000, Winter). Just a week before Christmas. *Little Big Horn Fur Company Chronicles*. Retrieved from http://www.ixi.net/~4waystop/fcf/winter99/Page_11.htm

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.



The Child is You

Your whole life you are sleepwalking, until suddenly, one night, you wake up and know exactly what it is you must do. You open wide your bedroom window. The wind is whipping your face, screaming in your ears, but you barely even notice. You climb out onto the narrow ledge. One quick leap upwards, and you're on the roof. The freezing rain is drenching your thin shirt, cold water filling your unlaced boots. You tilt your head back and stretch wide your arms. The weather vane is spinning like a top, and your hair is blowing straight back.

Screeching harpies fill the air, swooping and diving about your shoulders. They have the bodies of graveyard dogs, the wings of scavenger birds, and the faces of all your childhood nightmares. With one hand, you brush them aside. You walk along the spine of the roof, eyes closed, one foot steadily in front of another. There are hyaenas growling deep in their throats and snapping at your heels. You reach down and they fall silent at your touch, licking your outstretched hand.

The men with the megaphones are gathered somewhere in the darkness beneath you. Your old high school teacher is there, and your ex-husband, and a team of physicists to explain why it can't

be done. They have searchlights and helicopters and statistics. They have medicines and research findings and anecdotal evidence. Someone is taking a flash photograph of the chalk outline where they predict your body will fall.

One more step and you're on the chimney stack. You can feel the humming and crackling of an oncoming electrical storm, the tingle of lightning in the tips of your fingers. You step out into thin air, and float to the ground, landing far past the gathered crowd, who are still looking for you in the place that you were. Without a sound, you dissolve into the shadows. You turn a corner, and find yourself on a long street with old houses. At first, you think you've never been there before, but then you begin to realize that it's the street you were born on.

In one of the houses, a six-year-old child is kneeling on the back of an armchair, chin resting on the sill of the half-open window, cooling like a pie in the twilight. The child is watching the street, waiting for his mother to return from the hospital. It's the day before the news arrives, the day before everything changes forever. You walk up to the window, and the child looks right through you. He doesn't know you exist. You place a hand on his head, wishing there were something you could say. But there is nothing, and it wouldn't matter anyway. Everything will be okay.

You turn your back, and head out into the wild night. The wind is blowing in your face. Everything will be okay.

Click on This - World Wide Wonder

Lonita Fraser

The Egg Man - <http://www.cherukatheeeggman.com/>

Usually we just crack the shell and make use of the insides, but this man does something a lot more special and decorative than throw his egg shells into the compost - he creates some astounding works of art from carved egg shells.

Health Physics Historical Instrumentation Museum Collection -

<http://www.ornl.gov/ptp/museumdirectory.htm>

"The purpose of Oak Ridge Associated Universities' Health Physics Historical Instrumentation Museum Collection is to chronicle the scientific and commercial history of radioactivity and radiation." Brand names, and toys, and signs, and a whole lot more.

Random Stripe Generator - http://www.kissyourshadow.com/stripe_maker.php

This script will "generate random stripe patterns for knitting sweaters, scarves, blankets, etc. It'll give you an idea of what the finished [product] will look like, but it still leaves some unpredictability to the stripe pattern."

Aesop's Fables - <http://www.pacificnet.net/~johnr/aesop/>

Some of the best and best-loved stories ever created, all in one place for your reading pleasure.

