

THE VOICE MAGAZINE

January 13, 2006
Volume 14 Issue 2



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THE VOICE MAGAZINE

1200 10011 109th Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8
800.788.9041 ext. 2905

Publisher AU Students' Union
Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low
Copy editor Jo-An Christiansen
News Contributor Lonita Fraser

Regular Contributors:
Debbie Jabbour, Karl Low, Mandy Gardner, Rebecca Brewer, Katie Patrick, Hazel Anaka, Bill Pollett, Janice Behrens, Barbara Godin, Wanda Waterman St.Louis, John Buhler, Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

THE VOICE ONLINE:
WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

The Voice is published every Friday
in html and pdf format

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Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its frequent contributions

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This summer I studied hard. Actually, I took a kind of survival course. The syllabus covered issues such as: how to survive a month living together with about twenty other people, how to survive an encounter with a deadly snake (or three), how to survive writing a 20 page directed research report in 24 hours, and how to survive conducting interviews in a language you don't really speak. But, this was also a true academic course offered by the School for Field Studies (SFS) based in Salem, MA. SFS offers semester as well as summer courses in various locations around the world. The courses usually incorporate elements of the local culture and ecological issues.

I've always been interested in how to help keep the earth as clean and healthy as possible. In elementary school, I virtually made my best friend help me pick up the trash on nearby grassland twice and there was lots of it! I also adore traveling, but in the Americas I have never been south of Florida. I have even just completed my second course in Spanish. *Alea iacta est*. I was planning on studying sustainable development and the ecosystem of tropical forests in Costa Rica. Just days after finishing the exams at home, I got on a plane and flew across the Ocean to take one more final exam.

Once on the plane, I admit that I panicked. While my nameless co-travelers sobbed over a bad romantic comedy, all I could do was ask myself what on earth got me to do such a thing. I was the only person of European descent enrolled in the course (it seems foreign students in SFS courses are a rarity, which is indeed a shame), so there was no-one on the whole airbus who could comfort me and make my mental image of a bush rustling with snakes disappear.

Back on solid ground, though, everything changed. It turned out that the last thing I would be in my snake-battles was lonely. There were 16 other students, three interns and a student coordinator. We all slept under the same roof on a large finca in the town of Atenas where SFS is based in Costa Rica. None of us knew exactly what to expect from the month we were about to spend together in that great new world. None, or almost none, of us knew each other either. It turned out that we were indeed quite different, but we all seemed to possess that exquisite mixture of a pinch of tolerance and a spoonful of openness. I believe that was why we got along so well. At the end of the course, it seemed that we have been living together forever.



But let's get back to the real stuff. Very soon after our arrival to the finca, we were faced with the reality of our schedule. We had four two-day trips, one each week. When we didn't have trips to do, we had lessons in the classroom and lots of them! We also did short excursions to Atenas and the protected areas around it. We visited the local elementary school and planted trees with the pupils in the schoolyard. The children absolutely adored us (I guess they were quite bemused by "grown-ups" struggling to find words for "tree" and "compost" and "dig" in Spanish).

The over-night excursions though were my favourite. We visited four natural parks: Braulio Carillo, Volcan Poas, Guanacaste, and Monteverde. I could never have imagined a better way to get wet than while taking notes on a lecture in the middle of a tropical rainforest with our feet in the river where we, just minutes before, had enthusiastically collected micro-invertebrates. We actually did the collection as a part of a larger project. The poor little creatures that got caught in our nets are great bio-indicators, which mean their presence shows good quality of water. The five-year project of collecting and determining the species of micro-invertebrates will show whether the recently built highway located nearby has any effect on the quality of the park's rivers.

In another park, Monteverde, we familiarized ourselves with the tropical cloud forest, huge colorful butterflies and tiny hummingbirds that were attracted to the Hummingbird Gallery's artificial feeders. Without the feeders, tourists would have difficulty observing these birds, which are virtually invisible in their natural habitat and so fast are they our eyes can't catch them. Our task was to find out whether these artificial feeders are charity for hummingbirds or murder.

We examined the biology and lifestyle of hummingbirds and discovered that the artificial feeders are indeed changing the birds' behaviour. Behavioural changes include their migration patterns, competition between species, mating habits, and diet. We provided alternatives to the artificial feeders, such as using fewer feeders and for shorter amounts of time, or the use of hummingbirds' host flowers instead. It is yet to be known whether the park's managers will implement any of the proposals.

In Guanacaste National Park, we hiked through tropical dry forest to see what great damage mostly human-induced fires can cause. Supposedly, the fires are a result of bad relations between the park officials and the people living on its borders. People in Costa Rica have traditionally used

forests for hunting, but as tourism is on the increase, the whole economy shifts from banana and coffee production to services. Larger expanses of land are becoming protected, which decreases the land available to the locals for hunting. Problems arise in attempting to convince the locals that what they really need is undisturbed nature. How can they be convinced to change their lives? Education is the most likely answer.

In fact, education seems to be of great importance in Poasito, a town close to Volcano Poas National Park. As we interviewed the villagers about the relationship they have with the park, we became aware of their situation in the globalizing world. The park in their vicinity is not a very large park, but tourists come to enjoy one of the most spectacular views of a volcano. This has had a great influence on the life of the locals, as well as on the local economy. It would be expected that the local income from tourism has generally increased, but this is not the case.

It turns out that people don't have the appropriate assets or the knowledge to profit from the tourists who come to the park. Most of the locals don't speak a foreign language and, since they have traditionally been farmers, they can't afford to establish their own restaurants or hotels. It is true that the local pupils receive education on the importance of protecting biodiversity, but their parents lack the knowledge of how to turn from strawberry plantations (not a native species in Costa Rica) to services. Once again, the key lies in the hands of the government and political system.

I've learned all of this and much more in just one month under the guidance of SFS staff and two amazing professors. Even though I sometimes still think the environmental situation is hopeless, I now know there are people who firmly believe the battle is not lost yet. And they fight by passing their knowledge on to young people all around the world.