One Red Paperclip - <http://oneredpaperclip.blogspot.com/>

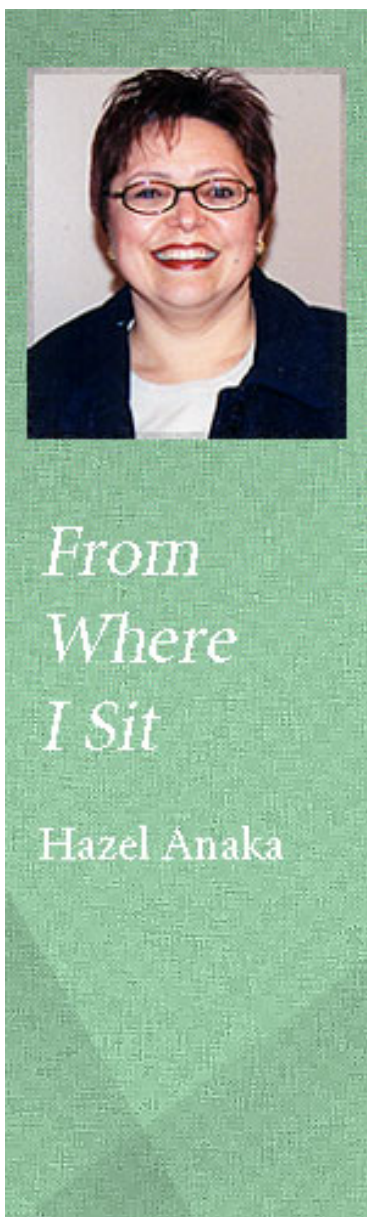
Think a paperclip could lead to getting a house? He's hoping it will.

One Pot Cooking - http://www.eartheasy.com/eat_one_pot_meals.htm

Cooking clean-up is a snap if you only cook with one pot.

The Orange Man - <http://orangeman.commo.de/>

If you've ever wanted to know whether or not eating carrots will actually turn you orange, this gentleman could tell you - he tried it.



A 2006 Worth Recording

One of my favourite rituals each November or December is deciding on a planner for the coming year. It may be contrary to the advice of time management gurus, but I always have more than one tool at my disposal. Nothing electronic, mind you. No Palm Pilot or Blackberry to keep this kid focused and on track.

I'm of the vintage that still prefers the tactile, spread-it-out-and-have-a-look, use a post-it or flag, paper solution to keeping track of appointments, phone numbers, and commitments. But, hey never say never. There may be a Palm Pilot in my future.

A wall calendar page with big boxes has moved from my fridge to inside a cupboard door for tracking household stuff. I still must have a pocket-sized, month-at-a-glance calendar for my purse. It's vital at meetings or to record doctor's appointments on the spot. I don't quite understand the people who have to get back to you when they can check their calendar. Or those who try (unsuccessfully I might add) to keep all that stuff in their heads. I'm saving those brain cells for more important stuff, like remembering my name and to take my medication!

At home I have a leather-bound, medium-sized three-ring planner that requires refills and monthly dividers each year. The options at the stationery store are mind-boggling. Anyone watching me at Staples would have wondered if I'd ever decide on a purchase. The one that best suits my needs is the page-a-day version. The one I chose for 2006 includes space for appointments, diary, work record, action list, and expense record. Using abbreviations and sticking to the point is critical because of available space.

Adding to my arsenal of tools for 2006 is an 11 by 8 ½ Blueline soft-bound, coil book called a daily diary. This larger format with a space for appointments from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., more writing space in the 'things to do' section, and a space for evenings lies open and pristine just waiting for some entries. I'm not thrilled the month-at-a-glance section is at the front of the book, rather than where it fits during the year.

Picking the perfect planner is a decidedly personal exercise. Roy has an oversized hard bound, page-a-day style he's used for years to record his 'to do' list, my whereabouts, when he changes the oil, when and what he's baled, the temperature, phone calls, etc. It's practically an archive of what we've done over the years.

So, why am I attached to these paper products? For me, I think it represents the clean slate, fresh start aspect of each New Year. As Tony Robbins says, "a life worth living is a life worth recording." Jim Rohn's journals are a significant part of his extensive library. He buys a thirty-dollar blank book to challenge himself to find more than thirty dollars worth of value to put into it.

Here's to a wonderful 2006 worth recording, from where I sit.

** Reprinted with permission*

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



No mandatory retirement in Ontario

Debbie Jabbour

Many Athabasca University students are entering the workforce or changing careers later in life. Those living in Ontario, therefore, may welcome the news that Ontario has formally banned mandatory retirement, joining Manitoba, Quebec, Alberta, PEI, the Yukon and NWT. The legislation, to come into effect one year after receiving Royal Assent, has been applauded by many workers as an opportunity for workers past the age of 65 to continue to develop their careers and financially contribute to supporting their families.

The law amends the province's *Human Rights Code*, thereby extending protection against discrimination on the basis of age to individuals over 65. Under the amended legislation, employers can decide whether to continue offering benefits to older employees.

Critics of the move argue that future generations may soon be expected to work well into their late sixties before becoming eligible for pensions. Critics point to the U.S. where access to government benefits has been increased to age 67. Proponents argue that the benefits continue to outweigh any such perceived disadvantages.


Reference

Canadian Press (2005, December 9). "Historic day" as Ontario bans mandatory retirement: Some fear next step is raising age for benefits. *Edmonton Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=1a14fde9-0b22-4306-b335-092b21b8ce13>



WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact The Voice editor at voice@ausu.org for details on writing for The Voice. Provide a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.



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

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS NEW YEARS EVE AT THE STATION

December 31, 2005 - 9:30 PM - 2:00 AM

Rocky Mountaineer Vancouver Station

Tickets \$70 before December 23

<http://www.thestationnye.com>

DJ Jesse James

DJ Timeline

Live Performances - Acrobats

HERITAGE CHRISTMAS

Now until January 01, 2006 - 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Burnaby, BC - Burnaby Village Museum

Adults, \$8.15; Seniors/Youth, \$5.85; Children, \$4.95

Carousel Rides, \$1.50 each

604-293-6500 - <http://burnabyvillagemuseum.ca>

Features: Street characters, choirs, childrens' entertainment, father Christmas

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 LIGHT RUN

Now until January 04, 2006 - 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Winnipeg, MB

ASSINIBOINE VALLEY RAILWAY - 3001 ROBLIN BLVD

Free access to site free. Parking free. We also collect donations for christmas cheer board and winnipeg harvest. The avr 1/8 railway offers train rides for \$2.00 each - <http://www.swedenfreezer.com/avr>

Come ride the train through a 7 acre aspen forest. 1/8 scale train. 75,000 christmas lights

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

FLUID - ALL INCLUSIVE PARTY

December 30, 2005 to January 01, 2006

9:00 PM - 3:00 AM - Montreal, QC - FLUID

info@fluidnewyears.com

<http://fluidnewyears.com>

www.newyearsmontreal.com

This NYE party in style at FLUID, the only ALL INCLUSIVE event in Montreal. Leave your wallet at home. Drinks, coat check, food, even tips, everything is included.

FULL OPEN BAR ALL NIGHT

2 floors, 5 DJs, Hip Hop, R&B, Old school, Laser light show, Bongos, dancers, free massages
Bring your friends, party for free. Bring everybody you know, win an iPod!

ontario

WOMENS ART ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS ART SHOW

Now until January 07, 2006 - 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Hamilton, ON
Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology
FREE for all ages - Donations encouraged.
905-546-4797 - steammuseum@hamilton.ca

Supporting women in art for 110 years, this local association presents works in many media by media by member artists.

DUNDURN CHRISTMAS EVENING TOURS

Now until December 30, 2005 - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Hamilton, ON - Dundurn Castle
\$19.00 per person - Reservations Required
905-546-2872 - dundurn@hamilton.ca

Enjoy a unique opportunity to see Dundurn Castle decorated for Christmas in the evening. Begin your evening with carol singing in the front hall and enjoy an assortment of traditional Christmas food served in the historic kitchen.

WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Now until January 02, 2006
5:00 PM - Niagara Falls, ON

\$52.43 Ray Price, Brenda Lee
\$52.43 Bobby Vinton

\$66.34 Elvis Dinner Show
\$22.00 Silver Sizzles Revue

1-800-563-2557 - 905-374-1616 ext. 26
<http://www.wfol.com>

Marvel at the beauty of wintertime in Niagara Falls, as we light up the nights with over one million sparkling lights and nearly 100 motion light displays, including the ever popular Enchantment of Disney displays. This year, you'll notice a big lighting improvement as we add over 200,000 energy-efficient LED lights.

You'll certainly enjoy our illuminated night parades, weekly fireworks and Canada's largest New Year's Eve Concert Extravaganza.

'DEHUMANIZE' OIL ON CANVAS BY LEIF HARMSSEN

Now until December 30, 2005 - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Toronto, ON - Gallery X - Cost: Free
416-925-6665 ext 0
gallerxy@extra.ca - <http://www.harmsen.net>

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
U
B
S UofC**

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

**Prairie
Universities
Biological
Symposium**

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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THE VOICE

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