As for that deadly snake I was afraid of encountering in some bush, well, it didn't wait for me in the bush after all. It came out to greet us in the laundry. And it didn't take a whole bunch of us to get it captured. It only took a 17-year boy, a bucket, and a mop. Luckily, nobody was hurt in the process of returning the snake to the bushes. I am sure it will be delighted to greet you there someday.

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EC 14023 (04/05) François Du Verrier



Hamburg is a city of about two million people, and everyday its buses, S-Bahns, and U-Bahns move hundreds of thousands of people with great efficiency. Yet, the transit system is not without problems. I first started to question the German reputation for timeliness after my experiences with the number 21 bus.

The walk from our student apartment to the bus stop where I meet the 21 takes exactly seven minutes. We know this because the Hamburg transit authority website has calculated this for us.

Typically, when I arrive at the stop, a couple of people are already waiting beside the shelter. And typically, after a considerable quantity of time has passed, more people join the wait.

Eventually, we potential bus riders are all in danger of being late for school or work, but we have a more immediate danger to worry about. A bicycle path runs along the narrow sidewalk in front of the bus shelter and offers the first hazard of the day for commuters. Suddenly, and in unison, everyone steps back to avoid a speeding bicycle. Cyclists can be merciless when

pedestrians wander into bicycle lanes, so we are all fortunate that we had time to get out of the danger zone.

The wait for the bus continues. More people arrive at the bus stop, and we all realize that the bus is undeniably late. Only the lone Canadian obsessively checks his watch. The other people do not seem to be annoyed. Perhaps they even expect this. I can only conclude that German punctuality is not what it used to be.

Eventually two buses -- Mercedes Benz products no less -- show up together, but only one stops to collect the, by now, formidable crowd that has collected at the bus stop. Both sets of doors open and most people enter the centre doors of the bus.

As it is about 8:00 a.m. and no one is checking for tickets or transit passes. Routinely, this is only done after 9:00 p.m. and on Sundays, though random checks may be carried out at any time. Fortunately, there are no such checks today. The bus is too crowded for me to reach into my backpack without injuring other passengers.

The bus continues along its route, zooming along a tree-lined street. This is a residential neighbourhood, but from the road, it looks like a forest, although I am not enjoying the view today. The bus is crowded, and I am unable to reach anything for support. I feel somewhat nauseous every time we make a turn. When we reach the final stop at the Klein Flottbek train station, an automated voice wishes us a good day. Then the doors open, people squeeze out of the packed bus, and almost all of them head towards the ramp that leads into the S-Bahn station.

Having survived the bus ride, users of the public transit system face new obstacles at the train station. On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday mornings, before the cleanup crews have arrived, it is possible to see evidence of the previous night's excesses. Early morning travelers must occasionally avoid vomit on the stairs or train platform.

On this particular morning, however, there are no such hazards, and a more or less orderly procession heads towards the platform, but abruptly the pace changes. Somehow, like migratory birds, the Germans seem to

know instinctively when to walk and when to run to the train platform. Perhaps the person at the head of the line hears a train in the distance, catches a glimpse of an approaching train, or out of an instinct developed from generations of train travelers senses an approaching train, and breaks into a run. Instantly, everyone who can run does so. Men and women in business attire, students with backpacks and skateboards, and parents with baby carriages join the race towards the train platform.

This surging crowd is actually rather dangerous, given that this train station is undergoing renovations at the moment. Half a dozen workmen flatten themselves against a wall in the face of the advancing hoard. The men on top of the scaffolds, clinging to their perches, look especially apprehensive.



The racing travelers continue to scramble up the stairs and through the open doors of the train, with no time to spare. Overhead, a voice warns the people standing on the platform to stand back, a whistle blows, the doors of the train close, and the train starts off into the Hamburg rain, through Othmarschen, Bahrenfeld, Altona, Holstenstrasse, Sternschanzen, Dammtor, and points beyond.

Eventually, I decide that it is more efficient and less stressful to walk to the Othmarschen S-Bahn station instead of waiting for the number 21 bus. But soon Othmarschen, just like Klein Flottbek, is undergoing renovations.

A section of Othmarschen's train platform is marked off with red and white tape. Nearby, a group of men, presumable construction workers, are standing around, a few of them smoking cigarettes. Occasionally, one of the men looks up to the station's roof. Perhaps they are sizing up the job. A young woman walks by, her long leather boots hugging her long legs. The workmen size her up. The men smoke some more cigarettes. Perhaps realizing that people are watching, one of the workers moves a scaffolding frame. Another man puts more tape around a section of platform that was already been taped-off. Soon, they are all back to the serious business of doing nothing.

Whether or not I go to Klein Flottbek or Othmarschen, everything usually goes well after I get on the train. One exceptionally cold morning, however, the train came to an unscheduled stop in the middle of the tracks soon after leaving Bahrenfeld. Against the wet cold of Hamburg, I took the precaution of wearing fleece under my winter coat, but I am overdressed for the conditions on the S-Bahn. For some reason, the train is especially crowded. The seats are all taken, and I am standing pressed against an assortment of people with whom I would not voluntarily seek such close contact. It is no longer possible to see anything outside because the windows have fogged up. I am getting hotter as the wait drags on and on. Heat combined with an endless wait happens to be my concept of hell.

Still, the passengers on the train do not seem to get angry. They remain, true to the German stereotype, very orderly. A young woman jokes that we should get out and walk to the station at Altona, but no one attempts to do so. Several people phone their places of work on their 'Handys,' the German word (taken from English) for cellular phones, instruments that can indeed be handy at such times. And, as we continue to wait, rain mixed with snow forms rivulets that run down the outside of the windows.

After what feels like an eternity, the train seems to shudder. It is actually moving! The train starts on its way again. In unison, the passengers let out a sigh.

Later that day, on the way home, police wearing heavy protective padding and riot helmets patrol Othmarschen station. This means that there must be a soccer game tonight. Life in Germany is never boring.

AU at the Olympics

Contributed by Patricia Balderston of AU's The Insider

When the Olympics get underway next month in Italy there will be a number of AU students competing. Once such competitor is Sandra Keith, biathlete and Bachelor of Commerce student, who is currently in Europe undergoing final preparations:

How long have you been competing in biathlon?

I started cross-country skiing when I was two years old! I grew up in Ottawa and did several cross-country ski races in that area when I was young. At the age of 12 my family moved to Calgary and it was then that I gave biathlon a try. I competed in both biathlon and cross-country ski races for a few years, until my parents said that I would have to pick one of the sports (the racing schedules for both sports were getting to be too much!). My first international biathlon competition was the World Junior Championships when I was 16.

Why that sport?

I really enjoy the diversity of shooting with cross-country skiing. The two sports require such different skill sets. There's always something specific to work on in training, and there's always something unpredictable ... that happens in races. (Check out the [Biathlon Canada website](#).)

What is your training schedule like?

Our National Team trains 11 months of the year together. April is our month off. We train twice a day (usually 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.), six days a week. I get a pretty funny response from the Business Call Centre "operator" when I call to ask a course question and I tell them that I'm available from 12:00 to 3:00 and after 6:00 p.m. (they're probably thinking to themselves, "what on earth kind of job gives you 12:00 to 3:00 off!!!").

Why did you pick AU?

I was already on the junior Canadian Biathlon Team when I graduated from high school (the National Sports School in Calgary) in 1998. My parents were extremely supportive of my biathlon pursuits, however if I wanted to maintain that support it was a "rule" that I also had to continue to pursue my education.

Sandra pursued studies at the University of Waterloo and the University of Calgary but then ...

After a year at the U of C I changed my mind once again. That year was probably the most stressful year of my life, to date. The time pressures I had from a full-time training schedule and a lot of travelling for training camps and competitions combined with a mandatory schedule from a "real" university was almost impossible to handle.

That's when I took a look back at the options I had with correspondence courses. I had really enjoyed the Commerce courses I took at U of C, and in the research I did of various correspondence universities and the



degrees they offered (including schools in the USA), Athabasca offered the greatest variety of courses in obtaining a Commerce degree.

In addition, I couldn't take courses from a university with strict term start and finish dates, or specific assignment deadlines (as with U of Waterloo and other correspondence universities). I know that in "real life" you have to learn to work with deadlines, however in the "real life" I'm leading right now, deadlines are impossible. If we're racing in the middle of nowhere in Slovakia and I have a deadline to fax an assignment in, I'm 99% sure I would never find a fax machine!

Why did you choose Bachelor of Commerce? What are your aspirations once you are done your sporting career?

When I made the Canadian Biathlon Team I started to do a lot of work to find some personal sponsors from major corporations. Finding sponsors is basically all about marketing yourself. In addition, most of the corporations I approached directed me straight to their marketing department or external marketing firm, thus I started to work with a lot of employees in the marketing industry. I really enjoyed learning about what drives a corporation to choose a certain marketing strategy, and I enjoyed trying to market myself in a way that would suit a particular company's interests.

Is this your first Olympics? Yes.

In what other international events have you competed?

I competed in four World Junior Championships when I was under 20 years old. Then I started competing as a senior on the World Cup circuit. I've raced at numerous World Cups, I've been to three World Championships, and two FISU World University Games.

My best World Cup result is 26th place (there's usually over 100 competitors). And my best result at the FISU World University Games was a 10th place at the 2003 Games (this was Canada's best-ever biathlon result at FISU Games).

What does it mean to you to represent your country?

To be honest, the thing I like the most about representing my country is when I'm walking or jogging down a street in a foreign country, as soon as I pass a group of people I know that they've turned around in interest because you can hear them say "Ahhh, Canada"... there's a maple leaf and "Canada" printed on the back of all of our jackets!



At the end of a long day of training and/or competing do you and your teammates ever sit around and share AU stories?

The most vivid memory I have of everyone working on their AU courses together is when we're at a training camp on the Haig Glacier. It's in Kananaskis Country where the Calgary Olympic Development Association (CODA) has set up three huts and runs training camps for elite cross-country skiers and biathletes. After a long morning of skiing on the glacier and a big lunch, everyone pulls out their textbooks and starts working away.

The only other anecdote I can think of is the fact that whenever our coach complains that our bags are too heavy or we have too much stuff, we always blame it on our AU textbooks! I'm taking a taxation course right now with a massive textbook, and one of my teammates on the World Cup tour is taking an art history course with an even bigger hard cover text ... so we have plenty of excuses for our heavy bags!!

Watch for profiles of other AU athletes.



NATURE NOTES:

from the backyard to the biosphere

By Zoe Dalton

Sowing the Seeds of Content

There's no doubt about it: winter is here, and it's time to hunker down and bundle up. January is the genuine article when it comes to winter in Canada, and looking out on the snowy landscape at this point in the year, there's not much to remind us of times of plenty. Not much, that is, except for thoughts and dreams of new life, new growth. Indeed, what can invoke the courage we need to face the long, cold months ahead if not the thought of seeds? Nothing says hope for the future quite like a seed. Within this tiny parcel, often so miniscule that the emergence of a mature plant (a tree, a shrub, or a flower) seems impossible, lies such potential, such possibility.

Seeds really are an amazing piece of evolutionary work. And considering how important plants are in our lives -- forming the basis for our food, medicine, clothing, housing, and many other essentials of life -- it's worth learning a bit about how they do the marvellous things they do.

A seed, similar to an egg in many respects, provides the developing young plant with everything it needs to begin life on the right foot. With a protective outer coat and plenty of stored foods, the seed functions for the young plant like a good parent, making sure that the little one is safe from the elements, and that it gets what it needs when it needs it.

In fact, the beginning of a plant's life is strikingly similar to that of an animal. An ovule (fertilized by mobile sperm, if you can believe it), develops into a plant embryo. The embryo develops and, as in an animal foetus, differentiation of distinct 'body parts' begins. In this case, of course, body parts consist of basic leaves, shoots and roots. After this basic stage of development, the seed's main job becomes dispersal to a new home (usually via wind, water, or animals).

Once the seed arrives at its new site, three factors (i.e., moisture, oxygen and temperature) determine whether germination will grace the young plant's life and send it on to seedlinghood, or whether its journey will come to an untimely end.

When your mom told you to water the garden faithfully after planting, she meant it. Most seeds have an extremely low moisture content, and until they suck up some of the drink, their metabolic processes (digesting that stored food, 'breathing,' and growing) cannot begin. Of course, as we all know, when it comes to drinking, too much of a good thing is possible. Metabolism requires oxygen, so if the soil in which the seed finds itself is too moist (a.k.a., waterlogged), oxygen levels may be insufficient to allow for respiration, and it's game over for the seed. As in all things in life, balance is key.

Temperature plays a funny role in the story of the developing seed. 25 °C to 30 °C is the optimum range for germination in many species, but some species depend for their very survival on the occurrence of extreme temperatures. Plants in our part of the world often require a specific length of time at very low temperatures in order to germinate. Those who wish to propagate native plants spend time perfecting the art of storing seeds in the fridge, simulating the period of dormancy through which these cold-adapted plants must pass. On the other end of the spectrum, the seeds of plants adapted to landscapes in which heat and fire are the norm require intensely high temperatures to emerge into the world.

If the moisture, oxygen and temperature conditions prove just so in the seed's new home, germination occurs, and stage two of the lucky plant's life may begin.

Seeds are logical things, and know that in order to take hold of their new existence, the best first step would be to take root. So, the first structure to peek out is the embryonic root, that plant part so essential to anchoring the young organism, and to allowing for nutrient and moisture uptake. Following closely behind is the shoot, complete with first leaves, or cotyledons, pulled gently from the soil by a curved shoot structure.

So voila! From an apparently unimpressive little capsule emerges a young plant, ready to eat up the sun's energy, suck up the soil's nourishment and moisture, and grow into the greenery that means so much to all of life's creatures. Seeds really are a testament to hope, to the promise of a bright future, and to facing winter's cold with the knowledge that the season is but the beginning of the emergence of brand new life.



TURNING THE PAGES

Elizabeth Cousar

Well, I did very little (for me) reading over the holidays. I only read seven novels that I can think of. Well, actually there were two or three others that I left at my Mom's, but I didn't bring them home to write about). Thank goodness I can get right to writing reviews, because I have some essays due for my courses that I'll be able to focus on as you all get caught up on MY reading! *Grin*

One of the books I was gifted with was the novelization of the motion picture *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* that is still playing in movie theatres as I write this. The film stars Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie who play top-secret assassin-spies, married to each other, who have each kept their true job a secret from the other spouse. They appear to be regular fairly-well-off office types, but they are actually stereotypical action heroes. As the plot in the film runs, they are assigned the same target and wind up each assigned to eliminate the opposition. The result is Mr. and Mrs. Smith are each trying to take each other out.

I really enjoyed the movie. It has lots of explosions, which is usually a selling point for me and my hubby, who is an action-hero wannabe. The book (as is generally the case) was slightly better.

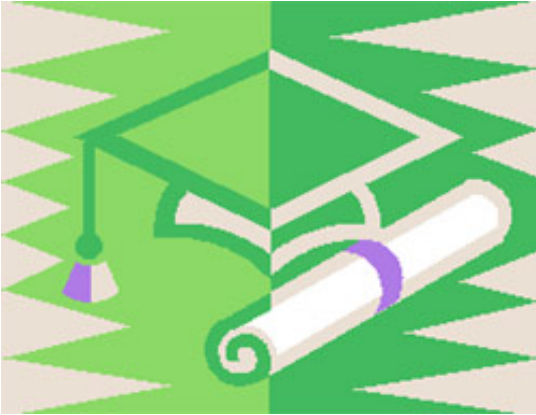
The film, by necessity, is done in a rather third-person voice. It's hard to know at any given time what either Mr. or Mrs. Smith is thinking or feeling. The novelization, on the other hand, is framed as two therapeutic journals, written by the Smiths in the course of their couples' therapy. Each Smith has some issues with the other, and they aren't able to talk them out without help, so their therapist suggests diaries. In the course of the first-person dialogues, the reader gets a much better sense of the characters' motivations. Certain exchanges (of words or of bullets) that make little sense on the big screen are more clearly explained by the Smiths' 'own words.'

Honestly, this book is brain candy, with little or no literary or educational value. But what else do you want from an easy holiday read? It gave me a couple of hours to myself (literally under the covers with a flashlight, my Mom has a one-bedroom apartment and there were five of us living in it over the holidays! It was certainly worth the huddled posture!

I wouldn't run out and buy this book, but if you need some alone-in-the-tub-with-a-glass-of-wine reading, and aren't planning to watch a movie with explosions instead, this novelization might fit the bill.

Reference

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Driving home from work the other day, I couldn't help but be caught up in a radio caller's indignant rant against the idea of an alternative high school diploma. If students go out into the world armed with a trades-oriented certificate, the caller argued, employers will consider it as a "lite" diploma, a poor cousin to a "real" high school education.

I found myself nodding in agreement. After all, the blue-collar stereotype is very much alive and well in this strange new information age. Working with one's hands is commonly viewed as menial labour; being able to store and retrieve millions of bits of information (regardless of its lack of meaning or context) is considered a respectable way to spend your day. Why, I

wondered, would the Ontario government even be considering such a harebrained scheme? Why send thousands of young men and women into the workforce with such an obvious disadvantage?

By the time I got home and kicked off my shoes, I was busy formulating a mental list of points that supported that caller's point of view. The only trouble was, every argument I came up with fell flat.

In the October 2005 throne speech, Premier Dalton McGuinty's ideas to improve high school graduation rates included "an alternative secondary school diploma, one that gives prominence to the ability to develop a skill or trade. This diploma will set a different standard -- not a lower one" (Bartleman, 2005).

That last bit of the statement raises an interesting point, one that seems to validate the radio caller's point of view. If it wasn't true that jobs in the trades (e.g., plumbers, sheet metal workers, hairdressers) don't get a lot of respect, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario's assurance that the diploma won't represent a lower standard wouldn't even bear mention. That stereotype may not be something most people pay a lot of attention to, but if we're not careful we'll be in for a shock when we discover just how valuable those hands-on skills are.

Canada is facing a huge shortage of people who have the skills and desire to work in the trades. One news report has estimated that, in the next ten years, there will be as many as one million jobs with no one to fill them. Want your refrigerator fixed? You may have to wait a week. Need your roof repaired, or maybe a whole new house built? Get in line. I don't know about you, but if I had to wait several days to have a broken toilet repaired, I'd have a whole new respect for anybody I could find with the know-how to do it. The point is, a lack of respect for students with a trades diploma has little to do with how hard-earned or valuable their skills are, and more to do with our own biases.

But the argument that employers will consider it a "diploma lite" doesn't hold much water. Let's suppose you run a successful tool and die business and you're interviewing job applicants. Not only do you need someone with a certain amount of mechanical aptitude, you're probably also going to want a candidate with strong math skills. So who do you hire: the new grad with a regular diploma and honours in English Literature, or their counterpart who's spent the past four years focused on technical courses? Given the looming skills shortage, young men and women who opt for a trades diploma may soon find themselves with the pick of the job market.

The idea that a trades diploma will limit grads to low-paying jobs also bears a closer look. The following comparison is hardly a broad sample, but a quick look at wages on the Government of Canada website is interesting. In Alberta, the average Sheet Metal Worker earns \$21.91 an hour. Behind their computer screen, the Computer Operator/Web Technician is making a provincial average of \$22.65. Pretty darn close, but the Sheet Metal Worker's bank account may actually be a little fatter; the office worker had to pay for a two or three-year college diploma in order to get that job, while the trades grad was earning a salary the whole time they were completing their four-year apprenticeship.

Besides our own selfish motives (after all, we all want plumbing that works), the trades-oriented diploma offers huge benefits to the people who should come first in this discussion, that being the students. Ontario's 30 percent drop-out rate is improving, but think about this: what if you got an e-mail tomorrow telling you that, instead of the Bachelor of Nursing you just signed up for, you had to do a four-year Bachelor of Commerce? Assuming you had no interest in the monthly profit projection of widgets, how motivated would you be in striving to do your best?

Obviously, this isn't a perfect analogy, because paying for a university degree allows us a lot more freedom to choose which program we want to pursue. But, it does conjure up an image of what a dreary grind it would be to spend four years of your life studying subjects you had no interest in and that wouldn't even lead to a career you enjoyed.

Yes, we need to ensure a decent, standard level of literacy, math, and life skills for every student who earns a high school diploma. Those pieces of paper need to mean something; they must represent a certain measure of hard work and a broad knowledge base. But, the role of our high schools is not simply to ensure that every student can churn out a set number of essays.

With all due respect to the lady on the radio, an education should also provide the capacity to make choices, to evaluate options, and to make informed decisions about one's future. If we want to keep students interested, involved, and focused on the path ahead of them, then Ontario's plans for a trades-related high school diploma are a step in the right direction.

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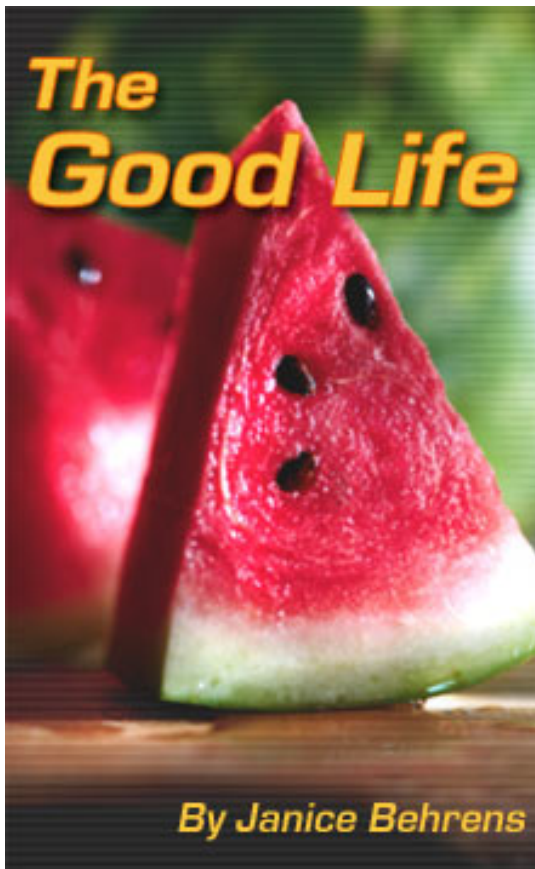
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Service Canada. Labour Market Information. Retrieved from www.labourmarketinformation.ca/standard.asp?pcode=lmiv_main&lcode=e



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.



Just My Cup of Tea

So the holiday season is over, and the reality of the New Year has landed upon us. The extreme emotions of Christmas, running the whole spectrum from exhilaration and joy to panic and angst, have finally subsided. Now we are faced with the emotional lull of the year's early months, a time when the snow drifts seem just a bit more discoloured and the winds seem to bite at the face just a little bit harder. On top of it all, there are those reckless resolutions to lose weight, pay off the credit cards, get in shape, get more organized, and perhaps find a cure for all the world's ills that seemed such a good idea after a few glasses of bubbly. Adding to the doldrums year, of course, is the unwanted prospect of a looming federal election. It may be true, as T.S.Eliot once claimed, that April is the cruelest month, but all-in-all January has always seemed to me to be in the running.

Having lived through a good many Januarys myself, I have come to the conclusion that the best way to approach this month is to slip into a lower, more comfortable gear. Instead of trying to improve myself and save the world all at the same time, I have come to the conclusion that the first thirty days of the year are to be reserved for "baby steps." If your resolution is to lose a bit of weight, for instance, perhaps now is a good time to think about stoking your feelings of well-being by means of a soul-reviving

bowl of hot and sour soup, followed by a brisk walk, rather than heading straight for the celery sticks and twenty minutes on the treadmill.

One of my very favourite ways of sliding into a slower rhythm of life during these grey days is by spending some serious quality time curled up in a nice warm spot with a cup of steaming tea. The robust flavour and caffeine rush of cappuccinos and espressos may be just the ticket for the adrenaline-fuelled weeks leading up to Yuletide, but the January afterglow requires something a lot more subtle and sedate.

Besides, tea just happens to be one of the best liquids that you can put in your body. According to Dr. Pat Kendall, Food Science and Human Nutrition Specialist at Colorado State University Cooperative Extension (www.ext.colostate.edu), tea is, after water, "the most commonly consumed beverage in the world." Kendall goes on to say that "all green, black and red (oolong) teas" contain the chemicals known as polyphenols that have antioxidant (cancer-fighting) properties. Some research has also pointed to the fact that these chemicals "help prevent blood clotting and lower cholesterol levels" (Dr. Kendall cautions, however, that the "majority of evidence comes from studies done on lab animals [and the] effect on people is unclear). She goes on to advise that the healthiest teas "are those brewed from loose leaves or tea bags of black, green or red tea, as they have the most antioxidant power." She advises that all tea should be "steeped for three to five minutes to allow the maximum amount of antioxidants to be released," and that iced teas are just as healthy as hot teas. Bottled teas, however, "often have a lower antioxidant level because they contain mostly water and sugar." As added incentives, tea also "has fluoride for strong teeth, virtually no calories, and half the amount of caffeine found in an equal-sized cup of coffee."

So the next time you're feeling guilty because your new running shoes haven't been broken in yet, perhaps you should just put on the kettle, stoke up the gas stove, and bask in the smug realization that you are about to do something positive for your body.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DESK

What's new here and around the world

Mandy Gardner



Space Tourism No Joke

Mandy Gardner

In December 2005, a brand new reality TV show hit the UK airwaves entitled *Space Cadets*. Hailed as "the biggest prank in television history; the biggest hoax in space," (Channel 4) the program tricked an entire group of people into believing they were undergoing a bona fide space tourism training program in Russia, followed by a space shuttle trip around earth's orbit. Despite the lack of weightlessness, windows and trained pilots, the joke was a complete success.

But surprise surprise, the real thing is on its way. Thanks to Richard Branson and Virgin Galactic (a new company within Branson's massively successful Virgin Group), space tourism is a thing of the near future. To be exact, a thing of the next decade. Branson and his fellow developers plan to offer luxury space flights within ten years time.

So what can we expect as travellers?

To be fair, the itinerary is still in the planning stages. For the more indulgent of us, however, Virgin Galactic (VG) features on its website (www.virgingalactic.com) an idealistic overview of the luxury voyage. VG envisions a lavish stay at the space

port in New Mexico, coupled with "six days of medical preparation, G-Tolerance training, talking to space experts about how to get the most from your experience, fly[ing] the simulator and in the evenings din[ing] with astronauts and guest speakers" (Virgin Galactic, 2006). At the end of six days, you will finally climb aboard none other than the VSS Enterprise (would any other name do?) and prepare to float in space.

It may be science, but it's not fiction. One organization who is taking VG very seriously is the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA is an American agency concerned with the management of airspace vehicles and passengers. In a document released December 2005, the FAA stated its intention to impose rules on the commercial transport of people in space. *Human Space Flight Requirements for Crew and Space Flight Participants* has two major goals: to establish strict guidelines for flight crew, and secondly informed consent for passengers.

Space Cadets may have been a complete joke, but it ended on a bright note. The disheartened and somewhat shell-shocked contestants were given the big prize, that being a real space shuttle cruise with Russian cosmonauts. Given the circumstances, it's hard to say whether they believed it or not. Regardless, space tourism is no hoax. Ten years isn't far off, and we'd better start saving up if we fancy a ride on the Enterprise.

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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.

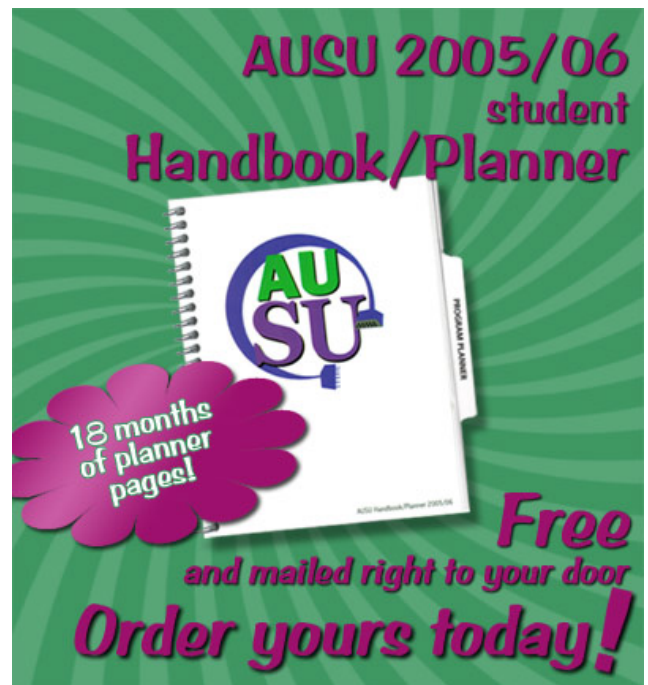
Remuneration - \$500 stipend

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:

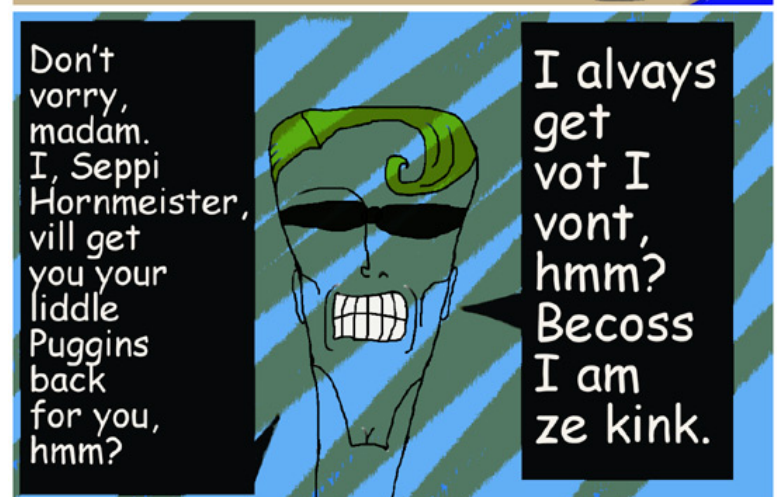
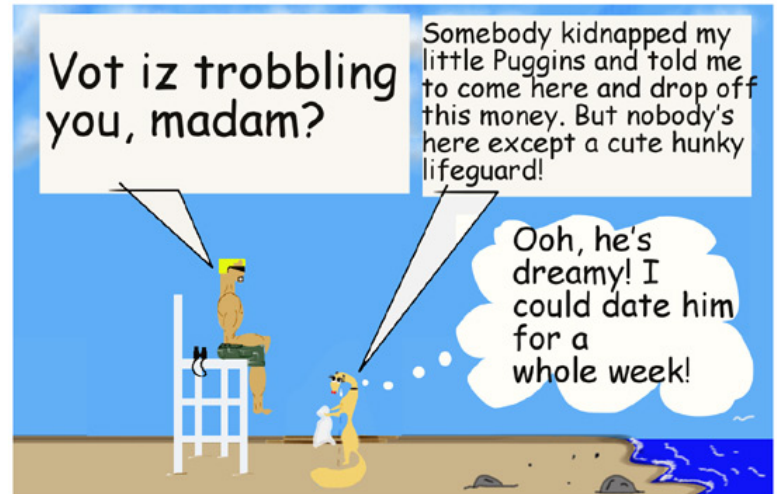
- Entrants must be AU students. Student status will be confirmed with the AU registrar. Please ensure that the registrar has your current address and contact information.
- Winning entries will be published in The Voice. The Voice reserves the right to print non-winning entries at a rate of remuneration 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: There is so much talk about the adverse effects of chemicals in our environment. I'd like to be able to eliminate some of these chemicals from my life, but I don't know how to go about doing that. I have been trying to buy organic food whenever possible. Is there anything else I can do that won't require a big lifestyle change or a lot of money? I'm looking forward to a more natural lifestyle in 2006.

Madonna in T.O.

Hi Madonna and Happy New Year.

After doing some research on your great question, I discovered several things we can all do to reduce chemicals in our environment. The following are just a few of the many ways we can live a less toxic lifestyle.

1. Everyone admires a lush green lawn. Try to achieve this through natural fertilizers and pesticides. Your lawn will be safer not only for yourself, but also for your children and pets.
2. Store your chemicals, such as paint, gasoline and solvents, outside if possible. Many people keep these items inside their homes where they could leak or emit toxic fumes.
3. Use baking soda to replace other household cleaners whenever possible. For example, washing your sheets in baking soda will help alleviate any suffering from allergies in your home.
4. If you smoke, do not smoke indoors. Smoking not only smells up your home, it also leaves toxic particles on your sofa and other furnishings.
5. Have a pair of shoes or slippers to wear only indoors. This way you will not bring chemicals from outside into your home.
6. Inspect your toiletries. Replace items with organic products whenever possible. Most shampoos, conditioners, soaps and deodorants are available in natural forms. Also, if you colour your hair, look for natural vegetable-based hair colourants.
7. Read labels. Take note of all the chemicals in the items that you purchase. Try to find similar items that contain natural ingredients.
8. Most brands of lipsticks are made with petroleum derivatives. Instead, look for brands made of beeswax or vitamin E.
9. You have already taken a very important step towards reducing chemicals in your life by purchasing organic food. This is one of the best things you can do for yourself.
11. Avoid foods containing preservatives, food colouring, artificial sweeteners and monosodium glutamate. Be particularly careful to avoid providing these products to children.
12. Wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating.
13. Trim all fat from meat, as this is where pesticide residue accumulates.

These are few things to get you started. Additional ways to cut toxins can be found through the following references.

- "Everyday Toxins." Ode Magazine, issue 28. <http://www.odemagazine.com/backIssue.php?oID=208>
- Thomas, P. (2004). *Living Dangerously: Are Everyday Toxins Making You Sick?* Newleaf Publisher.
- D'Mello, J.P.F. (Ed.) (1997). *Handbook of Plant and Fungal Toxicants*. 1st edition. CRC-Press.

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.



Beginning Again

It's the afternoon of the first day of a brand new year and already a man in Kansas or in Florida has murdered his family in their sleep, or has set fire to himself on the corner of a downtown street. Already the drug dealers are selling heroin outside the Seven-Eleven, and a plane loaded with bombs is taking off from an airstrip somewhere. Somewhere, a girl is being told she is fat and ugly, and boy is taking a fist to a face. In Windsor or in Manchester, somebody has just swallowed a lethal dose of pills. Somewhere the arms of a political prisoner are tied behind his back, and the torture instruments shine like grandmother's best silver on a stainless steel tray. There are shallow graves at the edge of the desert and rats are swimming in the shanty town reservoir. A few minutes past midday, and somewhere a rifle shot or a howl of pain breaks the silence.

It's the afternoon of the first day of a brand new year and already a mother is holding her newborn child in her arms and singing a nonsense song. A shy man is throwing himself at the feet of a beautiful woman, his future wife. A girl in a cockroach-infested tenement plays a Chopin etude on an ancient piano, and a man standing on a window ledge listens to it, and finds a reason to live. Somewhere in the world, a man steps out of a burning house with a child in his arms. A thousand miles away, a woman lights a

candle in an empty church, while in the building next door, a man paints a picture that will someday hang in the Louvre.

It's the afternoon of the first day of a brand new year, and we pile into the car. We drive down to the beach and listen to Chet Baker on a cassette tape. The tide is higher than we've ever seen it, tossing logs around like splinters. Gulls are riding the wind like crazed surfers, screaming with delight. It seems as if the whole city is there, walking their dogs, drinking their coffees, talking, laughing and bickering. We walk down to the water's edge and step out of our clothes, leaving our jackets and jeans piled on the sand. We run into the water in our underwear, and dive beneath the waves. We're laughing and shivering as we step out into the January air, facing into the future and the wind.

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!



From
Where
I Sit
Hazel Anaka

Did You See These

Whether I'm away for a day or two, or a week or more, I never cancel my newspapers. It's my way of catching up on what I missed during my absence.

How much time I can give to the *Edmonton Journals* and *National Posts* that piled up during my absence depends on how high the stack is and what else is going on. After a recent five-day trip with Roy into the States, I made time to give each newspaper at least a cursory read. As well, I had a January 3rd copy of *US Today* calling to me. Canada doesn't appear in a headline until page six where the issue states "Canada struggles to deal with increasing gun-related violence." No explanation necessary for that headline.

Here's a sampling of the more strange, offbeat, tragic and just plain crazy stuff that I missed.

A Venter writes "as a resident of Old Strathcona, I welcome smoking buses. Now, if each pub would also get a puking bus, a garbage bus and one to vandalize, we might get our wonderful neighbourhood back." Love it.

Both newspapers reported on the rich Vancouver senior who poisoned five trees in Stanley Park because they impeded her view of the bay from her \$1.7 million condo. Plastic bags with dog feces, rocks, and eggs were thrown at her condo. That, plus abusive phone calls and emails, forced her to sell her property and her interior design business. What could the old gal have been thinking?

January 6th issues covered sketchy details about the Toronto mom who turned in her 17-year-old son's AK-47. What a refreshing change from those parents who go to any lengths to shield their kids from the natural consequences of their actions and mistakes.

In another gun-related story, a Vancouver man shot off his own finger while playing with a gun in front of the toilet. He's lucky that's all he lost.

"Collect your butts" is the message from the mayor of a Spanish city, as that country has now adopted a smoking ban in enclosed public spaces effective January 1, 2006. I wish the mayor could've said the same to some of the Christmas guests stopping by my house. Just because it's a farm doesn't mean we want your butts everywhere, guys!

If you've got \$150,000 burning a hole in your pocket after the Visa bill is paid, how about bidding on the six-year-old two-headed albino snake the St. Louis aquarium is offering on eBay. What a great conversation starter! And it's cheap too!

A Regina couple is mourning the loss of their twin daughters as the result of a collision with an alleged drunk driver. The Journal reports the girls "died December 30 about 10 minutes apart in the same hospital where they entered the world 11 minutes apart 21 years ago." Their dad believes a higher power was at work here. Hug your kids. Report a drunk driver.

The rest are too good to ignore. Looks like I'll need a Part II to cover the rest, from where I sit.

* Reprinted with permission

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

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.

CALGARY WINTER SLO-PITCH LEAGUE FUNDRAISER

January 20, 2006 - Calgary, AB - Schanks North

\$10.00 - 403.295.1770

christina@calgarywinterslopitch.com

<http://www.calgarywinterslopitch.com>

Silent Auction, Schanks games, door prizes.

Silent auction bidding ends at 9pm - only accepting cash or cheques.

2006 EDMONTON MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Jan 13- 15, 2006 - Edmonton, AB - 12:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Agricom, Northlands Park. Tickets - \$11.50 Adults -

Discount coupons available online. On location at facility and local participating motorcycle dealers

403-245-9008 - infoab@sportshows.ca

<http://www.motorcycleshows.ca>

New 2006 motorcycles, scooters and ATVs - parts and accessories, show specials, mx freestyle performances, fashion shows, custom motorcycles, vintage motorcycles, prizes

SISTERS, SUCH DEVOTED SISTERS

Jan 25-29 - Edmonton, AB -780-420-1757

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Catalyst Theatre

info@catalysttheatre.ca

<http://www.tixonthesquare.ca>

Additional Information: Takes you on a descent into the Glasgow underworld where drag queens bitch, pigeons explode, drugs are plentiful and pornography and murder are everyday occurrences.

ON THE TOWN

January 27 to February 04, 2006 - Edmonton, AB

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM - John L. Haar Theatre

Adults: \$13 (\$16 at the door)

Students/Seniors: \$8 (\$10 at the door)

780-420-1757 - <http://www.tixonthesquare.ca>

The hilarious tale of three American sailors with 24 hours leave who take their bite out of the Big Apple. As they hit the town looking for love, good times and enough memories to last the next six months at sea, trouble is never far behind. Join the talented students from MacEwan's Theatre Arts Program as they bring this classic musical to the stage under the direction of Program Chair Timothy Ryan. Memorable musical numbers from the Leonard Bernstein catalogue include New York New York, Come Up To My Place, Lucky To Be Me, and Some Other Time.

THE MAGIC OF MOZART

January 27, 2006 - Calgary, AB - 8:00 PM

Jack Singer Concert Hall (EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts)

Adults \$30 - Seniors and Students \$25

Children 12 & under \$15

<http://www.kantorei.ca/kantorei-05-2.pdf>

Join Mount Royal Kantorei, with special guests 11-year old pianist Jan Lisiecki and Calgary soprano Edith Pritchard, as they celebrate the 250th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Featuring Kyrie, Exsultate, jubilate and other Mozart classics.

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**

**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.

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1200, 10011 109th Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4 -- Ph: 800.788.9041 ext. 2905 - Fax: 780.497.7003 attn: Voice Editor

Publisher Athabasca University Students' Union

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

Reference/copy editor Jo-An Christiansen

News Contributors Lonita Fraser, Zil-E-Huma Lodhi

Regular Columnists: Janice Behrens, Wanda Waterman St. Louis, Debbie Jabbour, Karl Low,
Katie Patrick, Hazel Anaka, Bill Pollett, Barbara Godin

Contributors to listings columns: Zil-E-Huma Lodhi, Lonita Fraser

THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

The Voice is published every Friday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at: VOICE@AUSU.ORG

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Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its contributions

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